

LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. (Nov. 24, 2020) – The United States Golf Association’s International Team Selection Committee today announced the 16 players who will attend a practice session Dec. 16-18 for the 2021 Walker Cup Match.

The three days of practice will be held at Arnold Palmer’s Bay Hill Club & Lodge and Lake Nona Country Club, in Orlando, Fla. The practice session is scheduled in advance of the annual Palmer Cup, which is scheduled for Dec. 21-23. Eight of the 16 players are competing in the Palmer Cup, also at Bay Hill, which will help to limit travel for the invitees during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The list of players who will attend the practice session includes: Ricky Castillo, of Yorba Linda, Calif.; Pierceson Coody, of Plano, Texas; Quade Cummins, of Weatherford, Okla.; Cooper Dossey, of Austin, Texas; Austin Eckroat, of Edmond, Okla.; Stewart Hagestad, of Newport Beach, Calif.; Cole Hammer, of Houston, Texas; McClure Meissner, of San Antonio, Texas; William Mouw, of Chino, Calif.; John Pak, of Scotch Plains, N.J.; David Perkins, of East Peoria, Ill.; Garrett Reband, of York, S.C.; Cameron Sisk, of San Diego, Calif.; Tyler Strafaci, of Davie, Fla.; Davis Thompson, of St. Simons Island, Ga.; and Michael Thorbjornsen, of Wellesley, Mass.

Four USGA champions are among the 16 invited players and include Hagestad (2016 U.S. Mid-Amateur); Hammer (2018 U.S. Amateur Four-Ball); Strafaci (2020 U.S. Amateur) and Thorbjornsen (2018 U.S. Junior Amateur).

Hagestad is the only member of both the 2017 and 2019 USA Walker Cup Teams who will attend this practice session. Hammer and Pak, the low amateur in this year’s U.S. Open at Winged Foot Golf Club, were members of the 2019 USA Team. Seven of the 16 players from the 2019 Walker Cup practice session made the 10-man USA Team.

“The process of team selection continues with this practice session and is an opportunity for all involved to become more familiar with each other and create team camaraderie while adhering to health and safety protocols,” said John Bodenhamer, USGA senior managing director, Championships. “These accomplished individuals represent a talented group of potential USA Team members, but we expect others will be considered as the selection process moves toward its conclusion.”

The 48th Match will be played at Seminole Golf Club, in Juno Beach, Fla., May 8-9, 2021. It will mark the first time that the biennial team competition between 10 amateur players representing the United States and 10 amateur players representing Great Britain and Ireland, selected by The R&A, will be held in the spring on U.S. soil. The Match is played over two days with 18 singles matches and eight foursomes (alternate-shot) matches. The USA leads the overall series that began in 1922, 37-9-1, but it has been tremendously competitive over the last three decades, with the USA holding just a 9-7 advantage in the Match since 1989.

Captain Nathaniel Crosby, who guided the USA Team to victory in 2019 at Royal Liverpool Golf Club and played on the winning USA Team in the 1983 Match, will also attend the practice session.

The 2019 USA Team defeated Great Britain and Ireland, 15½-10½, at Royal Liverpool (Hoylake), in Merseyside, England, to win the 47th Walker Cup Match.

About the USGA

The USGA is a nonprofit organization that 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, handicapping and amateur status rules. 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.

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