



2026 U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally

The Riviera Country Club | Pacific Palisades, Calif. | June 1-7, 2026

First-Round Notes

June 4, 2026

LPGA Media Contact: [Carly Lyvers](#), +1 (386) 214-9105

Course Setup: 35-36—71, 6,699 yards

Weather: [Thursday Forecast](#)

Race to CME Globe Points: 650 (winner)

Purse: \$12.5 million (winner's prize, \$1.35 million)

TV/Streaming Times: [U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally Viewing Schedule](#)

QUICK LINKS

[U.S. Women's Open Virtual Media Hub](#)

[Interview Transcripts](#)

[LPGA Tour Online Media Center \(OMC\):](#)

[Tournament Website](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

LPGA Tour: @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga_tour (Instagram, TikTok)

Championship: @uswomensopen (X, Instagram)

#USWomensOpen

LEADERBOARD

	Player	To par	Score
1	Jennifer Kupcho	-5	66
2	Sei Young Kim	-4	67
T3	Five players	-3	68

COMPETITION HIGHLIGHTS

- Leader: **Jennifer Kupcho** opened with a five-under 66 in R1
 - Fired three birdies to start her round on holes 1-3
 - The first time in her career that she made birdie or eagle on each of three consecutive holes
 - Her ninth round of 66 or lower at a major championship
 - Tied with Minjee Lee for the most rounds of 66 or lower at a major championship since 2019
 - Led all players today in strokes gained: tee to green
 - Her third time leading or co-leading after the first round of a major championship
 - The Amundi Evian Championship, 2025
 - The Chevron Championship, 2022
 - Her fourth time leading or co-leading after any round at a major championship
 - The Amundi Evian Championship, R1, 2025
 - The Chevron Championship, R3, 2022
 - The Chevron Championship, R1, 2022

- Eighth American to hold the outright first-round lead at the U.S. Women's Open since 2000
 - First since Mina Harigae in 2022 at Pine Needles
- One of seven major champions among the top 10 and ties after R1
- [Jennifer Kupcho First Round Interview](#)
- 2nd: **Sei Young Kim** is one stroke behind after shooting 67 on Thursday
 - Recorded five birdies today including two in her first two holes (Nos. 10 and 11) and three in her last four holes (Nos. 6-9)
 - Her first round in the 60s at a major championship in 1,140 days (R2 of The Chevron Championship in 2023)
 - Previous best position following the first round of the U.S. Women's Open was T5 in 2024
- T3: **Hyunjo Yoo, Ina Yoon, Gaby Lopez, Hinako Shibuno** and **Minji Kang** each shot a 68 in R1 and sit two shots behind Kupcho
 - Shibuno is in her best position following the first round of a major championship since the 2022 AIG Women's Open, where she was leading and eventually went onto win
 - Kang is making her first start at the U.S. Women's Open
- Defending champion **Maja Stark** opened with an even-par 71
- **Madelene Sagstrom**, who is nearly seven months pregnant with her first child, shot a 77 in R1

A LOOK AT THE LEADER

CATEGORY	Jennifer Kupcho
2026 Race to CME Globe Rank	37
2026 LPGA Tour Wins	0
2026 LPGA Tour Top 10s	1
2026 Official Season Earnings	\$364.6K
Career LPGA Tour Wins	4
Career Official LPGA Tour Top 10s	26
Career Official Money	\$6.9M

ABOUT THE LEADER

[Rolex Rankings No. 26 Jennifer Kupcho](#)

- Tenth start at The Chevron Championship
 - Best finish is T21 in 2017
 - Missed the cut in her last three appearances (2025, 2024, 2023)
- 2026: Nine cuts made in 11 starts with one top-10 finish
 - Finished T8 at the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G
 - Missed the cut in her last start at the ShopRite LPGA powered by Wakefern, where she looked to defend her 2025 title
- Career: Four wins, one major championship victory, 26 top 10s, \$6.9 million in official career earnings
 - Earned her first LPGA Tour win and major championship victory at The Chevron Championship in 2022
 - Three-time U.S. Solheim Cup team member (2021, 2023, 2024)
 - 2025 Aon Risk Reward Challenge winner
 - Played collegiately at Wake Forest University
 - Was the 2018 NCAA Division I Women's Golf individual champion

- Played on the victorious U.S. Curtis Cup, Women's World Amateur and Palmer Cup teams in 2018
- Won the inaugural Augusta National Women's Amateur in 2019

CHAMPIONSHIP SCORING RECORDS (OVERALL):

18 holes: 63, Helen Alfredsson (1994, R1)

36 holes: 132, Helen Alfredsson (1994)

54 holes: 200, Minjee Lee (2022)

72 holes: 271, Minjee Lee (2022)

QUOTABLES

Jennifer Kupcho (1st, -5) on if there was anything she could point to in missing the cut the last three years

"Not necessarily. I think my parents have always pushed me like, hey, why don't you go try and see the golf course beforehand? I'm like, no, like I don't do that. I never do that for any other tournament. Why would I change that for the U.S. Open? I wouldn't say I necessarily went out of my way since we were here in L.A. at El Cab, but it definitely made it super easy to come out and see it. Then when I showed up this week, it was just like I knew where everything was, I knew what I was doing. So I think it actually helped. Parents are always right, right? Yeah, I think that certainly helped, but I think I just have a great setup. Like I really like this golf course. It kind of fits my eye. With the great host family, it just makes the whole week easier."

Sei Young Kim (2nd, -4) on making a birdie on No. 10 today

"No. 10 is a hole the green goes right to left. You have to keep the left side of the fairway. If not, it's really tough to attack the pin even under -- it's tough on the green if you miss the right side. So I try to focus on my tee shot to keep the left side fairway. Yeah, I hit it good the first tee shot, and I was able to make a birdie, then starting out really solid with that."

Gaby Lopez (T3, -3) on talking with the grounds crew and the kitchen staff at every event

"Yeah, this week, I'm telling you, everyone is Mexican in the kitchen. Everyone is Mexican in the staff and the groundskeepers. I don't know, I really like to stay close to them. I love to say thank you and hello by their name, and I think they need that respect and they need that showcase as well, because they wake up at 3:00, 4:00 a.m. every single day for us, and we don't see it. We just show up and play. There's people behind making the work for us, and I think me just taking a little bit of time and just staying close to them, I mean, they're Mexican, I'm Mexican, and I'm very proud to represent them."

Nelly Korda (T57, +2) on how her round felt

"Yeah, just honestly just hit it really poorly off the tee. Found myself in a lot of trouble on the wrong sides of a lot of these pins. I just felt like I was kind of just grinding to make safe pars. It wasn't a great day. I hit it really good Monday through Wednesday, so I have honestly no idea where this came from. So I'm going to go to the range."

[ON LPGA.COM](#)

[Gaby Lopez Looking to Be "More At Peace" at U.S. Women's Open at Riviera](#)

[From the Road to the LPGA, to Riviera: Epson Tour Athletes Earn Their Spot at the 2026 U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally](#)

[Madelene Sagstrom Making Most of Riviera Experience With Baby on Board at the USWO](#)

[Sei Young Kim First Round Interview](#)

[Karis Davidson First Round Interview](#)

[Gaby Lopez First Round Interview](#)

SOCIAL SNAPSHOT

[Gaby Lopez, class act](#) 🙌

["For a golf weirdo nerd like me, I'm geeking out right now"](#) 🏌️

[Our littlest fans are out in force at Riv](#) 🧒

[Lightning McQueen spotted at Riv](#) 🏎️

[Minjee LOVES major golf](#) 🏌️