

# Haotong Li Aiming for 2022 Reboot Starting at Volvo China Open

*After dropping out of the top 50 of the Official World Golf Ranking, China's Haotong Li is aiming to bounce back starting with the 2021 Volvo China Open*

SHENZHEN, GUANDONG, CHINA,  
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EINPresswire.com/ -- Former champion Haotong Li will be looking to end a disappointing year on a high when he tees up at the 27th Volvo China Open at Genzon Golf Club in Shenzhen tomorrow (December 16), opening day of China's National Open Golf Championship.



Haotong Li - one of the favourites at the 27th Volvo China Open

A two-time winner on the DP World Tour - formerly the European Tour - 26-year-old Li is the highest-profile player in the 108-strong field for an event sanctioned solely by the China Tour for the second consecutive year because of the global pandemic,

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Through various sustainable development measures, we are committed to a Volvo China Open that is both player and event sustainable.”

*Michel Zhao, Volvo China Open Board Chairperson*

But if he is to bounce back to winning ways, China's most popular player will have to do so without the vocal backing of his supporters as this year's event will be played behind closed doors.

"To be frank, everyone knows I didn't play well this year, and of course there was the pandemic," said Li who just three years ago enjoyed the biggest victory of his career at the Dubai Desert Classic. It was his second European Tour win and saw him become the first male Chinese golfer to

break into the top 50 of the Official World Golf Ranking.

"I think there are many opportunities I haven't grasped and if I could turn back the clock, I think I would grasp them better. I have many goals but it takes a lot of hard work. I think 2021 was a

good transition year and I've learned a lot."

As for his chances of winning a second Volvo China Open, he added: "I think Shenzhen is a blessed place for me as I almost won the first European tour event here in 2015. I like the course very much - it is first-class from hotel to people to management - so I'm grateful for the opportunity to come back here. The target is to play well and strive to improve my ranking in 2022."

Li is one of three former champions in the field. Current China Tour Money List leader Zhang Huilin will be looking to become the first player to successfully defend the trophy, while for 2003 winner Zhang Lianwei this week marks a remarkable 27th successive Volvo China Open to stretch his record as the only player to compete in every edition since the tournament began in 1995.

Despite Covid protocol challenges, both the China Golf Association and Volvo Cars have committed to staging the event but without the presence of spectators.

"In order to ensure the health and safety of players and tournament related personnel, the China Golf Association, Volvo China Open and Shenzhen Genzon Golf Club - under the guidance and suggestions of the territorial Government and after careful consideration by the organising committee - decided that the venue shall be closed and be limited only to players, officials and other necessary support staff," said China Golf Association Secretary General Pang Zheng.

Michel Zhao, Chairperson of Volvo China Open Board & Vice President of Communications and MarCom, Volvo Car Asia Pacific added: "The tournament was originally postponed from



(Left to right) Hak Shun Yat, Haotong Li, Lianwei Zhang and Wu Dianchao with the Volvo China Open trophy



(Left to right) Ali Kong (General Manager Shenzhen Genzon Golf Club), Pang Zheng (Secretary General, China Golf Association) and Michel Zhao (Volvo China Open Board Chairperson) with the Volvo China Open trophy

November 4-7 because of the pandemic. While it is unanimously agreed to close the event to spectators, we have carefully prepared various viewing options both on TV and through live streaming to mobile devices.

"In addition, the Volvo China Open submitted an application to the GEO Foundation for Sustainable Golf and fully accepted its guidance and supervision. Through various sustainable development measures, we are committed to a Volvo China Open that is both player and event sustainable."

As well as being the grand finale of the 2021 China Tour season, the Volvo China Open also offers a total tournament prize-fund of RMB 2 million, the largest of the year. In addition, the player who ends the season at the top of the 2020-2021 China Tour prize money ranking list will automatically receive full playing rights for the 2022 DP World Tour, while the tournament winner will also earn six Official World Golf Ranking points.

In addition to three experienced former winners, the field also features 14 amateur players, the largest amateur entry in the event's history. The youngest is 13-year-old Zhou Yanhan from Chongqing, while Wu Dianchao, a 16-year-old from Shantou, qualified by winning the 2021 Volvo Junior Match Play Championship.

Now in its 27th consecutive year, the Volvo China Open is the season finale of the 2021 China Tour and the longest-running professional golf tournament on the Chinese mainland.

The Volvo China Open, hosted by the China Golf Association and Guangdong Provincial Sports Bureau, is promoted and operated by Teamfirst Management Ltd., and certified by the China Tour.

Ends

Note to Editors

The 27th staging of the Volvo China Open will take place from December 16-19, 2021, at the Shenzhen Genzon Golf Club, with a total prize-fund of RMB 2 million. The 2021 Volvo China Open is hosted by the China Golf Association, sponsored by Volvo Cars, promoted and operated by Teamfirst Management Ltd., and sanctioned by the China Tour.

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