

JUNIOR GOLFERS GET BOOST WITH EFG MASTERS EVENT

National squad players Shannon Tan, Sean Lee and Brandon Han will headline the local field for the EFG Singapore Junior Masters at the Laguna National's Masters course starting on Monday.

The trio are among 46 boys and 27 girls for the World Amateur Golf Ranking (WAGR) event, organised by LLD Sports Development Management

To be played across three days, the 54-hole strokeplay tournament will be the only amateur tournament this year where players can earn points which will count towards their ranking in the WAGR.

Also in the field are Development Squad players Daryl Low and Brayden Low, and Junior Squad members Guo

Jun Xi, as well as sisters Jaymie and Denise Ng.

The SGA's squad players will be up against locally-based juniors representing China, Malaysia, India, US, UK, Germany, South Korea and Singapore in the Open (19 years under) and Junior (14 years under) divisions.

"Singapore players sorely lack competition, even in a non-pandemic year," says Ms Lyn Yeo, founder and managing director of LLD Sports Development and Management.

Keen to provide more competitive avenues for juniors, Ms Yeo, who is also the president of the Singapore Ladies Golf Association, has already set her sights on 2021.

Despite the ongoing pandemic, she aims to run three



LLD Sports Development and Management managing director Lyn Yeo (centre) with the Singapore Golf Association's female squad representatives (from left) Guo Jun Xi, Passion Hsu, Denise Ng and Shannon Tan.

WAGR tournaments a year moving forward, with plans to expand the EFG Singapore Junior Masters with two more events next year – a summer leg in June and a Finals event in November.

"With the current pan-

demic, Asian players may not be travelling to the US or Australia to compete. Most have expressed interest that they would play in Singapore once borders reopen as they have confidence in our Government's handling of

the pandemic."

As travel restrictions ease, Ms Yeo hopes to pit local juniors against top juniors from the region, starting with the EFG Singapore Junior Masters, where the winners of the boys' and girls' Open division will secure a spot in the 2021 China Amateur Open.

Additionally, the girls' Open division champion will also earn a spot in next year's Singapore Ladies Masters.

Safety is still paramount as the tournament takes place in accordance with safe measurements measures set out by Sports Singapore and the SGA guidelines, such as temperature screening and no mingling among players throughout the event.

— JEREMY THESEIRA