



## USGA Support of Junior Programs August 2022

Since its founding, the USGA has led the way in creating a more unified, accessible and inclusive game, providing opportunities for more people to play, work, experience and enjoy golf. In an effort to provide greater access to golf for juniors and cultivate a lifelong passion for the game, the USGA has invested more than \$33 million among First Tee, LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf and Drive, Chip & Putt programs, and continues to support a number of other initiatives through our Allied Golf Associations and grassroots resources.

### Programs of Support

1. **First Tee:** A founding partner of the First Tee, the USGA has supported the youth development organization for over 25 years.
  - In 2021, First Tee impacted more than 2.2 million kids and teens through programs delivered at local chapters, schools and youth centers
  - Launched in 2021, the USGA's IDEA grant program distributes \$200,000 in grants, annually, across First Tee chapters in a dedicated effort to directly empower inclusion, diversity, equity and accessibility efforts at the local golf level
    - 20 chapters received grants ranging from \$20,000 to \$7,500
    - First Tee South Puget Sound was selected as a recipient and hosts programming at Chambers Bay. They have plans to direct funding toward initiatives to increase diversity across the chapter, including staff, board and participants.
    - First Tee Metropolitan New York was selected as a recipient and is located within the U.S. Amateur market. With more than 25% of the staff identifying as an immigrant or first generation American and 70% of the participants representing underserved populations, the chapter plans to direct funding toward initiatives that will allow itself to continue to provide underserved youth with one-stop-shop access to academic enrichment, athlete training and a sense of community.
  - 11 First Tee alumni in the field at the 2022 U.S. Girls' Junior
  - 2 First Tee alumni in the field at the 2022 U.S. Adaptive Open
  - 8 First Tee alumni in the field at the 2022 U.S. Women's Amateur
  - 13 First Tee alumni in the field at the 2022 U.S. Amateur
2. **LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf:** With over 500 sites targeting girls ages 6-17, LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf (Girls Golf) is the only national junior golf program that specializes in providing girl-friendly environments for kids to learn the game of golf.
  - In 2000, only 15% of junior golfers were female. In 2021, one third of junior golfers are female – the highest percentage in history. (NGF)
  - LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf has increased its reach from 4,500 girls in 2010 to 90,000 girls in 2021, more than a 1,800% increase
  - 520 total active sites, including 20 international sites across the globe
  - 142 members/alumnae competed in USGA Championships in 2021
  - 50 former LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf members in the field at the 2022 U.S. Girls' Junior
  - 14 former LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf members in the field at the 2022 U.S. Women's Open Presented by ProMedica
  - 43 former LPGA\*USGA Girls Golf members in the field at the 2022 U.S. Women's Amateur
3. **Drive, Chip & Putt:** A joint initiative founded in 2013 by the Masters Tournament, USGA and The PGA of America, the Drive, Chip & Putt Championship is a free nationwide junior golf development competition aimed at growing the game by focusing on three fundamental skills employed in golf.
  - 18 Drive, Chip & Putt finalists in the field at the 2022 U.S. Junior Amateur
    - Winners include Jaden Dum Dumaya (2022 Won 14-15); Treed Huang (2014 Won 7-9); Jay Leng Jr. (2015 Won 7-9; 2019 12-13)



- 27 Drive, Chip & Putt finalists in the field at the 2022 U.S. Girls' Junior
  - Winners include: Emerson Blair (2016, Won 7-9); Nicole Gal (2019, Won 14-15); Mia Hammond (2022, Won 14-15); Mia Hammond (2022, Won 14-15); Sara Im (2018, Won 12-13; 2019, 14-15); Yana Wilson (2019, Won 12-13; 2021, Won 12-13); Lucy Yuan (2017, Won 10-11)
- 4. Allied Golf Associations: Across the USGA's network of 58 state & regional golf associations, many offer dedicated junior programs (such as Youth on Course, which provides low to no-cost rounds of golf to juniors at participating courses across America) to introduce the game to new audiences and engage at the local level.
- 5. American Junior Golf Association: The USGA has a longstanding partnership with the AJGA, which encourages youth to pursue their dream to compete at the collegiate and elite level. The USGA provides annual grant funding to the AJGA, primarily focused on The AJGA/USGA Presidents' Leadership Award, given annually to one male and one female golfer who demonstrates leadership and citizenship by volunteering and fundraising for causes that improve golfer's communities.
- 6. National Championships: Since 1895, the USGA has helped inspire countless youth to play and compete through its national amateur and Open championships.
  - Several aspiring youth have competed in U.S. Open Championships (such as Lucy Li (11) and Morgan Pressel (12) in the U.S. Women's Open, and Andy Zhang (14) and Cole Hammer (15) and others in the U.S. Open).
  - The USGA also created the U.S. Junior Amateur in 1948, and subsequently the U.S. Girls' Junior in 1949, to encourage youth under the age of 18 (now, 19) to play and compete at the highest level.
  - The inaugural U.S. Adaptive Open (2022) had a 15-year-old player in the field.

#### National Golf Foundation Statistics on Juniors

In 2021, 3.1 million juniors played on a golf course (flat vs. 2020). This is relatively stable compared to recent years, with participation typically ranging between 2.5 and 3 million.

- This segment of the golf population continues to be more diverse than the overall on-course participation base:
  - With girls representing 36% of today's juniors (compared to almost 25% of all golfers). The 36% also is a significant increase compared to 2000, when girls only accounted for 15% of junior participation in the sport.
  - With non-Caucasians representing 28% of juniors (compared to 21% of all golfers). The 28% also is a significant increase compared to 2000, when non-Caucasians only accounted for 6% of junior participation in the sport.
- In 2021, juniors notably became the first participation segment to see the number of off-course only participants surpass those participating on-course (3.3 million off-course).