



## 2009 Mayakoba Golf Classic at Riviera Maya-Cancun

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For more information on the Mayakoba Golf Classic at Riviera Maya-Cancun and other events please visit [www.pgatourmedia.com](http://www.pgatourmedia.com).

**Dates:** February 23-March 1  
**Where:** Riviera Maya-Cancun  
**Course:** El Camaleón Golf Club (6,923, par-70)  
**FedExCup:** 250 points to the winner  
**Purse:** \$3,600,000  
**Winner's Share:** \$648,000  
**Format:** 72-hole stroke play with a cut to the low 70 players and ties after 36 holes

### KEY STORYLINES:

1. **Brian Gay defends his first PGA TOUR title**

The soft-spoken Texan had played in 292 PGA TOUR events without a win prior to capturing the 2008 Mayakoba Golf Classic at Riviera Maya-Cancun by two strokes. Gay is off to a solid start in 2009, recording four top-20 finishes in his first four starts, with top-10s at the Sony Open in Hawaii and FBR Open.

2. **Hispanic Presence in the Field**

#### **Mexican Players**

- **Jose de Jesus Rodriguez** -- Top-ranked player on the PGA of Mexico Order of Merit and finished tied for seventh at the 2008 Mexico Open. The Guanajuato native competed in the 2008 Mayakoba Golf Classic but failed to make the 36-hole cut.
- **Mauricio Azcue Pederzoli** -- Top ranked amateur based on Mexican Golf Federation rankings and is currently a freshman standout on the UCLA golf team. Native of Mexico City.
- **Esteban Toledo** -- Highest-ranked Mexican on the official World Golf Ranking, a long-time PGA TOUR member, who will be competing in his third Mayakoba Golf Classic. Toledo has finished tied for 41<sup>st</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> in consecutive appearances. Known for his charitable work, Toledo has won twice worldwide, including the 2000 Mexico Open. He has also represented Mexico in six World Cup matches.

In addition to three Mexican players receiving sponsors exemptions, there will be a qualifying event on February 23 which will determine the last four spots in the event.

#### **Spanish Players**

- **Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano** -- Currently ranked 75<sup>th</sup> on the Official World Golf Rankings and a five-time winner on the European Tour. His most recent victory was a playoff win over Lee Westwood at the 2008 British Masters.

- **Pablo Larrazabal** -- Finished 30<sup>th</sup> on the European Tour Order of Merit in 2008. Larrazabal was named the European Tour's Rookie of the Year on the strength of a four-stroke victory over Angel Cabrera and Colin Montgomerie in the Open de France.
- **Jose Manuel Lara & Santiago Luna** -- European Tour veterans and Madrid natives will be making second appearances in the Mayakoba Golf Classic.

### 3. **Golf Para Todos**

Golf FORE Everyone aims to create a fun-filled, diverse and educational program that teaches about the game of golf and its ideals. The program encourages active participation in the game as a participant and as a fan, and facilitates the integration of golf into the lives of all those within the community. Golf PARa Todos is a community program presented and created by the Mayakoba Golf Classic.

The inaugural installment of Golf PARa Todos was held in October 2007 at El Camaleón Golf Club in Playa del Carmen. A monthly program, Golf PARa Todos is open to people of all ages, backgrounds and levels of golf skill or knowledge. For more information, visit [www.GolfParaTodos.org](http://www.GolfParaTodos.org).

### 4. **A look at the field**

**David Toms** – The 2001 PGA Championship winner has enjoyed a career resurgence in 2009, with two top-10s including a T2 at the Sony Open in Hawaii. Ninth in FedExCup standings through six events.

**Corey Pavin** – The 2010 U.S. Ryder Cup captain will be making his second appearance at the Mayakoba Golf Classic (T12-2008). Pavin is a 15-time winner on the PGA TOUR.

**J.B. Holmes** – the two-time PGA TOUR champion was a Captain's Selection for the United States Ryder Cup squad and compiled a 2-0-1 record as a Ryder Cup rookie.

**Charley Hoffman** – The winner of the 2007 Bob Hope Chrysler Classic has reeled off four straight top-20s to start the 2009 campaign, including a playoff loss at the FBR Open. Seventh in FedExCup standings through six events.

**Chad Campbell** – The four-time PGA TOUR winner and 2008 U.S. Ryder Cup team member will be making his first appearance at the Mayakoba Golf Classic at Riviera Maya.

### 5. **Potential first-time winners**

**John Merrick** – Finished T3 last year at Mayakoba, and notched his best career finish (T2) at the 2009 Sony Open in Hawaii.

**Steve Marino** – Last year's runner-up at Mayakoba has 11 top-10s in 69 career PGA TOUR starts. Two of those have come at Mayakoba (8<sup>th</sup>/2007 and 2<sup>nd</sup>/2008).

**Webb Simpson** – Rookie from Wake Forest posted top-10s in first two starts of PGA TOUR career. Currently 21<sup>st</sup> in FedExCup standings.

**Scott Piercy** – Rookie finished T6 at FBR Open.

### 6. **El Camaleón Golf Club**

El Camaleón Golf Club, designed by 2009 Presidents Cup International Team Captain Greg Norman, was ranked No. 14 among most-difficult courses on the PGA TOUR in 2008 (71.00). The par-4 third hole (462 yards) was ranked 22<sup>nd</sup> among the toughest holes on TOUR last year (4.385).

### 7. **FedExCup modifications for 2009**

Now in its third year, the FedExCup underwent several modifications for the 2009 season:

- Shifting the points reset from the beginning of the Playoffs to after the BMW Championship, which means points earned during the PGA TOUR Regular Season will be carried through the first three Playoff events.
- Quintupling points awarded at Playoff tournaments relative to Regular Season tournaments.
- Changing the field size of the Playoff events to 125 at The Barclays, 100 at the Deutsche Bank Championship, 70 at the BMW Championship and 30 at THE TOUR Championship; they previously were 144, 120, 70 and 30.

- Streamlining the points structure for ease of understanding.