# Press release — The Open 2018

The 20–22<sup>nd</sup> of July the final event of the European Tour in disc golf will be played at <u>Ale Discgolfcenter</u> in Sweden, the courses are located 25 minutes north of Gothenburg.

# Disc golf

Disc golf is one of very few sports that is growing quickly and has been doing so for several decades. Just in Finland estimates state that there is somewhere between 100.00 and 400.000 players.

In Sweden there are more than 50.000 and globally more than 40.000 players have membership in the global organization <u>PDGA</u>, twice as many as 2012, so the sport is growing globally as well. A PDGA license is required to participate in the biggest events.

### The Open

Ale Discgolfcenter has several courses and the competition will be played on two of these. The competitors will play two rounds (2×18 holes) on Friday and Saturday and an 18-hole final on Sunday. The event has two divisions: Open (open for everybody but usually only consist of men)) and a female division.

### Competitors

Players from 15 countries will participate, you'll see several world champions, European champions and Swedish champions. 16 ladies and 128 men will compete, a total of 144 competitors. We could have had many more competitors since more than 200 elite players registered, but the competition format we've chosen allows maximum 144 players.

The favorite in the female division is the previous world champion <u>Catrina Allen</u> from USA, she's primarily being challenged by the Swedes Sofie Björlycke (reigning Swedish champion) and Camilla Grundén (previous European champion).

In the open division it's tougher to pick the favorite: The two-time reigning world champion <u>Ricky Wysocki</u> is a favorite but he's being challenged by <u>Simon Lizotte</u> from Germany, ranked four in the world and who started the year with an impressing win on the first event on the National US Tour.

Also <u>Karl-Johan Nybo</u> (Denmark), <u>Jeremy Koling</u> (USA), <u>Devan Owens</u> (USA) the former Norwegian javelin champion Håkon Kveseth are strong contenders

Regarding Swedish players we have high hopes on Henrik Johansen, <u>Emil Dahlgren</u>, Kristian Bengtsson and our Swedish super junior Linus Carlsson.

### **Press officer**

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Catrina Allen

#### Final schedule

The ladies final start on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 8<sup>20</sup>–8<sup>30</sup>, the round will (in nice weather) take about three hours, it will also depend on how many spectators we have

The open final starts on Sunday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of July 12<sup>00</sup>, the open lead card is the last card that starts which usually means it will take longer time, but our ambition is that the prize ceremony will be completed at the latest 4<sup>30</sup> PM.



