

Press Clip

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International line up for Albatross Junior Tour

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WHAT had started as an initiative by a group of concerned golf-parents who wanted to see their kids compete in international events at an equal footing along with those from more golf-enthusiast nations is celebrating its third anniversary's flagship event. The Albatross Junior Tour also has another feather in its cap now. Those participating in the Junior Golf Championship from November 23-25 at the Classic Golf Resort can also see an improvement in their World Amateur Golf ranking points as R&A, amateur golf's world governing body has given it the legitimate go-ahead.

That is perhaps the reason behind Albatross attracting a stellar international field of junior golfers that includes players from China, Japan, Thailand, Sweden, USA and many others. Top juniors like Chinese Bai Zheng Kai who won the Mission Hills Golf Series Final last year and Thailand's Sarit Suwannarut who was the champion at the World Master of Junior Golf Championship in USA this year have already committed to coming to India.

Vikrant Chopra, who was the runner-up at PGTI's Bilt Open some weeks back was full of praise for those behind the scenes. "I was practicing at the Classic Golf Resort once and I saw these 160 kids gathered for an Albatross Tour event. I was amazed at the sheer numbers as I know that at the World Cup of the International Junior Tour with participation from 75 countries, they had managed some 210 children so if Albatross is able to collect an equal number it is very creditable and shows that people have faith in this Tour," Chopra said.

"The next step for me would be to think how us professionals can help the juniors and I will put forth a request to PGTI that some of us should conduct golf clinics regularly to help with whatever technical queries that the children may have," he added.

Rajiv Talwar, the Director of Albatross Junior said one of their next targets is to get US coaches to help the Tour kids. "Instead of sending a handful of children abroad, which will cost much more, we plan to get some coaches here that can work regularly with the Tour kids and iron out their techniques," he said.



Professional golfer Vikrant Chopra unveils the trophy. AMIT MEHRA

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