The USGA has announced the roster for the 2026 Elite Amateur Program, a pillar of the U.S. National Development Program (USNDP) that was established in 2023 to create a unified pathway designed to nurture the potential of America's top players.

Now in its second year, the Elite Amateur Program complements athletes' college programs, providing tailored support that bridges gaps and enhances their competitive edge. In June of 2025, USNDP coaches traveled with athletes to The Women's Amateur Championship at Nairn in Scotland, including Jasmine Koo, who earned stroke-play medalist honors, and Farah O'Keefe, who finished as the event's runner-up.

The Elite Amateur Program rosters are compiled and reevaluated annually by a selection committee of USNDP staff members, and eligibility criteria include nationality, age, amateur status, conduct, performance, education and graduation year.

Elite Amateur – Women

Name	Hometown	Age	School / Year
Anna Davis	Spring Valley, Calif.	19	Auburn / Jr.
Chloe Kovelesky*	Boca Raton, Fla.	19	Wake Forest / So.
Farah O'Keefe	Austin, Texas	20	Texas / Jr.
Jasmine Koo	Cerritos, Calif.	19	USC / So.
Kiara Romero	San Jose, Calif.	19	Oregon / Jr.
Scarlett Schremmer*	Birmingham, Ala.	19	Miami (FL) / Fr.
Catherine Park	Irvine, Calif.	21	USC / Sr.

Elite Amateur – Men

Name	Hometown	Age	School / Year
Kihei Akina*	Alpine, Utah	20	BYU / Fr.
Max Herendeen	Bellevue, Wash.	21	Illinois / Jr.
Michael Riebe*	Encinitas, Calif.	19	Vanderbilt / Fr.

*New to the team

Reigning McCormack Medal recipient Kiara Romero will be a member of the Elite Amateur Program for a second consecutive year. The University of Oregon junior made history at the 2025 U.S. Women's Open Presented by Ally at Erin Hills by shooting the lowest final-round score ever by an amateur (5-under 67). Romero became the first Oregon player to win both a conference (Big Ten) individual title and a NCAA regional individual title in the same season as a sophomore in 2024-25. She holds the record for most individual titles in program history with five.

Max Herendeen, a junior at the University of Illinois, also is in the Elite Amateur Program for a second consecutive year. The Bellevue, Wash., native was a Golfweek and Golf Coaches Association of America PING Honorable Mention All-America selection in 2025. Herendeen advanced to the final round of the 2025 NCAA Golf Championship as one of the top nine individuals on a non-advancing team and finished 27th individually.

For further information: Will Redmond, wredmond@usga.org

---

https://mediacenter.usga.org/press-releases-2026-usndp-announces-elite-amateur-roster