

PR Junior Open 2014 Event Review



(Photo Courtesy of AJGA / R. Doone)

CONGRATULATIONS TO AUSTEN TRUSLOW

2014 PR Junior Open Champion

TOURNAMENT OFFICIAL WEBSITE * FINAL RESULTS

Third Round Recap

Truslow prevails in four-hole playoff to win Puerto Rico Junior Open

Florida native earns PGA TOUR exemption to compete in the Puerto Rico Open in March
RIO GRANDE, Puerto Rico — Playing in his third Puerto Rico Junior Open and after finishing second in last year's event, Austen Truslow of New Smyrna Beach, Fla., finally broke through and won the 2014 Puerto Rico Junior Open. He was able to defeat Jonathan Rector of Hendersonville, N.C., in a four-hole playoff and earned a spot in the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open presented by sepuertorico.com.

Conducted by the American Junior Golf Association, the Puerto Rico Junior Open was a 54-hole stroke play competition featuring 72 boys, ages 12-18, from 18 U.S. states and 14 foreign countries, as well as eight players from Puerto Rico. For the fourth year in a row, the champion will be awarded a sponsor's exemption into the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open presented by sepuertorico.com, March 6-9. The par-72 Trump International Golf Club — Championship Course played 6,922 yards.

Starting the final round four shots off the lead, Truslow had the mentality that he needed to go low in order to contend for the title. He made a great par save on No. 17 and birdied 18 to sit at 6-under-par 210. When Rector eagled No. 18 it forced a tie with Truslow, leading to an eventual playoff, the first for Truslow in his career.

"There was so much on the line and my putting was pretty shaky all week and I just never

had so much pressure before,” said Truslow. “After the first playoff hole I was able to settle down and calmed my nerves a bit. That was my first playoff ever, which was pretty crazy since it was a playoff to get into a PGA TOUR event.”

After four holes of going head-to-head with Rector, Truslow was able to make an up-and-down from the sand to win his third straight AJGA event, and more importantly, one that sends him back to Puerto Rico to compete in a PGA TOUR event.

“It means everything,” said Truslow. “That is ultimately what I want to do, to play on tour. To have the opportunity to go out and play against the best players in the world is going to be incredible, really a dream come true.”

Rector finished in second after a 6-under-par 210 tournament total. George Cunningham of Tucson, Ariz., Jackson Lang of Lexington, Mass., and Ryoto Furuya of Wesley Chapel, Fla., all finished in a tie for third at 5-under-par 211.

Read more from The Puerto Rico Junior Open



(Ryoto Furuya - Photo Courtesy of AJGA / R. Doone)

Second Round Recap

Furuya finishes strong to take lead at Puerto Rico Junior Open

Back-to-back 69s give Florida native second-round lead at Trump International Golf Club
RIO GRANDE, Puerto Rico — Ryoto Furuya of Wesley Chapel, Fla., shot a 3-under-par 69 for the second straight day giving him a tournament total 138 and a two-stroke lead heading into the final round of the Puerto Rico Junior Open.

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Consistent play so far this week has been the key for Furuya, 16. A bogey-free round today led to his second straight 69 and two birdies on his last two holes has his confidence high heading into the final round.

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(Jorge Garcia - Photo Courtesy of AJGA / R. Doone)

First Round Recap Garcia continues his strong play at Puerto Rico Junior Open

Last year's champion shoots 4-under-par 68 to take first-round lead at Trump International Golf Club

RIO GRANDE, Puerto Rico — One year removed from his first AJGA victory at the 2013 Puerto Rico Junior Open, Jorge Garcia of Miami, Fla., has returned to the island and claimed the first-round lead Saturday after carding an opening-round 68. The Venezuela native used five birdies to battle windy conditions and carry him to a one-shot lead over the field.

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presented by sepuertorico.com, March 6-9. The par-72 Trump International Golf Club — Championship Course is playing 6,922 yards.

Garcia, 17, didn't shoot as low as he did in last year's first round (a tournament record 63), but still holds the lead after day one. He credits his ability to play well at this event to his familiarity with the course, having played in the event the last three years, as well as making the cut in the PGA TOUR event last year.

"It gives me confidence from what I did last year," said Garcia. "I already know what happens when the winds change, when the course is soft, I seemed to have seen it all and am comfortable with it."



Tournament Preview Garcia looking forward to another PR Junior Open win

Returns to Puerto Rico in order to win another chance to play at the PGA TOUR level

Rio Grande, PR - This upcoming weekend, 72 of the world's top junior golfers will compete at the renowned Trump International Golf Club in Rio Grande, Puerto Rico, at the fourth annual Puerto Rico Junior Open. As in previous occasions, this year's champion will earn a sponsor's exemption into the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open presented by sepuertorico.com.

The event has a short but distinguished history of established former champions, and with a 2014 field that includes three of the top-10 juniors in the Polo Golf Rankings, this year's victor will surely continue the tradition. The field includes golfers from 18 states, Barbados, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Japan, Mexico, Trinidad and Tobago and also Puerto Rico with a total of eight "local" junior golfers participating.

Venezuela's Jorge Garcia won the 2013 event. Garcia, a first-team Rolex Junior All-American, used the event as a springboard into a successful 2013 campaign. With the win, the University of Florida verbal commit earned a sponsor's exemption into the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open presented by seepuertorico.com where he became the eighth youngest player in history to make the cut at a TOUR event.

Following the professional event, Garcia won the AJGA's Thunderbird International Junior, collected four top-10 finishes and represented the East Team in the 2013 Wyndham Cup. Garcia is serving the AJGA Board of Directors in 2014 as the AJGA Boys Player Representative and will return to defend his title at the Puerto Rico Junior Open.

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2013 Event Review



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Puerto Rico
JUNIOR OPEN

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January 18–21, 2013 * Trump International Golf Club Rio Grande, PR

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FINAL - Jorge García Wins the Puerto Rico Junior Open

Río Grande, PR (January 21, 2013) - Jorge García finally achieved on Monday what he couldn't last year: a win at the AJGA's Puerto Rico Junior Open and, with it, that treasured exemption to play in this March's Puerto Rico Open, an official PGA TOUR event.

García, a Florida-based Venezuelan golfer, dominated from start to finish at Trump International Golf Club's Championship Course. His final round of 72 gave him a total of -10, a new tournament record, and a comfortable margin of victory. Americans Austen

Truslow, Kristian Caparros and Cameron Champ shared second place at -3.

"I feel great about winning, especially by a solid margin," he said. "I started out a little nervous, because there was really a lot of pressure, but then I started hitting some good shots and started to feel better on the course. Thankfully I finished the round at even par which is what I wanted to do."

The win was sweet redemption for García, who lost this tournament by just one stroke last year to Puerto Rico's Edward Figueroa, but took full advantage of his second chance to claim the trophy. It was also his first win at an AJGA event, and will allow him to play any and all of their tournaments this year.

While García might have closed out his victory on Monday, he set himself up to win on the very first day of play with a tournament-record 63. He attributed that great round, and his success here in general, to an extraordinary comfort level on the course and on the Island. Those are two advantages he'll enjoy once again in March at the Puerto Rico Open, which will be his first PGA TOUR event.

"We all work so hard to try to make it to the PGA (TOUR) and, to have the chance to play a PGA event as a 16-year-old, I really don't have the words to express what's going through my mind right now," said García. "Now I know I can play well in March and, hopefully, my game will work for me then like it worked this weekend so I can make some good birdies."

The best round of the day, and second-best of the tournament, belonged to Mexican Álvaro Ortiz, who shot -6. That score allowed him to climb all the way up from 29th and finish in a tie for seventh with a total of -1.

Puerto Rico's Junior National Champion, Sebastián Toro, had the best finish of the six local players who played in the tournament. Toro finished in 50th place at +16.

The Puerto Rico Golf Association congratulates García on his win and all of the players for making our third annual Puerto Rico Junior Open a great success. We would also like to thank the AJGA staff, Trump International Staff, PRGA rules officials and, especially, our great volunteers from Carvin School for their invaluable help throughout the weekend. See you next year!

SECOND ROUND - Jorge García Takes Big Lead Into Final Round



Río Grande, PR (January 20, 2013) - Jorge García widened his lead on Sunday and is in complete command of the AJGA Puerto Rico Junior Open leaderboard, where the fight seems to be for second place at Trump International Golf Club.

García, a talented Miami-based golfer of Venezuelan descent, followed up his record-breaking 63 on the first day of play with a second round of -1 on a challenging day in Río Grande. Some difficult hole locations, a windy morning and a scorching afternoon conspired to give players fits on Sunday, but García continued his steady play even as he coped with the day's difficulties.

"At the beginning of today's round there was a little more wind and, with the much tougher pin placement today, that made some of the flags a little harder to reach," said García. "I think that led to some higher scores." Indeed, only three players on the day had scores under 70.

Like in the first round, García attributed his strong play to a solid comfort level and a cool head under pressure. "I felt really comfortable throughout the round," he said. "I made two mistakes that weren't too costly and ended up just being bogeys, so that was fine. But I really felt comfortable on all 18 holes, and the course is really just in perfect conditions."

García now holds a seven-stroke lead over a pack of four players who share second place at -3. Mexican Luis Gerardo Garza, who had the day's low round of 68, shares that spot on the leaderboard with Americans Corey Shaun, Theo Humphrey and Cameron Champ.

Local junior Sebastián Toro remained the top Puerto Rican player, though he slid to a tie for 40th place after carding a second-round 77 that placed him at +8 for the tournament.

Though he heads into the championship round with a more than comfortable lead, García said that he wouldn't change anything about his approach on Monday. "I'm going to play my game like in the first two days; stick to my routine and my gameplan. There's no difference in my mentality for tomorrow: just stay in the moment and focus on my game."

Should García close out the win, he'll have achieved what he fell just one stroke short of achieving last year, when he finished tied for second behind Puerto Rico's Edward Figueroa. His prize: redemption and an exemption for the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open.

The Puerto Rico Junior Open finishes on Monday with the third and final round.

FIRST ROUND - *Jorge García Leads After Record Round*

Río Grande, PR (January 19, 2013) - Jorge García picked up right where he left off last year at the AJGA's Puerto Rico Junior Open, setting a new tournament record with a first-round 63 (-9) on the Championship Course at Trump International to take a commanding lead after the first round of play.

García, a Florida native of Venezuelan descent, placed second in last year's tournament and finished just one shot behind the winner. On Saturday, he definitely played like he had some unfinished business, showing extraordinary skill and even better mental toughness on a windy day that saw only seven of the 68 players in the field shoot under par.

The young golfer had, simply put, a flawless round. He made nine birdies against zero bogeys and achieved the extraordinary feat of hitting all 18 greens in regulation. "When you give yourself 18 birdie chances, some of those are going to go in," said García. I had a good day with the putter as well and, thankfully, everything worked out."

García said it was definitely no coincidence that he showed great form here at Trump International last year and started off so well this weekend. "I don't know what it is, but there's something about this course that I like, and I feel comfortable in this environment," he said. "I just hit the ball so well," added García, who said he hopes to carry the same calm demeanor and confident mindset into the tournament's remaining 36 holes.

Fellow Americans Corey Shaun and Theo Humphrey are the closest players to García, with scores of -5 and -3, respectively. Among the local players, Puerto Rico's Junior National Champion, Sebastián Toro, shot +3 and is currently tied for 31st place.

The Puerto Rico Junior Open continues until Monday, when a new champion will be crowned and will receive an exemption to play in the PGA TOUR's Puerto Rico Open, to be held this March also at Trump International.

TOURNAMENT PREVIEW



Río Grande, PR (January 18, 2013) - A talented field of 72 junior golfers will tee it up starting Saturday at the third annual AJGA Puerto Rico Junior Open, being held once again at Trump International Golf Club's Championship Course.

The 54-hole, stroke-play tournament will feature some of the top junior players from around the world, with nine countries and 17 states represented in the field. The winner will receive, among other things, a very special prize: an exemption to play in the 2013 Puerto Rico Open. Last year that honor went to Puerto Rican player Edward Figueroa, who dominated the event.

This year, a group of seven local players will try to match Figueroa's feat, including current Junior National Champion Sebastián Toro. The 17-year-old Gurabo native also played in last year's Puerto Rico Junior Open, and he believes that past experience will help him this weekend. "It gives me more confidence and I feel calmer," said Toro, who admitted that last year he was "pretty nervous" during the event.

Toro shared that he has been putting in a lot of practice time, and that he hopes his familiarity with the course at Trump International will help him put together a strong performance in such a high-level tournament. "The level of competition is really high and anybody who is out there is capable of winning," said Toro. "I'm just going to go out there

and enjoy the course and the tournament, and if I end up in the top 20 I'll have accomplished my goal," added Toro, who is already a veteran of numerous prestigious international events.

The other Puerto Ricans in the field will be Daniel Cabán, Raymond Arrieta, Jr., José L. Cadrona, Mauricio Muñoz, Kenneth Martínez, and Alberto Firpi. It is worth noting that Martínez and Firpi, who are 14 and 15 years old, respectively, qualified for and played in the PGA TOUR Latinoamérica's inaugural Puerto Rico Classic.

Some of the other young stars in the tournament field are Jorge García, who finished tied for second in last year's tournament, and fellow Americans Cameron Champ, Matt Gilchrest, and Max Greyserman, who are currently in the top-25 of the AJGA's Polo Golf Rankings.

Aside from the talent on the field, the Puerto Rico Junior Open has been recognized for its organizational quality. The inaugural edition of the tournament in 2011 was named the year's Best New Event by the AJGA and, this year, the organization awarded our tournament with the Volunteer Award, in recognition of the extraordinary volunteer corps that makes the event possible.

These awards highlight the importance that the PRGA has given to this event and to junior golf, in general. "I think amateur golf is an especially important opportunity to give our youth," said PRGA Executive Director Julio Soto. ***"This event is a great experience, not just for the players, but for all of those involved."***



BRASELTON, Ga. — Local organizers of the Puerto Rico Junior Open, which takes place at Trump International Golf Club – Championship Course in Rio Grande, P.R., have earned the Volunteer Award from the American Junior Golf Association for the 2012 Tournament Season. The Volunteer Award is given annually to an AJGA tournament committee that builds the model team of volunteers committed to the success of the championship. The tournament returns to the AJGA schedule in 2013 and will be played January 18-21.

Each year, the AJGA presents awards to the tournaments with the best individual media coverage, Junior-Am fundraising tournament, charitable giving and hospitality. The AJGA also recognizes the year's most outstanding golf professional, superintendent and general manager, as well as the most improved event, best new tournament, best Invitational and overall tournament of the year.

Complete list of 2012 Tournament Awards.

"I think amateur golf is an especially important opportunity to give our youth," said Julio Soto, Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Golf Association. "This event is a great experience, not just for the players, but for all of those involved. We truly could not make this event what it is without the help and support of our volunteers."

After receiving the award in 2011 for "Newcomer of the Year," the Puerto Rico Junior Open was another successful event in 2012, something that could not have been done without the help of their volunteers. The volunteers showed up every day to man timing stations, conduct live scoring, drive shuttles and even help with meal counts and data entry. Volunteer assistance is a huge help to the AJGA staff. From greeting the players and parents to handling the cooler crew; the volunteers made this event a success.

Students from the Carvin School are a special volunteer presence at the Puerto Rico Junior Open. The students, under the guidance of Elaine Rivera, volunteer in all areas important to running a tournament. In addition to their help at the Puerto Rico Junior Open, the students volunteer at the Puerto Rico Open, the Puerto Rico Golf Association's Island Championship, and the Junior Island Championship.

"Our incredible volunteer staff would not be what it is without Elaine Rivera and her students at the Carvin School. Ms. Rivera's students are a key asset in assisting with scoring, standard bearing, pace of play, operations, and live scoring. Not only do these students effectively fill their duties, but many become fans of the game as well," said Tournament Chairman Sidney Wolf, President of the Puerto Rico Golf Association. "The volunteers are a huge part of what makes this event the success that it is, and we absolutely could not do it without them."

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[About the Puerto Rico Junior Open...](#)



**Puerto Rico
JUNIOR OPEN**

Hosted in conjunction with the American Junior Golf Association (AJGA) and sponsored by the

Puerto Rico Tourism Company, the Puerto Rico Junior Open, is played at the Trump International Golf Club, Championship Course, home of the Puerto Rico Open, presented by sepuertorico.com.

During its second edition, 6 junior golfers from Puerto Rico received the opportunity to play among the AJGA's best players and enjoy from the experience to be part of this event. In this edition the Girls division will not play.

In 2011 a notable performance were achieved by Patricia Garcia (T2) and Maria Torres (T4) at Girls Division, while José Oscar Rodríguez finished tied for the 8th place at the Boys Division, with three other players. Jason Roets of South Africa survived a sudden-death playoff Monday to win the inaugural Puerto Rico Junior Open, while Monifa Sealy of Trinidad & Tobago won the Girls Division at Trump International Golf Club's Championship Course. Both players are students of the Gary Gilchrist Golf Academy, official partner of the American Junior Golf Association.

For a Complete 2011 RESULTS List, click [HERE](#)...

Tournament Quick Facts

Classification: Open

Division: Boys, ages 12-18 **Field Size:** 78 **Format:** 54 Holes, Stroke Play **Tournament**

Director: Tommy Tang **Tournament fee:** \$280 **Tournament Application Deadline:** Wednesday, November 30, 2011 - 5 p.m. EST

2011 PUERTO RICO JUNIOR OPEN RECAP VIDEO