



**On-site PGA TOUR media contact:**

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## **2013 Hyundai Tournament of Champions pre-tournament notes**

**Dates:** January 4-7, 2013

**Where:** The Plantation Course at Kapalua Resort

**Par/Yards:** 36-37--73/7,411 yards

**Field:** 30 winners of PGA TOUR events from the 2012 season

**2012 champion:** Steve Stricker

**Purse:** \$5,700,000

**FedExCup:** 500 points to the winner

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play (no cut)

**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/HyundaiTOC](http://www.facebook.com/HyundaiTOC)

**Twitter:** @HyundaiTOC1

### **Pre-tournament Interviews**

**Wednesday, Jan. 2**

3:00 p.m. - **Steve Shannon** – Vice President of Marketing, Hyundai Motor America

**Thursday, Jan. 3**

Following morning pro-am – **Brandt Snedeker**

Following morning pro-am – **Steve Stricker**

Time TBD – **Charlie Beljan**

Rickie Fowler - TBD

Bubba Watson - TBD

Ian Poulter - TBD

### **2013 PGA TOUR Storylines**

#### **Structural changes to the PGA TOUR**

- For the first time in the FedExCup era, the 40-tournament official money schedule will give the season a definitive end at the TOUR Championship by Coca Cola, the fourth event in the FedExCup Playoffs. The 2013-2014 PGA TOUR Season officially begins three weeks later with those tournaments that formerly made up the Fall Series; those events begin awarding full FedExCup points.
- Year seven of the FedExCup includes 36 events before the Playoffs, one less than 2012 due to the Mayakoba Golf Classic moving to its own unencumbered fall date, in the 2013-14 PGA TOUR Season.
- The CIMB Classic and World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions become official events on the PGA TOUR (official victory, full FedExCup points, official money; winners qualify for Hyundai Tournament of Champions).
- The Web.com Tour becomes the path for the PGA TOUR's 50 new membership cards. The top 25 players on the money list for the Web.com Tour Regular Season will earn cards but must play the Finals for positioning. The Web.com Tour Finals will determine an additional 25 cards, based on cumulative earnings in those events, as well as the positioning of all 50 Cards. The Web.com Tour Finals will coincide with the timeframe of the FedExCup Playoffs, with last event ending the week after the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola. The field makeup for the Finals will include the top 75 players from the Web.com Tour money list, PGA TOUR members who are 126-200 on the FedExCup points list following the Wyndham Championship, and non-members who would have earned enough FedExCup points to place them 126-200 on the official FedExCup points list.

#### **Comebacks and sudden-death**

How will 2013 season play out after a 2012 campaign that featured nine playoffs and seven players that came from six strokes back after 54 holes to win on the PGA TOUR.

#### **Progression of young stars**

15 of the 37 different winners on the PGA TOUR in 2012 were under the age of 30, accounting for a total of 19 victories: Kyle Stanley, Bill Haas, Hunter Mahan (2), John Huh, Rory McIlroy (4), Rickie Fowler, Dustin Johnson, Webb Simpson, Marc Leishman, Ted Potter, Jr. and Scott Stallings, Keegan Bradley, Ryan Moore, Jonas Blixt and Charlie Beljan.

## **Top players playing and winning on the PGA TOUR**

Entering the 2013 season, 28 of the top 30 players in the Official World Golf Ranking are members of the PGA TOUR. Last year, 20 of the 37 different winners in 2012 were inside the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking as of January 1: Steve Stricker (6); Brandt Snedeker/2 (38); Phil Mickelson (14); Bill Haas (27); Hunter Mahan/2 (19); Rory McIlroy/4 (3); Justin Rose (18); Luke Donald (1); Tiger Woods/3 (23); Bubba Watson (21); Jason Dufner/2 (33); Rickie Fowler (32); Matt Kuchar (11); Zach Johnson/2 (37); Dustin Johnson (7); Webb Simpson (10); Keegan Bradley (31); Sergio Garcia (17); Nick Watney (12) and Ian Poulter (16).

## **Hyundai Tournament of Champions field highlights**

The Hyundai Tournament of Champions features an exclusive field of PGA TOUR tournament winners from the 2012 season and will kick off the 2013 PGA TOUR Season. The players on hand at the Hyundai Tournament of Champions were responsible for many of the most exciting moments from a 2012 PGA TOUR season that included come-from-behind victories, major championship victories and FedExCup drama from emerging stars and established veterans alike.

There are 16 players from the top 30 in the 2012 FedExCup final standings in the field at Kapalua, the most from the top 30 ever to play at this event since the debut of the FedExCup six years ago.

The 30 players in the field includes:

- FedExCup champion Brandt Snedeker
- Major champions Bubba Watson and Webb Simpson
- Two-time winners Hunter Mahan, Jason Dufner and Zach Johnson
- 2012 Ryder Cup stars and 2012 World Golf Championships winners Keegan Bradley and Ian Poulter First-time winners include Rickie Fowler, Tommy Gainey, Kyle Stanley, 2012 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year John Huh, Charlie Beljan and Jonas Blixt
- Veteran stars Dustin Johnson, Bill Haas, Matt Kuchar, Nick Watney and defending champion Steve Stricker
- Bubba Watson, Jason Dufner, Brandt Snedeker, Webb Simpson, Keegan Bradley and Ian Poulter enter the week all ranked inside the top 15 in the Official World Golf Rankings.

## **Player Notes**

### **Age breakdown for the Hyundai Tournament of Champions field:**

20-29	11
30-39	18
40+	1

## **Brandt Snedeker**

Brandt Snedeker will start the 2013 PGA TOUR season as the reigning FedExCup Champion. The four-time PGA TOUR winner controlled his own destiny heading into the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola as he was ranked fifth in the standings thanks to a win earlier in the season at the Farmers Insurance Open and a runner-up finish at the first PGA TOUR Playoffs event – The Barclays. Snedeker won the TOUR Championship by three strokes with a steady final round. Snedeker totaled two wins, one runner-up finish and seven top-10 finishes in his 22 starts in 2012.

**Most Sub-Par Rounds in 2012 FedExCup Playoffs:** Snedeker played a TOUR leading 14 sub-par rounds in the FedExCup Playoffs. Over this stretch, Snedeker finished second at The Barclays, sixth at the Deutsche Bank Championship, T37 at the BMW Championship and first the TOUR Championship.

**Strokes Gained – Putting Leader:** Brandt Snedeker led the 2012 PGA TOUR in strokes gained – putting outperforming the TOUR by +.860 strokes per round (works out to nearly 3 ½ strokes per four-round tournament on the greens).

## **Steve Stricker**

Defending champion Steve Stricker will be playing in the Hyundai Tournament of Champions for the seventh time and the fifth since 2008. Stricker, whose previous best finish before winning in 2012 was a playoff loss to Daniel Chopra, returns with hopes of winning for the 13<sup>th</sup> time on the PGA TOUR. Stricker leads the field with 12 PGA TOUR victories. Next on the list of PGA TOUR winners is Zach Johnson (9) and Dustin Johnson (6) followed by Hunter Mahan, Carl Pettersson, Nick Watney and Mark Wilson with five apiece.

Stricker (45) is the oldest player in the field and the only player in his 40s.

**Dominant Short Game:** During the week of his win at last year's Hyundai Tournament of Champions, Stricker missed 13 total greens and successfully salvaged par a field leading 10 times (77 percent - 1st). Stricker's average chip shot from around the green landed a field leading 3 feet 11 inches (over 5 feet closer than the field average of 8 feet 8 inches). Stricker has ranked inside the top 10 for scrambling in 7 of his 11 career stroke play

victories on the PGA TOUR. Stricker was 1 of just 4 players led the field for scrambling en route to their respective victories in 2012 (6 total wins). Stricker (Hyundai), Rory McIlroy (The Honda & PGA Championship), Zach Johnson (Crowne Plaza), & Tiger Woods (Arnold Palmer Invitational & AT&T National).

**Holes 14 thru 18:** Stricker played the final 5 holes at a combined 15 under par for the week tying Vijay Singh (in 2004) for the best performance on the final 5 holes on the Plantation Course (since 1999). On the greens, no one had more one-putts than Stricker who led the field in both One-Putts (31 over 72 holes) and Total Putts (114).

### **Ian Poulter**

Ian Poulter comes to the Hyundai Tournament of Champions after a strong end to 2012, his memorable performance for Europe at the Ryder Cup followed by his second career World Golf Championships win at the HSBC Champions at Mission Hills in Shenzhen, China.

**Perfect Tap-ins:** Poulter was one of just six players on TOUR in 2012 to go the entire season without missing a putt from inside 3 feet. For the year he went a perfect 391 for 391 (100%) from this distance. Moving back one more foot, Ian Poulter missed just two putts from inside of four feet on the 2012 PGA TOUR going an impressive 472 for 474 from this distance.

### **Keegan Bradley**

Keegan Bradley comes to the Hyundai Tournament of Champions thanks to a come-from-behind win at the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational.

**Best Putting Performance of 2012:** For the week at the Bridgestone Invitational, Bradley outperformed the field by an amazing +12.068 (1st) total strokes on the greens converting 11 putts from beyond 10 feet (T-most). Bradley's 12 strokes gained with his putter was nearly 4.5 strokes better than the next best player in the field and the best putting performance of the 2012 PGA TOUR season (most total strokes gained in an event this season). Bradley was just the 14<sup>th</sup> player to outperform a field by more than 12 strokes in the past 9 years (since 2004 on courses where ShotLink is used).

**No. 1 in All-Around Ranking:** Keegan Bradley was No. 1 on TOUR in the all-around rankings category. This ranking includes scoring, putting, eagles, birdies, sand saves, greens in regulation, driving distance and driving accuracy.

### **Webb Simpson**

Webb Simpson, whose 2012 season included his first major championship victory at the U.S. Open, started with a T3 at last year's Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

**Major champion:** The 112th U.S. Open champion Webb Simpson became both the ninth consecutive first-time major championship winner and the 15th different major winner in as many majors. Simpson's victory vaulted him from 32nd to ninth in the FedExCup standings moving him inside the top 10 of the standings for the first time since week five of season. Simpson went onto to finish 16th in the 2012 FedExCup.

Simpson played his final 36 holes at the U.S. Open a combined 4-under-par and was the only player in the field to shoot his final two rounds in the 60s. In comparison to Simpson's 68.00 weekend stroke average, the field average was 72.45 (nearly 4.5 shots higher than Simpson on the weekend) and was a combined +353 over par in the final 2 rounds.

### **Bubba Watson**

Watson enters the Hyundai Tournament of Champions for the third consecutive year after earning his first major championship in 2012. The reigning Masters champion now has four wins in his last three years on the PGA TOUR and has reached the TOUR Championship the last three seasons.

Watson had one of the more memorable shots in Hyundai Tournament of Champions history when he carved a driver off the fairway that reached the green in two on the par 5 18<sup>th</sup> hole in 2011. It will again be fun to watch Watson attack No. 18 this year as Watson has been No. 1 or No. 2 on TOUR in driving distance seven times. Since 1980, only one other player has been No. 1 or No. 2 more times (John Daly – 12 times).

### **John Huh**

2012 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year John Huh ended the year with four top-10 finishes including a victory at the Mayakoba Golf Classic. He was the only rookie to qualify for the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola and just the fifth to do so since the inception of the FedExCup. Huh is the first player of Korean descent to win the award.

### **Winning at Kapalua and the FedExCup**

Winning the Hyundai Tournament of Champions has traditionally sparked an outstanding season – out of the last 20 winners, 2008 champion Daniel Chopra is the only player who failed to advance to the TOUR

Championship by Coca-Cola, the fourth and final event in the FedExCup Playoffs.

### **2013-2014 Hyundai Tournament of Champions schedule change information**

As it stands, the timing/date and qualification process will not be greatly changed by the new season structure. Winners of official PGA TOUR events from the 2013 calendar year will qualify for the 2014 Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

The Hyundai Tournament of Champions was long held several months into the PGA TOUR season. In 1953, the inaugural Tournament of Champions was played in April, four months into the season. In fact, the Tournament of Champions was either played in late April or early May for its first 33 years. Las Vegas hosted the tournament from 1953 through 1968. The list of champions in Las Vegas included Sam Snead, Jack Nicklaus (2) and Arnold Palmer (3).

In 1969, the Tournament of Champions moved to Carlsbad, Calif., outside of San Diego to La Costa CC, and was still played in late April or early May through 1985. The list of winners during that span included Nicklaus, Gary Player, Lee Trevino, Tom Watson and Lanny Wadkins.

### **Aloha Kick-off**

To start the first competitive round of the 2013 Hyundai Tournament of Champions in style, an Aloha Kick-Off featuring a traditional Hawaiian Blessing will precede the first tee time on Friday, January 4, by approximately 40 minutes.

Ritz-Carlton, Kapalua Cultural Advisor Clifford Naeole and the cast of Ulalena will perform the blessing. The Aloha Kick-Off will also feature performances by Grammy award winner and slack key guitarist George Kahumoku and Na Hoku award winner vocalist and songwriter Amy Hanaiali'i, who will sing Hawaii Ponoï and the National Anthem.

### **NBC/Golf Channel offering enhanced telecast**

NBC and the Golf Channel are again bringing significant enhancements to the broadcast of the Hyundai Tournament of Champions in 2013. For the first time since the Golf Channel/NBC merger, NBC's award winning golf production team will be coming to Kapalua this year led by Producer Tommy Roy, co-producer Tom Randolph and Director Doug Grabert. For the first time in 15 years, the Hyundai Tournament of Champions will air on broadcast television, with NBC's third round coverage leading in to Golf Channel's primetime telecast on Sunday. The Announce team will be led by Dan Hicks and lead analyst Johnny Miller for NBC's third round lead-in coverage on Sunday and Golf Channel's final round on Monday. Rich Lerner and Frank Nobile will host Golf Channel's tournament coverage Friday-Sunday. The on-course team will include Gary Koch, Roger Maltbie, Mark Roling, Steve Sands and Jerry Foltz.

Golf Channel will broadcast a season preview show Thursday, Jan. 3, 6:00-8:00 p.m. ET. The show will include a mix of Golf Channel and NBC announcers. The show will be followed by the Hyundai Pro Am Show from 8:00-10:00 p.m. ET. Golf Central, the network's signature news program, returns to broadcast on-site from a dedicated stage at the Plantation Course Wednesday-Monday. Kelly Tilghman, Brandel Chamblee, Tim Rosaforte and Steve Sands will anchor Golf Central's wraparound news coverage throughout the week.

For the second consecutive year, the Golf Channel will employ a fixed wing airplane to provide similar aerial coverage of Kapalua and the event that was incredibly popular in its debut in 2012.

**LANDING ZONE GRAPHIC DEBUTS ON THE 18TH:** Landing Zone, a new graphic representation that measures the yardage of tee shots, will make its debut on the 18th hole at the Plantation Course during the Hyundai Tournament of Champions tournament broadcasts. Similar to the "First and 10" graphic lines used during NFL broadcasts, the Landing Zone graphic lines will be marked off in 25-yard increments on the 18th fairway, which regularly sees some of the longest drives during the entire PGA TOUR season. Since 2003, 92 drives have eclipsed 400 yards on the par-5 18th hole, more than 25 percent of all 400-yard drives on the PGA TOUR in the last nine years.

**NEW PLAYER INTRODUCTIONS, "SUNDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL STYLE"** – Players competing in the Hyundai Tournament of Champions will introduce themselves on the first tee during Friday's opening round in a new graphic package that models NBC's Sunday Night Football broadcasts. Players will introduce themselves by name, hometown and the 2012 tournaments they won.

### **Charity**

This year, Hyundai's non-profit organization, Hope On Wheels, is expanding its presence with the 2013 Hyundai Hope On Wheels 5K Run/Walk in Maui on Saturday, January 5 at 7:00 a.m. at Whalers Village in Kanapaali. The net proceeds raised at the 5K will benefit a partnership between Maui Memorial Hospital, Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children and the Hawaii Cord Blood Bank to support cancer research in Hawaii.

Proceeds from the Hyundai Tournament of Champions directly impact local charities. The host organizations of the Hyundai Tournament of Champions have bestowed more than \$4 million since the tournament's move to Kapalua Resort in 1999. Throughout the years, these charities ranging from youth after-school programs and elderly care facilities, to environmental and wildlife protection groups, share their Aloha by providing valuable support and assistance to our local communities Through the tournament's new "Golf for Maui Charities" program, which launched

in 2012, proceeds from the tournament have a direct impact on numerous local charities. Several charities utilized this initiative to create new and fresh ways to raise funds for their cause.

The six primary beneficiaries that will received donations from the tournament in 2013 are: The Boy Scouts of America, Friends of the Children's Justice Center, Hale Makua , J. Walter Cameron Center, Ka Lima O Maui and Lahainaluna High School Foundation

Interviews with representatives from each organization can be obtained by contacting tournament staff.