

PUBLIC EDITION



SIFA IBFC

SAMOA OPEN 2026

Tournament Outcomes and Future Direction

5 to 8 August 2026

Faleata Golf Course, Tuanaimato, Samoa

BUILDING THE FUTURE OF PACIFIC GOLF

Competition, junior development, regional partnership and the promotion of Samoa through sport.

Prepared by Samoa Golf Incorporated

September 2026

1. About This Public Edition

This public edition records the principal sporting outcomes, participation, junior development, partnerships and forward direction arising from the SIFA IBFC Samoa Open 2026. It has been prepared for players, sponsors, partners, supporters and the wider public.

The complete Final Report remains SGI's internal governance and accountability record. It contains detailed financial, operational and Board planning information that is not reproduced in this public edition.

TOURNAMENT PURPOSE

To provide a credible competitive platform for professional and amateur golfers, strengthen Pacific relationships, develop junior pathways and promote Samoa through golf.

Event at a Glance

- Four-day programme at Faleata Golf Course, from Wednesday 5 August to Saturday 8 August 2026.
- Professional and amateur competition involving golfers from Samoa and overseas.
- An overall amateur champion, demonstrating the strength of the combined tournament format.
- Live online scoring, stronger tournament presentation and expanded sponsor visibility.
- Junior golfers participating alongside experienced amateurs and professionals.
- Continued development of SGI's relationship with the Fiji PGA and Pacific golfing community.



Overall champion Rajat Rai at the SIFA IBFC Samoa Open 2026.

2. Tournament Outcomes

Overall Champion

New Zealand Fijian amateur Rajat Rai won the SIFA IBFC Samoa Open 2026 with rounds of 68, 67 and 72 for a three-round total of 207, nine under par.

Rai finished four strokes ahead of leading professional Steven Binns, who recorded 211 at five under par. Tomasi Tuivuna finished third overall on 212 at four under par.

Place	Player	Status	Total	To Par
1st	Rajat Rai	Amateur	207	-9
2nd	Steven Binns	Professional	211	-5
3rd	Tomasi Tuivuna	Professional	212	-4

Division Champions

Division	Champion	Rounds	Total
Men's A, 0-6	Rajat Rai	68, 67, 72	207
Men's B, 7-12	Mana Tupuola	80, 82, 81	243
Women	Olive Tapu	71, 75, 78	224
Seniors, 55+	Corey Keil	79, 75, 81	235

Rajat Rai was also recognised as the 2026 Vailima National Men's Champion. Olive Tapu was recognised as the 2026 ACP National Women's Champion.

PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION

The tournament maintained a significant professional field and prize purse, supporting competitive participation by leading regional professionals.

3. A Pacific Golfing Platform

The 2026 Samoa Open continued SGI's objective of developing the tournament as a recognised competitive golf event within the Pacific. International participation strengthened the field, created opportunities for local golfers and reinforced relationships between Samoa and neighbouring golfing communities.



Fiji PGA professionals, from left: Amitesh Chandra, Abid Hussein, Vikrant Chandra, Arvind Lal and Viliame Sorowale.

Relationship with the Fiji PGA

The developing relationship between Samoa Golf Incorporated and the Fiji PGA was an important feature of the tournament. The Fiji PGA supported promotion within its golfing network, and its President, Vikrant Chandra, attended with the Fiji contingent.

SGI intends to build a more structured relationship involving tournament promotion, player participation, junior development and opportunities for amateur and professional golfers.



Women golfers from Fiji and Samoa, from left: Suleti Brook, Sereima Bale, Artika Sharma, Seini Lewai, Leafa Volantras, Seni Loga and Lyndall Fisher. Carlene Kelly is absent from the photograph.

4. Junior Golf Development

Junior development is central to SGI's long-term purpose. The Samoa Open gives young golfers direct exposure to tournament conditions and to experienced amateur and professional players from Samoa and overseas.



Van Wright and Etu Tusitala junior golf programme participants: Joe, Mateo, Eddieson, Noa, Katherine, Romani, Coban John, Audrey, Graham, Malone, Isaiah, Max, Rohan, Robert, Johan, Victor, Sola, Infinity and Cohen.

A Clear Development Pathway

DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

Introduction to golf | Junior development | Competitive junior golf | Amateur competition | Elite and professional pathways

SGI acknowledges Van Wright and Etu Tusitala for their continuing work in coaching and supporting Samoa's junior golfers. Their programme provides the practical connection between SGI's development objectives and the young players participating in the sport.

- regular and safe access to golf;
- qualified and consistent coaching;
- knowledge of etiquette and the Rules of Golf;
- competition appropriate to age and ability;
- pathways into national amateur competition; and
- regional and international exposure for eligible players.

5. Young Players on the Tournament Stage

The 2026 tournament demonstrated how the Samoa Open can connect junior development with senior competition. Young golfers were able to observe, participate and learn within the same tournament environment as leading amateurs and professionals.



Junior golfers, coaches and tournament participants, from left: Victor Wright, Van Wright, Jonah Faalogo, Ricky Locke, Rajat Rai, Joe Laban, Jefferson Lovelock and Etu Tusitala.



Joe Laban, aged nine, was the youngest golfer to play in the 2026 Samoa Open.

Future junior participation will be supported by clear age categories, handicap verification, safeguarding requirements, supervision arrangements and tournament conditions approved before entries open.

6. Tournament Delivery and Innovation

Live Tournament Management and Scoring

A significant improvement in 2026 was the live tournament management and scoring system operated by Polua Tusitala, with administrative support from Patrick Fepulea'i and Sam Sesega.



Tournament Directors Patrick Fepulea'i and Polua Tusitala recording tournament results during tournament play.

The system supported Pro-Am team allocation, daily tee-time management, scorecard recording and online results. It improved transparency, enabled supporters to follow the competition and created a stronger digital tournament record.

Pos	Name (Playing HCP)	To Par	Thru	Score
1	Dave Togahuli (8)	-8	18	68
2	Vaiana Sam-Ling (10)	-7	18	69
3	Phillip Temo (15)	-6	18	70
4	Joe Latham (18)	-5	18	71
5	Shakeel Pillay (11)	-4	18	72
6	Solara Mike Latta (4)	-3	18	73
7	Mo Sefa Safai (4)	-2	18	74
8	Abio Hussain (PGA)	-1	18	75
9	Carter Bryce (1)	0	18	76
10	Markus Matala (4)	1	18	77
11	Wesley Pillay (11)	2	18	78
12	Tuo Tulonua (12)	3	18	79
13	Michael Kapua (12)	4	18	80
14	Mark Ronnel Pressad (12)	5	18	81
15	Poasa Tulonua (PGA)	6	18	82
16	Tupai Albert Aona (12)	7	18	83
17	Deunaruafagai Noeli Paulo (12)	8	18	84
18	Tenfa Salupu Asalela (12)	9	18	85

The live leaderboard strengthened access to current tournament results.

FUTURE STANDARD

SGI intends to retain live scoring as a standard feature and integrate it more closely with tournament communications, media coverage and sponsor recognition.

7. Presentation, Media and Hospitality

Course signage, sponsor branding, tournament apparel, trophies, the LED display, media activities, official functions and photography gave the 2026 Samoa Open a stronger public identity.



Players, officials and supporters celebrating tournament achievements at the closing function.

The official functions welcomed visiting players and guests, recognised sponsors and brought tournament stakeholders together. The final evening provided an appropriate conclusion to the four-day programme.



Guests and tournament stakeholders at the closing function.

For future tournaments, SGI will continue strengthening media planning, photography, digital communication, sponsor exposure and hospitality arrangements.

8. Sponsors and Partners

The SIFA IBFC Samoa Open 2026 was a collective undertaking. It depended on financial and in-kind support from Government, businesses, institutions and members of the golfing community.

Principal Partnership

Samoa Golf Incorporated records its particular appreciation to the Samoa International Finance Authority for its principal financial sponsorship and its association with the tournament through the IBFC identity. This support was fundamental to the scale and presentation achieved in 2026.

Tournament Sponsors and Supporters

- Samoa International Finance Authority / IBFC
- Vailima Breweries
- Samoa Tourism Authority
- Apia Concrete Products
- Samoa Commercial Bank
- Eveni
- Uncle Johnny's
- SOS
- TU Consulting
- Ford Hyundai Samoa Ltd
- Other organisations and individuals providing financial, operational or in-kind support



Sponsor recognition prepared for the Samoa Open closing ceremony.

9. Collective Contribution

Course and Institutional Support

SGI acknowledges the Samoa Tourism Authority, Samoa Land Corporation and Faleata Golf Course personnel for their support of the tournament venue, course preparation, playing conditions and the wider presentation of Samoa as the host country.

Tournament Delivery Team

SGI records its appreciation to the Tournament Directors, administration and scoring personnel, Impact Projex and Phaedra, Board and committee members, course personnel, officials and service providers whose work contributed to the delivery of tournament week.

Volunteers, Parents and Supporters

SGI thanks the volunteers, parents, supporters and members of the golfing community who contributed their time and practical assistance. Tumua Ioane Evalu served as tournament starter and called participants to the tee before play commenced each day.

Players

SGI thanks every professional, amateur, senior and women golfer who competed. The quality, sportsmanship and participation of the players gave the tournament its sporting character and provided the foundation for its continuing development.

FA'AFETAI TELE LAVA

To every sponsor, partner, player, official, volunteer, parent, supporter and visitor who contributed to the SIFA IBFC Samoa Open 2026.

10. Future Direction

The 2026 Samoa Open provides SGI with a strong foundation. The priority is sustainable development, supported by sound governance, confirmed resources, clear responsibilities and reliable tournament administration.

Priorities for the Next Samoa Open

Plan earlier: Confirm tournament dates, structure, responsibilities and milestones well before entries open.

Strengthen financial sustainability: Align tournament commitments with approved budgets and confirmed support.

Retain sponsors as partners: Recognise 2026 support and engage existing and prospective partners early.

Develop Pacific participation: Issue clear tournament information to regional associations and player networks.

Formalise junior pathways: Approve eligibility, safeguarding, supervision and development arrangements.

Prepare the course systematically: Agree responsibilities, readiness checks and tournament standards with Faleata and SLC.

Improve communications and measurement: Record participation, visitor information, media activity and sponsor exposure.

Report transparently: Maintain formal post-tournament results, reconciliation, acknowledgements and public reporting.

2027 DIRECTION

Plan earlier. Confirm resources before committing expenditure. Assign responsibility clearly. Measure outcomes. Build Pacific and junior pathways deliberately. Report publicly and responsibly.

11. Conclusion

The SIFA IBFC Samoa Open 2026 was successfully delivered at Faleata Golf Course from 5 to 8 August 2026. It brought together professional and amateur golfers from Samoa and overseas, strengthened Pacific golfing relationships, provided meaningful opportunities for junior development and presented the Samoa Open with a stronger public identity.

The tournament produced an outstanding result, with New Zealand Fijian amateur Rajat Rai winning the overall title at nine under par, four strokes ahead of the leading professional.

The event also demonstrated the value of partnership. SIFA, tournament sponsors, Government agencies, the Fiji PGA, Faleata and SLC personnel, tournament officials, volunteers, parents and the wider golfing community collectively provided the support required to deliver the tournament.

SGI will build on these achievements by strengthening planning, sponsor relationships, Pacific participation, junior pathways, tournament systems and public accountability. The objective is to establish a well-governed, financially sustainable and increasingly recognised Pacific golf tournament that contributes to the long-term development of golf in Samoa.



The Samoa Open brought together players, sponsors, partners and supporters from Samoa and overseas.

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