

PGA PLAYER DEVELOPMENT AWARD

This award bestows special recognition on a PGA Professional for exemplary contributions and achievements in the area of Player Development and for extraordinary efforts in conducting and/or supporting player development initiatives. This award considers the PGA Professional's growth of the game leadership commitment at the Section and National levels, plus the impact made at his/her own facility.

Cathy Kim, PGA, LPGA
Baltimore Country Club
Baltimore, Maryland

Cathy Kim, PGA, LPGA, has been named the recipient of the 2024 PGA Player Development Award in recognition of her outstanding contributions to growing the game of golf. Inspired by her early observations of the sport's diversity gap, Cathy has dedicated her career to breaking down barriers and increasing participation among underrepresented groups. Through her unwavering commitment, innovative programs, and passion for inclusivity, she continues to make a lasting impact on the future of the game.

Born in San Francisco, California, to Edward and Aster Kim, Cathy grew up watching her parents work tirelessly to build a life in the United States after immigrating from South Korea in 1984. When she was seven, her parents purchased and ran their first dry-cleaning business, where she learned valuable customer service skills by working alongside her mother and observing how her parents connected with their customers.

Cathy was introduced to golf at the age of 10 after her father became the first in the family to take up the sport. He enrolled her in a Saturday junior golf clinic at Mountain Shadows Golf Course (now Foxtail Golf Course), where PGA Professionals provided instruction. She quickly developed a passion for the game, which carried through to her collegiate career at Western Washington University, where she earned three medals while completing her degree.

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In 2012, Cathy turned professional, beginning her career as an Assistant Golf Professional at Sahalee Country Club and later at TPC Summerlin, where she was eventually promoted to Director of Player Development. In 2019, she relocated to the Middle Atlantic Section, accepting a role as a Teaching Professional at 1757 Golf Club's Game Improvement Center, where she worked until 2022. That same year, she stepped into her current position as Director of Instruction at Baltimore Country Club, where she oversees and develops a comprehensive array of programs tailored to diverse player needs.

Throughout her career, Cathy has been committed to creating and implementing innovative programs to grow the game and foster inclusivity. At 1757 Golf Club, she led initiatives such as a Women's Program, Co-Ed Workshops, Winter Golf Program, Junior Golf Academy (ages 7-17), Junior Summer Camps, Girls-Only Golf Program, Tiny Tees Junior Program (ages 6 and

under, with parental involvement), and captained three PGA Junior League teams, including an all-girls team.

At Baltimore Country Club, she continues to develop impactful programming, including Women's Programs, Junior Golf Programs, PGA Junior League, Co-Ed Clinics, a Golf Fitness Program, Social Media Collaboration, Competitive Golf, and numerous Community Events and Outreach efforts.

Beyond her hands-on coaching, Cathy's influence extends into the digital space, where she has built a strong social media presence, reaching an average of 200,000 accounts per month. Through her Instagram account (@cathykingolf), where she shares swing tips with over 60,000 followers, she helps grow engagement and drive continued interest in instruction at Baltimore Country Club. Additionally, she collaborates with numerous golf brands and industry leaders, using digital platforms to further expand access and interest in the game.

Cathy is also active in leadership and mentorship within the golf industry. She was selected to participate in the national PGA LEAD Cohort VIII and currently serves as the MAPGA Northern Chapter Regional Director and is a MAPGA Section Player Development Committee member.

Her excellence in coaching and player development has earned her multiple accolades, including being named Golf Digest Best in State (MD) 2024-25, Golf Digest Best in State (VA) 2022-23, and Golf Digest Best Young Teachers (2021-26).

Cathy and her husband, Frank Cox, have been married for five years and are proud parents to their one-year-old daughter, Yoona Kim-Cox.