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DRIVE, CHIP AND PUTT REGIONAL CHAMPIONS EARN INVITATIONS TO NATIONAL FINALS AT AUGUSTA NATIONAL GOLF CLUB

AUGUSTA, Ga. – Eighty junior golfers representing 30 U.S. states and one Canadian province have earned an invitation to Augusta National Golf Club to compete in the fifth annual Drive, Chip and Putt National Finals, to be conducted on Sunday, April 1, 2018, prior to the start of the Masters Tournament.

Developed in partnership between the Masters Tournament, the PGA of America and the USGA, the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship is a free, nationwide youth golf development initiative open to girls and boys ages 7-15. Participants compete in separate divisions in four age categories – focused on the three fundamental skills employed in golf, tapping the creative and competitive spirit of young golfers.

Results of the 10 regional qualifiers – the third and final stage leading to the 2018 National Finals – yielded twelve returning competitors, including impressive three-time finalists Megha Ganne, Vanessa Borovilos and Treed Huang. Returning finalists are:

- **Isabella McCauley** (2017 National Finalist), of Inver Grove Heights, Minn.
- **Megha Ganne** (2017 and 2015 National Finalist), of Holmdel, N.J.
- **Treed Huang** (2014 Boys 7-9 Champion and 2017 National Finalist), of Katy, Texas
- **Jackie Feldman** (2017 National Finalist), of Austin, Texas
- **Sam Udovich** (2016 National Finalist), of Inver Grove Heights, Minn.
- **Vanessa Borovilos** (2016 and 2015 National Finalist), of Toronto
- **Jay Nimmo** (2016 National Finalist), of Benton, Ky.
- **Avery Zweig** (2016 National Finalist), of McKinney, Texas
- **Pj Maybank** (2015 National Finalist), of Cheboygan, Mich.
- **Gloria Nip** (2015 National Finalist), of Port St. Lucie, Fla.
- **Katherine Schuster** (2015 National Finalist), Kill Devil Hills, N.C.
- **Kasey Maralack** (2014 National Finalist), of Snoqualmie, Wash.

Local qualifying for the fifth season began in May, June and July, held at more than 260 sites throughout the United States. The top-three scorers per venue, in each of the four age categories in separate boys and girls divisions, advanced to 50 subregional qualifiers in July and August. Two juniors in each age and gender division then competed at the regional level in September and October, held at some of the top courses in the country, including several U.S. Open and PGA Championship venues.



The top finisher from each regional site's age/gender divisions – a total of 80 finalists – earned a place in the National Finals, which will be broadcast live on the Golf Channel. All local, subregional and regional qualifiers were conducted by the 41 Sections of the PGA of America, with PGA Professionals providing support at each facility hosting a qualifier.

Notes from Regional Qualifying:

- Katherine Schuster is headed back to the National Finals for the second time, dominating the drive and putt competitions to win the Girls 14-15 division at **Pinehurst Resort**. “I couldn’t sleep last night, I wanted so badly to win and go back to Augusta,” she said. Hometown competitor Holland Giles, a native of Pinehurst, N.C., won the Boys 12-13 division thanks to victories in the chip and putt competitions. Giles’ father, Ron, is a local PGA Professional who watched his son accomplish the feat.
- Cassie Kennon placed within the top three in each skill competition to win the Girls 10-11 division at **The Olympic Club** as her father and two older brothers – all caddies at hometown Bandon Dunes Golf Resort – looked on. “She’s the best out of all of us,” said her brother, Scotty Kennon. Ian Gilligan stopped all three of his chipping attempts within two feet of the hole, scoring an event-best total of 60 points in the chipping competition and high score of the day, 161, to win the Boys 14-15 division and earn his spot in the National Finals.
- Jami Morris first picked up a golf club three years ago. At **Muirfield Village Golf Club**, she became a National Finalist with a total score of 135 and won in the Girls 14-15 division. “I just love everything about golf, and to be able to go to Augusta is like a dream come true,” Morris said. Jackson Harris tied the boys’ highest score in the chipping competition (55) to win the 10-11 division and punch his ticket for Augusta. “It makes it way more fun to play a lot of different courses [during qualifying],” said Harris. “And now I get to go to the coolest golf course in the world. It’s the best place you can be as a golfer.”
- Callia Ward won the Girls 10-11 division at **Southern Hills Country Club**, finishing with 109 total points, including an impressive 41 points in the chip competition. Ward takes lessons from Dorothy Delasin, former LPGA player and winner of the 1999 U.S. Women’s Amateur Championship. James li Dintino captured the Boys 12-13 division with a total score of 121. He dedicates each round of golf in honor of his mother, Wendy, who introduced him to the game and passed away when he was 5 years old.
- With a trip to Augusta on the line, Carla Kay Hickam made a 15-point chip on her final shot of the day to win the Girls 14-15 division at **The Honors Course**. “My dad is the reason I won today,” she said after the competition. “He’s always pushed me to work hard.” Best friends Thaxton Cheyne and Patmon Malcom will make the trip of a lifetime together as each



qualified with wins in the Boys 7-9 division and Boys 10-11 division, respectively. The two National Finalists often practice together for up to two hours each day.

- Isabella McCauley scored a division-high 54 points in the drive competition to win the Girls 14-15 division at **Interlachen Country Club** and qualify for her second consecutive National Finals. “I was shaking at the tee, but I trusted my game and hit really great drives,” she said. After finishing runner-up at the regional qualifier on three previous tries, Andrew Ramos is Augusta-bound for the first time after a win in the Boys 12-13 division. “I was a bit nervous,” he said. “I’m happy to bring my family and my brother to Augusta.”
- Anna Fang qualified for her first National Finals by winning the Girls 7-9 division at **Torrey Pines**, boosted by a division-high score of 29 in the drive competition. “I’m feeling really excited to go to Augusta because I get to see all the famous players,” said the 8-year-old. Kai Hirayama dedicated four hours of practice each day in the hopes of reaching Augusta National after several attempts to qualify for the National Finals came up short. His hard work paid off, as the sixth grader topped his division in all three skillsets to win the Boys 10-11 division.
- Another trip down Magnolia Lane is in the cards for Vanessa Borovilos and Megha Ganne after wins in the Girls 10-11 and Girls 14-15 divisions, respectively, at **Winged Foot Golf Club**. Both girls will be making their third appearance in the National Finals. “The excitement level goes up after the first time,” said Ganne. Landon Kelly mastered Winged Foot’s greens tying the high score in all divisions with 65 points in the putting competition to win the Boys 7-9 division. Good golf runs in the family, as Kelly learned the game from his mother, Shana – a PGA professional – and his sister, Nyah, who participated in the 2014 National Finals.
- Raylee Bosley picked a great time to score her first golf victory. The 8-year-old scored 106 total points to win the Girls 7-9 division at **The Club at Carlton Woods**. She dedicated the win to her grandmother, Alice Davis, who is battling glioblastoma. Treed Huang will return to Augusta National as a National Finalist for the third time, winning the Boys 12-13 division with the largest margin of victory of all finalists of the day (25). “Going to Augusta National never gets old,” he said. “Everything is special.”
- Loralie Cowart signed up for her first Drive, Chip and Putt competition this year and, after a strong performance at **TPC Sawgrass**, won the Girls 14-15 division. The Winston, Ga., native lives four hours from Augusta and will be making the trip to Augusta National the first time. “If I don’t win in Augusta, it’s okay – it’s just an honor that I got there,” she said. Originally from Beijing, China, Dazhou “David” Wu moved to America almost a year ago and has long dreamed of playing golf at Augusta National. After winning the Boys 12-13 division,



he'll have his chance. "I want to play [golf] in the Olympics one day for China," he said. "This is the first step."

All championship scoring at the local, subregional and regional qualifiers is based on a 25-point-per-shot basis, with each participant taking three shots per skill. Each participant accumulated points per shot in all three skills (maximum of 75 points per skill = 25 points per shot x 3). The overall champion in each age category was determined by the participant with the most points accumulated between all three skills (maximum of 225 points = 75 points per skill x 3).

For each skill, the point system is based in incremental distance measurements, rewarding accuracy and distance in the drive skill, and proximity for chipping and putting skills. Difficulty increases with age.

At the National Finals, one champion will be named from each age/gender division. Each finalist will be scored based on a 30-point system, offering the player with the longest drive 10 points, the player with the closest cumulative chips 10 points and the player with the nearest cumulative putts 10 points, in each separate skill. The highest total composite score will determine the winner.

For more information about the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship, please visit www.DriveChipandPutt.com.

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REGIONAL QUALIFYING RESULTS

Qualifying sites:

Date	Host Site	City, State
September 3	Pinehurst Resort	Pinehurst, North Carolina
September 9	Olympic Club	San Francisco, California
September 16	Muirfield Village Golf Club	Dublin, Ohio
September 16	Southern Hills Country Club	Tulsa, Oklahoma
September 24	The Honors Course	Ooltewah, Tennessee
September 30	Interlachen Country Club	Edina, Minnesota
September 30	Torrey Pines	La Jolla, California
October 1	Winged Foot Golf Club	Mamaroneck, New York
October 8	The Club at Carlton Woods	The Woodlands, Texas
October 14	TPC Sawgrass	Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida



Qualifying results:

Girls 7-9

Name	Points	City	State/Province	Regional
Ella June Hannant	114	Pikeville	North Carolina	Pinehurst Resort
Raylee Bosley	106	Friendswood	Texas	The Club at Carlton Woods
Ellie Benson	104	Venetia	Pennsylvania	Muirfield Village Golf Club
Anna Fang	102	San Diego	California	Torrey Pines
Julie Waldo	101	Prattville	Alabama	The Honors Course
Asterisk Talley	100	Chowchilla	California	Olympic Club
Evyn Cannon	96	Edmond	Oklahoma	Southern Hills
Lily Zhang	90	Williamsville	New York	Winged Foot Golf Club
Aliisa Helminen	79	Menasha	Wisconsin	Interlachen Country Club
Jensi Krampel	120	Naples	Florida	TPC Sawgrass

Girls 10-11

Name	Points	City	State/Province	Regional
Avery Zweig	144	McKinney	Texas	Interlachen Country Club
Vanessa Borovilos	141	Toronto	Ontario	Winged Foot Golf Club
Georgia Bosart	131	Clarkston	Michigan	Muirfield Village Golf Club
Trinity Beth	129	Calvert City	Kentucky	The Honors Course
Kate Nakaoka	114	Mililani	Hawaii	Torrey Pines
Sawyer Brockstedt	114	Rehoboth Beach	Delaware	Pinehurst Resort
Danica Lundgren	110	Austin	Texas	The Club at Carlton Woods
Callia Ward	109	Albuquerque	New Mexico	Southern Hills
Cassie Kennon	98	Bandon	Oregon	Olympic Club
Gloria Nip	152	Port St. Lucie	Florida	TPC Sawgrass

Girls 12-13

Name	Points	City	State/Province	Regional
Allyn Stephens	146	Houston	Texas	The Club at Carlton Woods
Victoria Romney	135	Draper	Utah	Torrey Pines
Allison Cui	134	Lansing	Michigan	Muirfield Village Golf Club
Cindy Song	132	Waxhaw	North Carolina	Pinehurst Resort
Sara Im	131	Duluth	Georgia	The Honors Course
Bailey Shoemaker	124	West Edmeston	New York	Winged Foot Golf Club
Vunnisa Vu	122	Maplewood	Minnesota	Interlachen Country Club
Ali Mulhall	118	Green River	Wyoming	Southern Hills
Kasey Maralack	117	Snoqualmie	Washington	Olympic Club
Alexandra Gazzoli	127	Palm Coast	Florida	TPC Sawgrass



Girls 14-15

Name	Points	City	State/Province	Regional
Brooke Biermann	152	Wildwood	Missouri	Southern Hills
Katherine Schuster	151	Kill Devil Hills	North Carolina	Pinehurst Resort
Jackie Feldman	145	Austin	Texas	The Club at Carlton Woods
Isabella McCauley	142	Inver Grove Heights	Minnesota	Interlachen Country Club
Mackenzie McRee	138	Tucson	Arizona	Torrey Pines
Jami Morris	135	Chagrin Falls	Ohio	Muirfield Village Golf Club
Elise Deschaine	134	Portland	Oregon	Olympic Club
Carla Kay Hickam	127	Olive Branch	Mississippi	The Honors Course
Megha Ganne	120	Holmdel	New Jersey	Winged Foot Golf Club
Loralie Cowart	136	Winston	Georgia	TPC Sawgrass

Boys 7-9

Name	Points	City	State/Province	Regional
Cole Kim	149	La Crescenta	California	Torrey Pines
Dylan Knox	131	Dallas	Texas	The Club at Carlton Woods
Brady Barnum	120	Dublin	Ohio	Muirfield Village Golf Club
Taighan Chea	113	Bothell	Washington	Olympic Club
Landon Kelly	112	Bobcaygeon	Ontario	Winged Foot Golf Club
Aiden Antony	110	Milwaukee	Wisconsin	Interlachen Country Club
Luke Parsons	110	Salley	South Carolina	Pinehurst Resort
Thaxton Cheyne	106	Canton	Georgia	The Honors Course
Michael Jorski	99	Overland Park	Kansas	Southern Hills
Miles Russell	128	Jacksonville Beach	Florida	TPC Sawgrass

Boys 10-11

Name	Points	City	State/Province	Regional
Kai Hirayama	162	Arcadia	California	Torrey Pines
Nicholas Gross	153	Downington	Pennsylvania	Winged Foot Golf Club
Sam Udovich	148	Inver Grove Heights	Minnesota	Interlachen Country Club
Wyatt Nickson	136	Abilene	Texas	The Club at Carlton Woods
Tip Price	130	Greenville	South Carolina	Pinehurst Resort
Thomas Bryson	119	Lincoln	Nebraska	Southern Hills
Jackson Harris	117	Powell	Ohio	Muirfield Village Golf Club
Patmon Malcom	116	Alpharetta	Georgia	The Honors Course
Zach Huang	112	Sammamish	Washington	Olympic Club
Sahish Reddy	142	Duluth	Georgia	TPC Sawgrass



Boys 12-13

Name	Points	City	State/Province	Regional
Logan Gonzalez	164	Thousand Oaks	California	Torrey Pines
Treed Huang	149	Katy	Texas	The Club at Carlton Woods
Pj Maybank	148	Cheboygan	Michigan	Muirfield Village Golf Club
Holland Giles	146	Pinehurst	North Carolina	Pinehurst Resort
Andrew Ramos	137	Blaine	Minnesota	Interlachen Country Club
Conrad Chisman	137	Stanwood	Washington	Olympic Club
Lance Hollingshead	135	Basking Ridge	New Jersey	Winged Foot Golf Club
Andrew Lim	129	Naperville	Illinois	The Honors Course
James li Dintino	121	Kansas City	Missouri	Southern Hills
Dazhou "David" Wu	151	Winter Garden	Florida	TPC Sawgrass

Boys 14-15

Name	Points	City	State/Province	Regional
Ian Gilligan	161	Corte Madera	California	Olympic Club
Elkim DonDon Bumacod	160	Sylmar	California	Torrey Pines
Jay Nimmo	151	Benton	Kentucky	The Honors Course
Corey Boerner	142	Minneapolis	Minnesota	Interlachen Country Club
Luke DelGobbo	141	Fonthill	Ontario	Winged Foot Golf Club
Kaden Ford	139	Colorado Springs	Colorado	Southern Hills
Drew Wilson	137	Potts Camp	Mississippi	The Club at Carlton Woods
Jack Farkas	137	Ardmore	Pennsylvania	Pinehurst Resort
Josh Lavelly	133	Kewadin	Michigan	Muirfield Village Golf Club
Brendan Valdes	168	Orlando	Florida	TPC Sawgrass

About the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship

A joint initiative founded in 2013 by the Masters Tournament, USGA and the PGA of America, the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship is a free nationwide junior golf development competition aimed at growing the game by focusing on the three fundamental skills employed in golf. By tapping the creative and competitive spirit of girls and boys ages 7-15, the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship provides aspiring junior golfers an opportunity to play with their peers in qualifiers around the country. Participants who advance through local, subregional and regional qualifying in each age/gender category earn a place in the National Finals, which is conducted at Augusta National Golf Club the Sunday before the Masters Tournament and is broadcast live by Golf Channel. For more information about the Drive, Chip and Putt Championship, please visit: www.DriveChipandPutt.com.



About the Masters Tournament

The Masters Tournament Foundation, inspired by the enduring philosophies of Masters Tournament founders Bobby Jones and Clifford Roberts, is committed to promoting golf's domestic and international development through financial investment and active participation in initiatives aimed at preserving the traditions of the game and sharing its many virtues.

The Masters Tournament – since its very beginning – strives to provide added exposure to the game of golf and inspire interest in the sport worldwide. For more information about the Masters, visit masters.com.

About the USGA

The USGA celebrates, serves and advances the game of golf. Founded in 1894, we conduct many of golf's premier professional and amateur championships, including the U.S. Open and U.S. Women's Open. With The R&A, we govern the sport via a global set of playing, equipment and amateur status rules. Our operating jurisdiction for these governance functions is the United States, its territories and Mexico. The USGA Handicap System is utilized in more than 40 countries and our Course Rating System covers 95 percent of the world's golf courses, enabling all golfers to play on an equitable basis. The USGA campus in Liberty Corner, New Jersey, is home to the Association's Research and Test Center, where science and innovation are fueling a healthy and sustainable game for the future. The campus is also home to the USGA Golf Museum, where we honor the game by curating the world's most comprehensive archive of golf artifacts. To learn more, visit usga.org.

About the PGA of America

Since its founding in 1916, the PGA of America has maintained a twofold mission: to establish and elevate the standards of the profession and grow interest and participation in the game of golf. The PGA of America delivers world-class championships while building the public's interest in the game, the desire to play more golf, and promoting playing opportunities for everyone, everywhere. For more about the PGA of America, visit pga.org.

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