
STORYLINES

Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games

Hurlingham Club, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina

NUMBER OF ATHLETES & COUNTRIES – 32 men and 32 women from 33 countries have entered the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games.

GOLF'S APPEARANCES ON YOG PROGRAMME – Golf first appeared on the sport programme for the Youth Olympic Games at the 2014 Nanjing Youth Olympic Games. This will be the second time golf is on the programme for the Youth Olympic Games.

PREVIOUS CHAMPIONS – In Nanjing, the men's individual stroke play competition was won by the Italian, Renato Paratore (ITA), with Marcus Kinhult (SWE), second and silver medallist and Danthai Boonma (THA) third and bronze medallist.

The women's individual stroke play competition was won by the Korean Soyoung Lee, followed by Ssu-Chia Cheng (TPE) and Supamas Sangchan (THA).

The mixed Team competition was won by Sweden (Marcus KINHULT and Linnea STROM) followed by Korea (Eun Ho YOUM and Soyoung LEE) and Italy (Renato PARATORE and Virginia Elena CARTA).

CLASS OF NANJING 2014 YOG –

Aditi Ashok (IND) – Placed 11th in Nanjing women's individual event. Went on to qualify for Rio 2016 Olympic Games to become first golf athlete to compete in both events, where she finished in place. Aditi turned Professional in 2016 and was the Ladies European Tour Rookie of the Year. She has won three championships, the Hero Women's Indian Open, the Qatar Ladies Open and Fatima Bint Mubarak Ladies Open.

Danthai Boonma (THA) - Bronze medallist in men's individual event Turned professional in 2015 and underlined his potential by winning the 2015 World Classic Championship at Laguna National in Singapore in his rookie season

Renato Paratore (ITA) - Gold medallist in men's individual event and bronze medallist in mixed teams event. He turned professional in 2014 and in 2017 won his first professional tournament, the Nordea Masters.

Supamas Sangchan (THA) - Bronze medallist in women's individual event who turned professional in 2015 and won the 2017 Hong Kong Ladies Open



WORLD AMATEUR GOLF RANKING™ There are nine players in the Top 50 of the WAGR competing in the 2018 YOG, who are all aged between 18 years and 14 years. Their ranking through week of 3 Oct is found below

6- Nicolai Hojgaard, DEN, Men's

10- Lucy Li, USA, Women's

11 – Atthaya Thitikul, THA, Women's

18 – Alessia Nobilio, ITA, Women's

28 - Akshay Bhatia, USA, Men's

31 - Emma Spitz, AUT, Women's

37 – Amanda Linner, SWE, Women's

49 -Yuka Saso, PHI, Women's

50 - Lily May Humphreys, GBR, Women's

Lucy Li (USA) is the highest ranked female player under 18 years in the world, whilst **Alessia Nobilio (ITA)** is the third highest.

Nicolai Hojgaard (DEN) is the highest ranked male player under 18 years in the world and **Akshay Bhatia (USA)** and **Karl Vilips (AUS)** are the second and fourth highest respectively.

PLAYERS IN 2018 JUNIOR RYDER CUP– The following seven players competed in the 2018 Junior Ryder Cup at Golf Disneyland, Paris, France, Sept 24-25 where the USA team defeated Europe 12 ½ to 11½ points:

Emma Spitz, AUT

Nicolai Hojgaard, DEN

David Puig, ESP

Alessia Nobilio, ITA

Amanda Linner, SWE

Akshay Bhatia, USA

Lucy Li, USA



WORLD AMATEUR TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS 2018 - Nine players in the field competed at the 2018 World Amateur Team Championships that were held at Carton House, Ireland in September. Korea were victorious in the women's competition to receive the Espirito Santo Trophy, whilst Denmark won by a single stroke from the USA in the Eisenhower Cup. Nicolai Hojgaard was a member of the winning Danish team.

Mateo Fernandez de Oliveira, ARG

Ela Anacona, ARG

Grace Kim, AUS

Emma Spitz, AUT

Nicolai Hojgaard, DEN

Elena Saksa, FIN

Alessia Nobile, ITA

Jordan Thompson, NGR

Elena Moosmann, SUI

INDIVIDUAL STORYLINES (Alphabetical By Country)

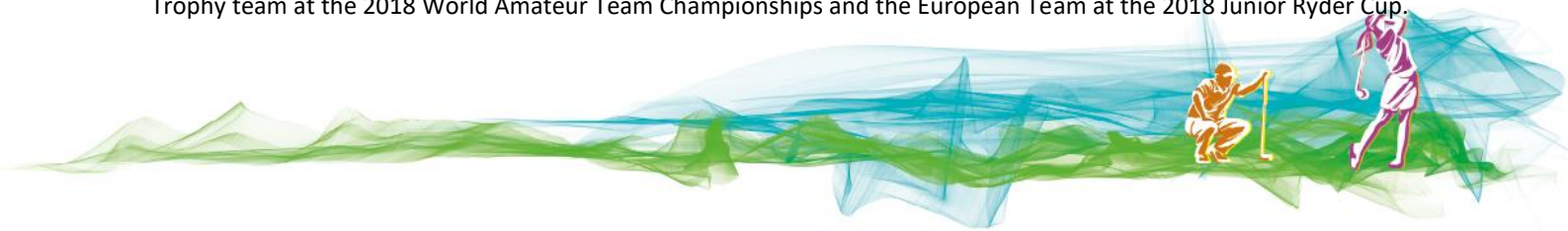
AUSTRALIA

Grace Kim, won the 2017 Australian Girls' Amateur and competed at the ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open. She was the runner-up at this year's Australian Girls' Amateur and The Avondale Amateur and was also a member of the Australian Espirito Santo Trophy team at the 2018 World Amateur Team Championships. She is currently ranked 109th in the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR).

Karl Vilips, born in Perth, Australia and studying on a scholarship in the United States since he was 11 years of age. Winner of four tournaments including the 2018 Wyndham Championship. In 2017 he qualified to play in the Australian Open Championship and was selected as a member of the 2017 Junior Presidents Cup team. Other interests include basketball and tennis.

AUSTRIA

Emma Spitz, 18, is No. 31 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR). She recently won the Girls British Ladies Open Amateur and has scored victories in the Italian Ladies Championship twice (2015 and 2018) and the Austrian Ladies Match Play in 2015. She was the individual stroke-play medallist in the 2015 European Ladies Team Championship and won consecutive Austrian Ladies Stroke Play titles in 2015 and 2016. She was a member of the Austrian Espirito Santo Trophy team at the 2018 World Amateur Team Championships and the European Team at the 2018 Junior Ryder Cup.



DENMARK

Nicolai Hojgaard, 17, won the 2018 European Amateur Championship and competed at the 2018 Open at Carnoustie. His twin brother, Rasmus, won the individual title in leading Denmark to victory in the boys division of the Junior World Golf Cup in Japan earlier this year. Both played in the European Tour event – Made In Denmark and the winning Danish team in the Eisenhower Trophy at the 2018 World Amateur Team Championships. Nicolai was also a member of the European Team at the 2018 Junior Ryder Cup and is the highest ranked World Amateur Golf Ranking male player in the field.

GREAT BRITAIN

Lily May Humphreys, 16, in 2017 won the English Women's Amateur and European Young Masters. Her sensational season was recognised when she was presented England Golf's Rising Star Award for 2017. Her success has continued into 2018 where she won the Scottish Women's Open Championship (Helen Holm) and the Girls Junior Orange Bowl Championship. She was also a member of the 2018 Great Britain and Ireland team that faced the United States in the 40th Curtis Cup at Quakers Ridge Golf Club. The United States dominated the match, winning by 17 matches to 3.

ITALY

Alessia Nobilio, 16, was a part of the victorious European Team Girls Championship Team in both 2016 and 2017. Last year, Nobilio finished runner-up at the World Junior Golf Championship and was a member of the Junior Solheim Cup Team representing Europe. Alessa was a member of the Italian Spirito Santo Trophy team at the 2018 World Amateur Team Championships and the European Team at the 2018 Junior Ryder Cup.

SPAIN

David Puig, Barcelona native, Puig has been part of the Spanish junior national squads since the age of 14, and is currently a part of the Catalan Golf Federation's high performance 'Eagle' program. He has a variety of National Championships under his belt, including U-12 and U-14 titles, a runner-up U-16 finish. Recently he won the Spanish Under-18 Strokeplay Championship at Club de Golf La Cañada in Cádiz, as well as competing for the Continent of Europe in the recent Jacques Leglise Trophy and was a member of the European Junior Ryder Cup team.

SWITZERLAND

Elena Moosmann, 16, finished second at the Swiss National Juniors and fourth at the German Girls Open this year. She was the runner-up at the 2018 Spanish International Stroke Play and competed in the European Ladies Team Championship. Elena was a member of the Swiss Spirito Santo Trophy team at the 2018 World Amateur Team Championships. She also plays floorball

SWEDEN

Amanda Linner has represented Sweden both at junior and senior level on the European stage at the European Ladies and Girls Team Championships, and the 2018 Junior Ryder Cup. With 72 competitive outings in her amateur career, she has amassed an incredible 33 top-ten finishes including eight wins in various Swedish tournaments, as well as European-wide events such as the 2017 ANNIKA Invitational Europe and the Internationaux de France U21 Tropee Esmond, and is currently ranked 37th in the women's world amateur rankings.

THAILAND

Atthaya Thitikul, 15, became the youngest ever winner on the Ladies European Tour when she won the professional 2017 Ladies European Thailand Championship at the age of 14. Following this she then went on to win gold medals in the SEA Games individual and team events in Malaysia in August 2017. In February 2018 she won the Women's Amateur Asia Pacific Championship earning her invitations to the 2018 HSBC Women's World Championship, where she had a top ten finish, the 2018 ANA Inspiration, where she was the leading amateur and the 2018 Ricoh Women's



British Open where she won the Smyth Salver, again as the lowest amateur in the field. In all Athaya has 14 amateur victories which includes her recent win in the 2018 World Junior Girls Championship.

USA

Akshay Bhatia, was a member of the successful 2018 USA Junior Ryder Cup team, that defeated Europe. Bhatia became the first player ever to win back-to-back Boys Junior PGA Championships. He holds the Championship's all-time record for lowest 18-hole score (61), lowest 54-hole score (199) and lowest 72-hole score (22-under par 266). Bhatia also won the prestigious 2018 Junior Invitational at Sage Valley and smashed event records at the 2018 AJGA Polo Golf Junior Classic. He was also a member of the 2017 U.S. Junior Presidents Cup Team

Lucy Li, 16, was the youngest player ever to play in the U.S. Women's Open, when she competed at age 11. She was also the youngest competitor in the 2018 U.S. Women's Open at age 15. In 2017, Li won the ANA Junior Inspiration, PING Invitational and Rolex Tournament of Champions. She was the first 15-year old named to the Curtis Cup Team since Lexi Thompson. The 2016 Girls Junior PGA Champion, Li also won the 10-11 age group at the 2014 Drive, Chip & Putt Championship at Augusta National Golf Club. She played on her second U.S. Junior Ryder Cup Team at Golf Disneyland, Paris, France, Sept 24-25 where the USA team defeated Europe 12 ½ to 11½ points .

DAILY MEDIA SERVICE AND IGF MEDIA CONTACTS

For questions, interview requests and all other areas of media service.

IGF Media Relations - mediarelations@igfmail.org

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