FAR HILLS, N.J., and ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (Aug. 26, 2015) – Jon Rahm-Rodriguez of Spain is the winner of the Mark H. McCormack Medal as the No. 1 player in the 2015 World Amateur Golf Ranking.™

“I am honored by this award and excited about the exemptions it brings,” said Rahm-Rodriguez, a rising senior at Arizona State University who will receive exemptions into the 2016 U.S. Open and The Open Championships, provided he maintains his amateur status. “I also feel great pride in being the first Spanish golfer to receive this distinction.”

A first-team All-American, Rahm-Rodriguez contended in the PGA Tour’s Waste Management Phoenix Open in February, tying for fifth place. His 12-under-par 272 score, highlighted by a third-round 66, left him three strokes behind champion Brooks Koepka.

As a junior in 2014-15, Rahm-Rodriguez won four tournaments individually: the Bill Cullum Invitational, Duck Invitational, ASU Thunderbird Invitational and NCAA San Diego Regional. The 20-year-old also posted the third-best single-season stroke average in NCAA history (69.15) en route to the 2015 Ben Hogan Award, which recognizes the top male college amateur golfer in the United States.

Rahm-Rodriguez also competed in the 2014 World Amateur Team Championship, where he set the individual 72-hole scoring record, previously held by Jack Nicklaus. His performance helped Spain to a third-place team finish. As a member of Team Europe, Rahm-Rodriguez won 3½ points out of 4 at the 2014 Palmer Cup. In addition, he won the 2014 and 2015 Spanish Stroke Play Championships. He reached the quarterfinal round of last week’s U.S. Amateur Championship at Olympia Fields (Ill.) Country Club.

This R&A and United States Golf Association (USGA) award is named after Mark H. McCormack, who founded the sports marketing company IMG and was a great supporter of amateur golf.

“The USGA extends its most sincere congratulations to Jon for winning the 2015 McCormack Medal,” said John Bodenhamer, USGA senior managing director of Rules, Competitions and Equipment Standards. “His stellar play throughout the college and amateur seasons, as well as his performance in professional events, makes him very deserving of this honor. We are excited to watch his blossoming golf career.”

Johnnie Cole-Hamilton, executive director – Championships at The R&A, added, “Jon has maintained an extremely high level of play throughout the year and is a deserving winner of the Mark H. McCormack Medal. To achieve five victories in elite amateur events in a season is very impressive and to back that up with a top-five finish in a PGA Tour event shows that Jon is capable of playing at the highest levels of the sport. I would like to congratulate him on a wonderful season.”

Past winners of the McCormack Medal are: Colt Knost (USA) in 2007; Danny Lee (New Zealand) in 2008; Nick Taylor (Canada) in 2009; Peter Uihlein (USA) in 2010; Patrick Cantlay (USA) in 2011; Chris Williams (USA) in 2012; Matthew Fitzpatrick (England) in 2013; and Oliver Schneiderjans (USA) in 2014. Last week, Leona Maguire of Ireland, the leading player in the Women’s World Amateur Golf Ranking™, was named the female winner of the McCormack Medal for 2015.

The World Amateur Golf Ranking supported by Rolex was established in 2007 with the launch of the men’s ranking, which currently encompasses more than 2,300 counting events and ranks more than 6,000 players from 96 countries. The women’s ranking was launched in 2011 and has a calendar of more than 1,370 counting events with more than 2,940 ranked players representing 71 countries.

About The R&A

Based in St Andrews, The R&A organizes The Open Championship, major amateur events and international matches. Together with the United States Golf Association, The R&A governs the sport worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, Equipment Standards and World Amateur Golf Ranking™. The R&A’s working jurisdiction is global, excluding the United States and Mexico.

The R&A is committed to working for golf and supports the growth of the sport internationally and the development and

management of sustainable golf facilities. The R&A operates with the consent of 152 organizations from the amateur and professional sport and on behalf of over thirty million golfers in 138 countries.

For more information about The R&A, visit randa.org.

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About the USGA

The USGA conducts the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open and U.S. Senior Open, as well as 10 national amateur championships, two state team championships and international matches, attracting players and fans from more than 160 countries. Together with The R&A, the USGA governs the game worldwide, jointly administering the Rules of Golf, Rules of Amateur Status, equipment standards and World Amateur Golf Rankings. The USGA's reach is global with a working jurisdiction in the United States, its territories and Mexico, serving more than 25 million golfers and actively engaging 150 golf associations.

The USGA is one of the world's foremost authorities on research, development and support of sustainable golf course management practices. It serves as a primary steward for the game's history and invests in the development of the game through the delivery of its services and its ongoing "For the Good of the Game" grants program. Additionally, the USGA's Course Rating and Handicap systems are used on six continents in more than 50 countries.

For more information about the USGA, visit usga.org

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