



U.S. NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (USNDP) – FACT SHEET

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ABOUT THE USNDP

Announced in 2023, the United States National Development Program (USNDP) is the country's first clear and unified pathway for America's top golfers, beginning with competitive junior golf through the pinnacles of the sport. The USNDP aims to identify, train, develop, fund and support the nation's most talented junior and amateur players - regardless of cultural, geographical or financial background.

The program is designed to ensure that American golf is the global leader in the game by focusing on six key pillars: talent identification, access to competition, national teams, athlete resources, player development, and relations and athlete financial support. The USNDP is supported by philanthropic giving and secured resources.

PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS

Athletes can be part of the USNDP through four different avenues: USNDP Grants, Tournament Exemptions, National Teams and State Junior Teams.

In 2025, 109 athletes were part of the grant program, up from 72 in 2024. 262 athletes competed under a USNDP-sponsored tournament exemption, 22 players participated on the 2025 U.S. National Junior Team and more than 300 players were named across 17 state teams.

To be eligible for the USNDP, athletes must have a Handicap Index, must be a U.S. citizen and at least 13 years old.

PROGRAM GRANTS

The U.S. National Development Program Grant is designed to mitigate barriers of cost to promising junior golfers between 13-18 years old who demonstrate both financial need and the potential to progress through the USNDP pathway. Grants are awarded based on financial need parameters determined by the USGA and a performance assessment that considers scores, rankings, improvement trends, athleticism, references, and video evaluation.

Grants are awarded in increments of either: \$2,500, \$5,000, \$7,500 or \$10,000. Funding goes towards golf and athlete development-related expenses, such as tournament entry fees, tournament travel, coach fees, practice/green fees, and equipment. The USNDP awarded 72 grants in 2024 and awarded 109 in 2025.

2025 Grant Recipients

- **109** athletes and their families received an annual grant from the USNDP, totaling more than **\$865,000**
 - An additional **\$114,900** was awarded to athletes through separate tournament grants
- **52** girls & **57** boys; **52%** athletes of color

- **74.42** was the average score among program grant recipients during the 2025 season
- **120** tournament victories came from a grant recipient
- **12** AJGA event wins
- **329** top-5 finishes
- **474** top-10 finishes
- **21** USGA championship appearances

COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

Of the 2025 USNDP grant recipients, 21 players from the Class of 2025 committed to collegiate programs, including LSU, UCLA, Pepperdine, and Harvard.

The Class of 2025 and Class of 2026 have 45 verbal commitments so far, including Arkansas, Duke, Florida State, Penn State, and Yale.

87% of grant recipients in the class of 2025 & 2026 are committed to playing in college.

U.S. NATIONAL TEAMS

The USNDP will create and fund three different national teams in the coming years, featuring the country's top players. The inaugural Junior National Team was established in March 2024, and the Elite Amateur Program was established in 2026, followed by a Young Professionals Team in 2027-28.

The U.S. National Junior Team roster represents the country's elite junior golf talent who have embarked on a unified pathway designed to nurture the potential of America's top players. Members of the U.S. National Junior Team receive year-round support, including world-class coaching and analysis, sports psychology and nutritional guidance.

In 2025, team members participated in bi-annual camps and competed in an international friendly against Team Canada – NextGen. The two-day competition – featuring mixed (boys and girls) four-ball and foursomes on Saturday, followed by singles matches on Sunday – was won by the USA team 16-8. The friendly match allowed players from both teams to gain experience in team-oriented events. In September, the U.S. National Junior Team competed in the program's first college event, finishing fourth out of 12 teams at the Sahalee Players Championship.

2025 U.S. NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM ROSTER

Boys

Kihei Akina, 19, Alpine Utah
Ronin Banerjee, 17, Irvine, Calif.
Luke Colton, 18, Irving, Texas
Phillip Dunham, 17, Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.
Henry Guan, 17, Irving, Texas
Trevor Gutschewski, 18, Omaha, Neb.
Will Hartman, 18, Marvin, N.C.
Jessy Huebner, 16, Port St. Lucie, Fla.
Tyler Mawhinney, 17, Fleming Island, Fla.
Michael Riebe, 18, Encinitas, Calif.

Girls

Shyla Brown, 17, McKinney, Texas
Anna Fang, 16, San Diego, Calif.
Mia Hammond, 17, New Albany, Ohio
Ryleigh Knaub, 18, DeBary, Fla.
Jude Lee, 17, Walnut, Calif.
Nikki Oh, 18, Torrance, Calif.
Emerie Schartz, 18, Wichita, Kan,
Scarlett Schremmer, 18, Birmingham, Ala.
Asterisk Talley, 16, Chowchilla, Calif.
Amelie Zalsman, 17, St. Petersburg, Fla.

Tyler Watts, 18, Huntsville, Ala.
(ages as of 11/13/25)

Angela Zhang, 16, Bellevue, Wash.

U.S. NATIONAL JUNIOR TEAM HIGHLIGHTS

- Team members made **34** collective appearances in 2025 USGA championships, led by the U.S. Junior Amateur (9), U.S. Amateur (8) and U.S. Girls' Junior (7).
- The team's average World Amateur Golf Ranking® rose 132 spots with a collective gain of 2,933. **Jessy Huebner** (+991), **Michael Riebe** (+318), **Anna Fang** (+258), **Trevor Gutschewski** (+249), **Tyler Mawhinney** (+232) and **Emerie Schartz** (+231) saw the largest jump in the WAGR® in 2025.
- **Tyler Watts** and **Will Hartman** won the 2025 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball Championship.
- **Asterisk Talley** competed in the U.S. Women's Open Presented by Ally, earned co-medalist honors at the U.S. Women's Amateur, won the Girl's Junior PGA Championship, and was runner-up at the August National Women's Amateur.
- **Luke Colton** reached the semifinals at the U.S. Junior Amateur, falling to eventual champion Hamilton Coleman.
- **Ronin Banerjee**, **Tyler Mawhinney** and **Tyler Watts** all advanced to the Round of 16 at the U.S. Junior Amateur.
- **Trevor Gutschewski** competed in the U.S. Open at Oakmont Country Club and won the Western Junior Championship.
- **Jude Lee** qualified for the U.S. Women's Open at Erin Hills and advanced to match play at the R&A Women's Amateur Championship.
- **Emerie Schartz** advanced to the quarterfinals at the U.S. Girls' Junior.
- **Anna Fang** reached the Round of 16 at the U.S. Girls' Junior.
- **Luke Colton**, **Will Hartman** and **Trevor Gutschewski** all advanced to the quarterfinals at the North & South Amateur, while **Tyler Watts** defeated **Kihei Akina** in the semifinals before falling short in the championship round.
- **Ronin Banerjee** tied the record for the largest winning margin during match play at the U.S. Junior Amateur with his 9-and-8 victory over Alejandro Caraballo in the Round of 64.
- **Asterisk Talley**, **Anna Fang**, **Tyler Mawhinney**, **Amelie Zalsman** and **Luke Colton** were members of the victorious U.S. Team at the Junior Ryder Cup.
- **Amelie Zalsman** won the Rolex Girls Junior Championship and advanced to the semifinals at the North & South Women's Amateur Championship.
- **Jessy Huebner** and **Tyler Watts** were stroke play co-medalists at the North & South Amateur.
- Nine U.S. National Junior Team members were named to the AJGA All America First Team: **Ronin Banerjee**, **Luke Colton**, **Anna Fang**, **Jessy Huebner**, **Tyler Mawhinney**, **Scarlett Schremmer**, **Asterisk Talley**, **Tyler Watts** and **Amelie Zalsman**.
- Five U.S. National Junior Team members earned AJGA All America Honorable Mentions: **Phillip Dunham**, **Ryleigh Knaub**, **Nikki Oh**, **Emerie Schartz** and **Angela Zhang**.

STATE TEAM PROGRAM

The State Junior Team Program was launched in January 2024 and focuses on creating a developmentally appropriate, aspirational pathway for athletes within each state to compete at higher levels of the game.

Participating programs have a committee consisting of representatives from major golf organizations within the state, including any Allied Golf Associations and PGA of America Sections, who oversee team selection criteria and the operation of the state program based on guidelines provided by the USGA. Team selection criteria vary by state and may consist of a points structure, ranking or combination of other competitive factors.

Seven states/regions were launched in the initial phase of the program and announced their team rosters in late 2024. Nine more states/regions were added for 2025 and will name their rosters in late 2025. Fourteen states joined the program in the fall of 2025 and will select their first rosters after the 2026 season. The USGA's goal is for all 50 states to have a team by 2033.

2024 States: California (Southern), Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Massachusetts, Ohio, Tennessee

2025 States: California (Northern), Delaware, Idaho, Minnesota, New York, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, West Virginia

2026 States: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, South Dakota, Texas and Washington

USNDP-SPONSORED TOURNAMENT EXEMPTIONS

The USNDP provides talented young golfers with exemptions to enter certain junior golf events, including AJGA non-invitational tournaments. These exemptions are primarily offered to promising athletes who live near the tournament location and may not otherwise qualify for these events. The goal is to provide local talented juniors with opportunities to compete in high-level, national events close to home.

2025 Tournament Exemptions

- **302** tournament exemptions granted by the USNDP
- **262** different players earned an exemption
- **10** players earned fully exempt AJGA status from a USNDP-sponsored exemption
- **7 tournament wins**
- **26** top-5 finishes
- **66** top-10 finishes

COACHES

Chris Zambri, USNDP Head Coach

Zambri is responsible for identifying, recruiting, and coaching the athletes brought into the USNDP. As the head coach of the U.S. National Teams, Chris oversees international competition schedules, intercountry matches and training sessions and camps. He also builds and oversees a team of coaches and high-performance managers who will work with athletes throughout all levels of the program.

Zambri has over 30 years of experience as a golf instructor, including head coaching positions at the University of Southern California and Pepperdine University. Prior to his coaching days, he spent six seasons on the Korn Ferry Tour and was a two-time U.S. Open qualifier (1995, 1999).

Tiffany Joh, USNDP Assistant Coach

Joh works alongside Zambri to identify, recruit and coach athletes as the program's assistant coach. The former LPGA Tour player joined the USNDP staff after spending three years coaching collegiate

golf, most recently as the associate head coach of the University of Southern California women's golf team. Joh was a four-time All-American at UCLA before playing 11 years on tour. She is a two-time USGA champion, having won the U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links in 2006 and 2008.