



Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational

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Bobby Chapman Invitational to Welcome Elite 2019 Field



Spartanburg, S.C. - While 2018 was thought to be the strongest field, the 2019 Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational may just trump that with the most elite field in tournament history.

This year, players are again in for a special treat as one of the most recognized PGA instructors, **Butch Harmon**, will be in attendance. Joining Harmon will be his brothers **Craig** and **Bill Harmon** to spectate and support The Bobby

Chapman Foundation. Players will receive a special opportunity to hear from the Harmon brothers Friday evening during the Player's Dinner - ending the night with a question and answer session.

This week Spartanburg, South Carolina and the Country Club of Spartanburg, will welcome 53 of the country's top 100 players to the Silver Anniversary of the Tournament. The field will tee it up, testing their ability against not only fellow competitors, but a Donald Ross designed course. Players will represent 16 states and to date, the field has 50 college commits. "This field represents some of the best players in the country and substantiates why the BCJI is recognized as the number one - two day junior tournament in the country," stated **Tournament Chairman Doug Smith**.



Defending champion **Jonathan Griz** (Hilton Head Island, SC) will look to go back-to-back, being the first to defend his title since Peter Uihlein accomplished the feat in 2005 and 2006. Griz, a 2022 graduate and University of Alabama verbal commit, secured his spot by not only being the defending champion, but also by capturing the 2019 Gator Invitational. Griz is also the reigning SCJGA Jay Haas Player of the Year and the Carolinas Player of the Year.

A substantial amount of heat will be on the heels of the defending champion as the No.1



ranked junior golfer by Junior Golf Scoreboard, **Karl Vilips** (Australia/Wesley Chapel, FL) will look to step into the winner's circle before heading off to Stanford University next fall. Capturing the 2018 Youth Olympic Games Golf Medalist, Vilips will be a player to watch over the weekend as his junior golf career highlights mimic those of some current PGA TOUR players.

As if the the No. 1 ranked junior player wasn't enough of an asterisk on the 2019 field, the tournament will welcome the 2019 U.S. Junior Champion, **Preston Summerhays** and the 2019 U.S. Amateur Semi-Finalist, **Cohen Trolio**. **Summerhays** (Scottsdale, AZ) battled throughout the week to a victory at Inverness Club in Toledo, Ohio, capturing the prestigious U.S. Junior title with a birdie on his 35th hole.



Photo Credit: USGA



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Making waves over the summer in the Carolinas at the U.S. Amateur, **Trolio** (West Point, MS) battled Andy Ogletree in the semi-finals match but ultimately lost. Trolio, a Louisiana State University verbal commit, kept the match alive with late birdies, but came up just short after back-to-back birdies by Ogletree, who would go on to capture the title.

Adding to the list of national title champions represented in the 2019 field is **Jack Heath** of Charlotte, North Carolina. Heath, a San Diego State University commit, secured the Boys Junior PGA Championship title this summer in Hartford, Connecticut after sinking a 40-foot birdie putt from just off the green to fire a final round 62, winning by one shot.



A familiar name to the field, University of Florida commit **Joseph Pagdin** of Orlando, Florida will also be one to watch during event as he competes in his final Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational. Pagdin is the second highest ranked player in the field, holding the 4th position according to Junior Golf Scoreboard. He easily qualified for the Invitational making it the semi-finals at the U.S. Junior and accompanied that finish with a Top-5 finish at the Sage Valley Junior Invitational and the Rolex Tournament of Champions.

Hoping to keep the trophy in the Palmetto State, 11 of the top South Carolinians will tee it up this weekend at the Country Club of Spartanburg. **Austin Scott** (Daniel Island) captured the shorten SCGA Junior Championship in a two hole play-off with **JT Herman** (Hilton Head Island) who will also be a contender to watch over the weekend.

Coming on late in the summer, Lancaster's **Mason Tucker** compiled three wins in less than a month to surge inside the Top 15 in the SCJGA Heritage Classic Foundation Rankings and land himself an exemption into the field.



As the Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational is regarded as one of the best junior tournaments in the country, greeting players and families with southern hospitality, it's no wonder the field continues to strengthen. Holding true just like in years past, participants will travel to Spartanburg, South Carolina from all over the country. The feel of this nationally acclaimed tournament is next to none and it's an accomplishment the Bobby Chapman Foundation and Board will look to

continue. *"From the moment the player comes through the gate at CCS, to the time they tee it up and finishing with the champions trophy presentation, competitors feel like they are playing in a PGA tournament"*, says **William McGirt**, former BCJI participant, PGA Tour player and BCJI Board Member. Not only does the tournament have a committee devoted to creating the most elite playing experience for participants, the event also has the support of volunteers and the CCS membership who create a tournament atmosphere unlike any other.

The Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational will begin October 19th with tee times starting on holes 1 and 10 at 9AM. Spectators are welcome to attend the event and are encouraged to follow along through social media (Facebook|Twitter|Instagram) and live scoring on the official tournament web-page by clicking the link below.

[Official Bobby Chapman Tournament Home Page](#)

[Round 1 Tee Times](#)

Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational
Country Club of Spartanburg | Spartanburg, South Carolina
Conducted by the South Carolina Junior Golf Association

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