

## JAPAN CRUSHES RECORDS AT TOYOTA JUNIOR GOLF WORLD CUP

Host nation's girls set team scoring mark; boys have best Day 1 ever



Full scoring: [golfstat.com<http://golfstat.com/>](http://golfstat.com/)

TOYOTA CITY, Japan (June 20, 2023) — Even before a shot was struck at the 29th Toyota Junior Golf World Cup, some wondered whether Japan's trio of girls might emerge as the best in the event's history.

They certainly lived up to their billing on Day 1. And Japan's boys showed they weren't to be ignored.

Tuesday proved to be a record-setting day for the host nation — while the girls' 12-under-par 132 marked the lowest single-day total in history, the boys also set a new standard for the best opening-round total since the event began in 1992.

“Being on the same team is very reassuring,” said Saori Iijima, whose 6-under-par 66 left her tied with teammate Yuna Araki and three others for the individual girls' lead. “I'm happy to be on the same team with them and not battling against them.”

Likewise, two Japanese boys also shared the individual lead after Kaito Sato and Reo Maruo fired matching 6-under 65s on Chukyo Golf Club's Ishino

course. Taishi Moto added a 69, giving them a three-man total of 14-under 199 that was seven shots better than their closest rivals.

“Everyone has played well in previous tournaments,” Sato said, “and you can see they are playing well again this week.”

With a six-shot lead for Japan’s girls and seven for the boys, their closest pursuers already have a challenging task ahead.

“It’s crazy,” said Germany’s Phillipp Macionga, whose opening 66 left him one shot off the boys’ individual lead. “But there’s three days left, so if we can play every day three shots lower than Japan, we can give ourselves a chance of winning.”

Korea holds second in the boys’ competition, with Jaewon Lee’s 66 helping them to a total of 7-under 206. Germany and the United States were another stroke back.

Korea also holds a share of second in the girls' division alongside defending champion Spain, each posting totals of 6-under 138. The United States was another shot back, primarily on the strength of Jasmine Koo's 66 to share the individual lead.

"It's going to be a challenge to get ahead of (Japan) this week, but I'm looking forward to it," said Koo.

The competition utilizes a format similar to U.S. college golf, with each boys' team counting the three best scores among its four players each day. In the girls' division, each team counts the two best scores among three.

Tuesday's 132 by Japan's girls was three shots better than the previous record of 135, also set by the host nation in the opening round of the 2016 event. With Iijima and Araki burning up the course, they didn't even need a 71 by reigning U.S. Women's Amateur champion Saki Baba.

For the boys, their 199 was the best since South Africa's sizzling 194 in the third round of the 2019 event. The best previous opening round had been a 201 by Sweden in the 2007 edition.

"This is probably the last time the four of us are going to be playing together as a team," Maruo said, "and I'm very happy to be part of it."

Joining Iijima, Araki and Koo for the individual lead were Spain's Anna Cañado and Colombia's Maria José Marin, who had the individual highlight of the day when she recorded a hole-in-one at the downhill par-3 12th hole.

Marin watched her 9-iron from 150 yards land softly on the green, then soon heard the distinctive "clank" from the ball hitting the bottom of the metal cups used at Chukyo GC.

“I heard that sound and went, ‘What?’” said Marin, the 2022 Junior Orange Bowl International girls’ champion. “I just put my hand over my mouth. I was amazed.”

It was the high point of a sizzling opening sequence for Marin. Starting on the 10th hole, she opened with a par, then chipped in for birdie at No. 11. After the ace, she birdied again to go 4-under through her first four holes.

“It was definitely a special day,” Marin said.

The Toyota Junior Golf World Cup, now in its 29th edition, is the final destination of a process that began with 70 national teams entered in regional qualifiers across six continents.

The boys' field features 12 teams competing for the championship, while eight teams advanced to the girls' finals.

More information about the Toyota Junior Golf World Cup Supported by Japan Airlines can be found online at [WJGTC.org](http://WJGTC.org), including a video library that includes interviews with former World Cup participants.

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## BOYS TEAM STANDINGS

1.	Japan	199 (-14)
2.	Korea	206 (-7)
t3.	United States	207 (-6)
t3.	Germany	207 (-6)
5.	England	208 (-5)
6.	Canada	209 (-4)
t7.	Paraguay	211 (-2)
t7.	New Zealand	211 (-2)
9.	South Africa	216 (+3)
10.	Switzerland	218 (+5)
11.	Puerto Rico	223 (+10)
12.	Uganda	234 (+21)

## BOYS INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS



t1. Reo Maruo, Japan	65 (-6)
t1. Kaito Sato, Japan	65 (-6)
t3. Phillipp Macionga, Germany	66 (-5)
t3. Jaewon Lee, Korea	66 (-5)
t3. Billy Davis, United States	66 (-5)
6. Dylan Shaw-Radford, England	67 (-4)
t7. Ethan Wilson, Canada	68 (-3)
t7. Kelvin Hernandez, Puerto Rico	68 (-3)
t7. Amilkar Bhana, South Africa	68 (-3)
t7. Matias Koropeski, Paraguay	68 (-3)

#### GIRLS TEAM STANDINGS

1. Japan	132 (-12)
t2. Spain	138 (-6)
t2. Korea	138 (-6)
4. United States	139 (-5)

5. New Zealand	142 (-2)
t6. Colombia	143 (-1)
t6. Canada	143 (-1)
8. South Africa	148 (+4)

#### GIRLS INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

t1. Saori Iijima, Japan	66 (-6)
t1. Maria Jose Marin, Colombia	66 (-6)
t1. Yuna Araki, Japan	66 (-6)
t1. Jasmine Koo, United States	66 (-6)
t1. Anna Cañado, Spain	66 (-6)
t6. Yeonju An, Korea	69 (-3)
t6. Jiwoo Shin, Korea	69 (-3)
8. Fiona Xu, New Zealand	70 (-2)
t9. Saki Baba, Japan	71 (-1)
t9. Vanessa Borovilos, Canada	71 (-1)