

## **TEAM SOUTH DAKOTA FAQ's**

### **Overview and Purpose:**

The goal of the U.S. National Development Program (USNDP) is to expand, strengthen and diversify the junior golf pipeline by creating critical development, competitive and talent identification opportunities within each state for elite athletes ages 13-18. Part of this goal includes establishing state junior programs across the United States, and South Dakota will join this USNDP initiative in 2026.

### **Who will be on Team South Dakota?**

The Team South Dakota Committee will name 4 boys and 4 girls to Team South Dakota following the 2026 fall season. Athletes earn their way onto the team through outstanding competitive performance during the year. A point system will be finalized and published by January 1, 2026.

### **Do you need to be a South Dakota resident to be part of Team South Dakota?**

Yes. Only players who are legal citizens of the United States and the state of South Dakota are eligible for Team South Dakota.

### **How old do you need to be to participate on Team South Dakota?**

Players must be 13 years old by January 1, 2027, have not reached their 19th birthday by July 19, 2027, and must not be enrolled in college for the 2026-2027 school year.

### **Are there any other requirements to be on Team South Dakota?**

Players must have an established Handicap Index® and have posted all eligible scores to be considered for Team South Dakota. The SDGA provides a FREE SDGA Youth Membership to all junior golfers under age 19, and that includes a Handicap Index®. If you do not already have an SDGA Youth Membership, you can click [HERE](#).

### **When will Team South Dakota start?**

Team South Dakota will be named in late 2026. Team members will participate in Team South Dakota programming beginning in 2027. Players must earn their way onto the team each year.

### **If an athlete is part of Team South Dakota, are they automatically a part of the U.S. National Development Program?**

Yes. Once named to Team South Dakota, athletes are a part of the U.S. National Development Program (USNDP) for the following calendar year. The USNDP will provide benefits and recognition to Team South Dakota participants. These benefits may include recognition on the USGA/USNDP website and social media, streamlined USNDP grant applications, exemptions into local AJGA events, and access to the official USNDP statistical platform and athlete development resources. Read more about the USNDP [HERE](#).

**If an athlete is part of Team South Dakota, are they automatically a part of the National Junior Team?**

No. The National Junior Team is determined by the USGA and will be a relatively small number of athletes compared to the cumulative number of athletes on the State Teams.

**What are the benefits of being on Team South Dakota?**

Team South Dakota athletes can expect to receive a State Team bag, clothing, other team items, playing opportunities, instruction, and access to the resources of the USNDP. More specific information will be available next year.

**How can you support Team South Dakota?**

Team South Dakota is looking for corporate and individual sponsors to help create a lasting and valuable experience for our players. Please reach out to SDGA Executive Director Tom Jansa at [tom@sdga.org](mailto:tom@sdga.org) or 605-376-2148.