



**Release Date:**

January 18, 2018

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**JULIAN SURI RECEIVES SECOND SPONSOR EXEMPTION FOR  
WASTE MANAGEMENT PHOENIX OPEN PRESENTED BY THE AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY**

**SCOTTSDALE, Ariz.** – Tournament Chairman Carlos Sugich announced today that European Tour up-and-comer Julian Suri will receive the second sponsor exemption for the Waste Management Phoenix Open Presented by The Ak-Chin Indian Community, which is set to tee it up January 29 – February 4 at TPC Scottsdale.

Suri, who turned professional in 2013 after an impressive career at Duke, played his way on to the Challenge Tour (European Tour's version of the Web.com Tour) in 2016 after missing out on the European Tour by one shot at Qualifying School.

He earned his first professional win on the Challenge Tour at the D+D Real Czech Challenge in May of 2017, and qualified for the 2017 Open Championship at Royal Birkdale, where he missed the cut in his first ever start in a Major Championship. Later that year he earned his first European Tour victory at the Made in Denmark, and played well enough in just a partial season to earn a spot in the DP World Tour Championship, where he finished T8 to end the season ranked 52<sup>nd</sup> on the European Tour's Road to Dubai. Suri currently ranks 65<sup>th</sup> in the Official World Golf Ranking and is eighth on the Road to Dubai standings.

“Through his young professional career Julian has shown he has the game and skills to make it on this level, and he’s already shown he can handle the big stage,” Sugich said. “We’re excited to see what he can do at our event, and hope he can use the Waste Management Phoenix Open as a springboard to a great career in professional golf.”

Sugich and The Thunderbirds have a total of five exemptions to handout for the 2018 Waste Management Phoenix Open. 2010 WM Phoenix Open champion, Hunter Mahan, received the first exemption. The remaining three exemptions will be announced leading up to the tournament.

The 2018 Waste Management Phoenix Open Presented by the Ak-Chin Indian Community will be held at TPC Scottsdale January 29 – February 4, 2018. “The People’s Open” is the best-attended golf tournament in the world and has gained legendary status for being the most unique stop on the PGA TOUR. The 2018 edition will mark the 83<sup>rd</sup> playing of the event (one of the five oldest events on the PGA TOUR) and the ninth as the Waste Management Phoenix Open.

The Thunderbirds were founded in 1937 with the mission of promoting the Valley of the Sun through sports. The Thunderbirds consist of 55 “active” members and more than 250 “life” members. In 2017 The Thunderbirds raised a record \$10.1 million for charity from proceeds from last year’s tournament and have eclipsed \$122 million in charitable giving since its inception in 1932. For more information on The Thunderbirds or the 2018 Waste Management Phoenix Open, visit [www.wmphenixopen.com](http://www.wmphenixopen.com).

