

LIBERTY CORNER, N.J. (March 26, 2024) – The United States Golf Association (USGA) today announced the establishment of the inaugural U.S. National Junior Team, the newest milestone for the U.S. National Development Program, which launched last year 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 program’s elite juniors represent the first of three national teams to be formed with the Amateur Team to be announced in 2025 followed by a Young Professional Team in 2026.



Composed initially of 10 girls and eight boys, the 18-player roster represents the country’s elite junior golf talent who will embark on a unified pathway designed to nurture the potential of America’s top players. The USGA plans to grow the National Junior Team to 30 boys and 30 girls over the next three years.

“We are thrilled to introduce the first U.S. National Junior Team, a group of 18 exceptionally talented young athletes who represent the bright future of American golf,” said Chris Zambri, head coach of the U.S. National Development Program. “Nearly every other golf country in the world has long enjoyed the benefits of a developmental program and national teams, and the announcement of this team is a major milestone in the USGA’s commitment to the growth of our American athletes and ensuring we remain the global leader in the junior, amateur and professional game.”

U.S. National Junior Team Roster

Boys			Girls		
Player	Age	Hometown	Player	Age	Hometown
Blades Brown	16	Nashville, Tenn.	Shyla Brown	15	McKinney, Texas
Phillip Dunham	16	Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla.	Gianna Clemente	16	Estero, Fla.
Henry Guan	15	Irving, Texas	Mia Hammond	16	New Albany, Ohio
Will Hartman	17	Marvin, N.C.	Nikki Oh	16	Torrance, Calif.
Tyler Mawhinney	16	Fleming Island, Fla.	Ryleigh Knaub	17	DeBary, Fla.
Michael Riebe	17	Encinitas, Calif.	Chloe Kovelesky	17	Boca Raton, Fla.
Miles Russell	15	Jacksonville Beach, Fla.	Emerie Schartz	16	Wichita, Kan.
Tyler Watts	16	Huntsville, Ala.	Scarlett Schremmer	17	Birmingham, Ala.
			Asterisk Talley	15	Chowchilla, Calif.
			Angela Zhang	14	Bellevue, Wash.

For more information on the players, please [click here](#).

The U.S. Junior Team roster is compiled and reevaluated annually by a selection committee of U.S. National

Development Program (USNDP) staff members. Selections are made in accordance with [eligibility criteria](#) and based on a variety of competitive factors including scoring, results, statistics, rankings, sportsmanship and scouting.

Throughout the 2024 season, the 18 players will participate at bi-annual camps and compete internationally under the U.S. flag. The team's first training camp will be held May 8-11 at Atlanta Athletic Club in Johns Creek, Ga., and the first international friendly match will take place this summer against Australia. Members of the U.S. National Junior Team will receive year-round support, including world-class coaching and analysis, sports psychology and nutritional guidance. USNDP staff will collaborate with players' home coaches and support teams to ensure they have the resources necessary to develop the physical, mental and life skills to reach their potential.

Earlier this year, the USGA opened applications for the USNDP Grant Program, which will assist talented golfers and their families with the financial resources needed to pursue a competitive path in the game. All 2024 grants will be awarded in the coming weeks. The U.S. National Development Program and its grant program is supported by philanthropic giving and secured resources to fulfill the USGA's commitment to providing pathways to elite levels of the game, regardless of financial considerations. For more information, visit usga.org/give_usndp.

In January, the USGA announced that it had created a state team pilot program that expands the pipeline for elite junior golfers into the U.S. National Development Program. Through close collaboration between the USGA, its Allied Golf Associations, the PGA of America and relevant state junior programs, seven states joined the initial phase with the goal of all 50 states having a team by 2033. In February, it was announced that Ally would become a founding partner of the USNDP.

About the USGA

The USGA is a mission-based golf organization whose purpose is to unify the golf community through handicapping and grassroots programs; to showcase the game's best talent through the U.S. Open, U.S. Women's Open Presented by Ally and 13 other national championships and our museum; to provide unbiased global governance with The R&A through the playing, equipment and Amateur Status rules; and to advance issues important to golf's future, with a focus on driving sustainability, accessibility and inclusion. As a nonprofit association, our work and our team are driven to act for the good of the game. For more, visit usga.org

For further information: Joey Geske, USGA Communications, jgeske@usga.org

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