

## 2015 Open Championship Media Notes

**Dates:** July 13-19, 2015

**Course:** The Old Course at St. Andrews

**Par/Yards:** 72/7,297

**Field:** 156

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

**FedExCup:** 600 points to winner

**2014 Champion:** Rory McIlroy (will miss the event due to recent ankle injury)

### How the Open Championship was won in 2014

Rory McIlroy won the 2014 Open Championship at Royal Liverpool to claim the third of his four major championships. He entered the final round six clear of his nearest challengers before a 71 led to a two-stroke victory over hard-charging Sergio Garcia (66) and Rickie Fowler (67). McIlroy's win came at the age of 25 years, 2 months and 16 days in his 81<sup>st</sup> career start on TOUR.

### More on McIlroy's win at the 2014 Open Championship

- McIlroy joined Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods as players to complete three legs of the grand slam at the age of 25 or younger. Nicklaus won the 193 PGA Championship at the age of 23, 6 months, while Woods won the 2000 U.S. Open at the age of 24 years, 5 months, 19 days.
- McIlroy becomes the 16<sup>th</sup> player to win three of the four major championships, and 44<sup>th</sup> different player to win at least three major championships.
- McIlroy becomes the seventh-youngest player to win their first three major championship titles.
- Prior to his win, was hoping to become just the eighth player to post consecutive Open Championship victories since 1951 (16 overall): Pádraig Harrington (2007-08), Tiger Woods (2005-06), Tom Watson (1982-83), Lee Trevino (1971-72), Arnold Palmer (1961-62) and Peter Thomson (1954-56).

### Masters and U.S. Open Champion, FedExCup Leader Jordan Spieth

- Jordan Spieth's run in the major championships continues at St. Andrews as he attempts to become the second player in the history of the modern game to win the first three major championships of the season. Ben Hogan won the first three in 1953 but did not play the PGA Championship as it overlapped with The Open Championship.
- Spieth holds a significant lead in the FedExCup standings, 1,713 points over Jimmy Walker.
- Spieth will be making his third Open Championship start (T36-2014, T44-2013).
- Became sixth player to win the Masters and U.S. Open in the same season, joining Tiger Woods (2002), Jack Nicklaus (1972), Arnold Palmer (1960), Ben Hogan (1951, 1953) and Craig Wood (1941).
- Became the 16<sup>th</sup> player to win the Masters and U.S. Open during their career.
- Became the first player since Rory McIlroy (2014 Open Championship, 2014 PGA Championship) to win two majors in one year. Overall, became the 19<sup>th</sup> to win two majors in a season (32 times).
- With final round 1-under 69 at the U.S. Open, has now recorded seven of eight rounds under par in majors this season. A third-round 1-over 71 at Chambers Bay marks the only exception.
- Of the eight rounds Spieth has played this season in majors, he has led or shared the lead after seven.
- Became the youngest to win two career majors since Gene Sarazen in 1922.
- Became just the second player since 1940 to win four times on TOUR before the age of 22. Tiger Woods won the 1997 Masters (his fourth win) at the age of 21 years, 3 months and 14 days. Here's the list:
- With five wins and eight runner-up finishes, has the most first- and second-place finishes by a TOUR player before the age of 22 since 1970: Spieth (13), Tiger Woods (7), Sergio Garcia (6), Bobby Clampett (5), Rickie Fowler (3).

### More Spieth and the FedExCup

With four wins, Spieth increases his lead in the FedExCup standings by 1,713 points over Jimmy Walker with a PGA TOUR Season record of 3,628.

### FedExCup Season-ending points leaders since 2009 (when the points were restructured)

Season	Player	Season Points
2014-15	Jordan Spieth	3,628 (through the John Deere Classic).
2009	Tiger Woods	3,431
2010	Ernie Els	1,846
2011	Nick Watney	1,906
2012	Tiger Woods	2,269
2013	Tiger Woods	3,059
2013-14	Rory McIlroy	2,582

### Winning the week before a Major Championship Victory

- Since 1934, only 11 players on the PGA TOUR have won the week before winning a major, with Lee Trevino the only player performing the feat at the Open Championship:
 

2014	Rory McIlroy	won WGC-Bridgestone Invitational followed by PGA Championship
2007	Tiger Woods	won WGC-Bridgestone Invitational followed by PGA Championship
2006	Phil Mickelson	won BellSouth Classic followed by Masters
1988	Sandy Lyle	won Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters
<b>1971</b>	<b>Lee Trevino</b>	<b>won the Canadian Open followed by the Open Championship</b>
1959	Art Wall	won the Azalea Open followed by the Masters
1949	Sam Snead*	won the Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters
1946	Ben Hogan*	won the Winnipeg Open followed by the PGA
1945	Byron Nelson*	won the Chicago Victory Open followed by the PGA
1939	Ralph Guldahl	won the Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters
1939	Henry Picard*	won the Scranton Open followed by the PGA
- \* No event scheduled the week after first win. Major was the next event contested

### A look inside the field

- Nine of the top 10 in the current FedExCup rankings, led by Jordan Spieth (1), Jimmy Walker (2), Bubba Watson (3), Dustin Johnson (4), Robert Streb (6), Patrick Reed (7), Brandt Snedeker (8), J.B. Holmes (9), Charley Hoffman (10).
- Nine of the top 10 in the Official World Golf Ranking, led by Jordan Spieth (2), Bubba Watson (3), Dustin Johnson (4), Jim Furyk (5), Henrik Stenson (6), Justin Rose (7), Jason Day (8), Rickie Fowler (9), Sergio Garcia (10).
- Past Open Championship winners: Tom Watson, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Darren Clarke, Louis Oosthuizen, Stewart Cink, Pdraig Harrington, Tiger Woods, Todd Hamilton, Ben Curtis, David Duval, Paul Lawrie, Mark O'Meara, Justin Leonard, Tom Lehman, John Daly, Nick Faldo, Mark Calcavecchia, Sandy Lyle.
- 34 Major Championship winners, led by Tiger Woods (14), Tom Watson (8), Nick Faldo (6), Phil Mickelson (5), Ernie Els (4), Pdraig Harrington 93).
- Amateurs: Ashley Chesters, Paul Kinnear, Romain Langasque, Oliver Schniederjans, Gunn Yang, Paul Dunne, Jordan Niebrugge, Alister Balcombe, Ben Taylor.
- Players with 10 or more PGA TOUR victories: Tiger Woods (79), Phil Mickelson (42), Tom Watson (39), Ernie Els (19), Jim Furyk (17), Mark O'Meara (16), Mark Calcavecchia (13), David Duval (13), Justin Leonard (12), Zach Johnson (11), Adam Scott (11).

### 2010 Open Championship winner Louis Oosthuizen

- Carrying the largest 54-hole lead (4 strokes) into the final round of an Open Championship since Tiger Woods led by six at St. Andrews in 2000, Louis Oosthuizen carded a final-round 1-under 71 to move to 16-under 272 and a seven-stroke win over Lee Westwood (70).
- Owns one of 22 major championship titles held by South Africans: Gary Player (9), Bobby Locke (4), Ernie Els (4), Retief Goosen (2), Charl Schwartzel, Louis Oosthuizen, Trevor Immelman.
- Winners of the Open Championship from South Africa: Bobby Locke (1949, 1950, 1952, 1957), Gary Player (1959, 1968, 1974), Ernie Els (2002, 2012) and Louis Oosthuizen (2010).

### Tiger Woods

- Tiger Woods enters the Open Championship seven years since his last major title at the 2008 U.S. Open. With 14 major titles, he trails all-time leader Jack Nicklaus' 18 by four.
- Woods owns three wins at the Open Championship (2000, 2005, 2006).
- Woods owns 79 TOUR wins, second only to Sam Snead's 82.
- Since turning professional, the 2014 Open Championship marked Woods' first time to finish an Open Championship outside the top 30 among his 15 made cuts (he missed the cut in 2009).
- Woods' Open Championship record at St. Andrews (T68-1995/amateur; Won-2010, Won-2005, T23-2010).

### Rickie Fowler

- Rickie Fowler is coming off his second victory of the season, following a victory earlier this season at THE PLAYERS Championship with a win last week at the Scottish Open.
- Fowler is hoping to follow in the footsteps of Phil Mickelson, the last player to win the Scottish Open and Open Championship back-to-back in the same season.
- Fowler will be making his sixth start at the Open Championship, led by top-5 finishes in 2014 (T2) and 2011 (T5). He debuted at the Open Championship at St. Andrews in 2010, finishing T14.

### History of the Open Championship

This is the 144<sup>th</sup> Open Championship, with the first being played in 1860.

- The youngest Open Championship winner is Tommy Morris Jr. (1868; 17 years, 5 months, 3 days)
- The oldest Open winner is Tom Morris Sr., winning in 1867 at the age of 46 years and 99 days.
- Harry Vardon owns the most victories at the Open Championship, with six (1896, 1898, 1899, 1903, 1911, 1914). The list of five-time winners includes James Braid, J.H. Taylor, Peter Thomson and Tom Watson.
- Amateur winners: Bobby Jones (1926, 1927, 1930), Harold Hilton (1892, 1897), John Ball (1890).

### Countries Represented - Winners of the Open Championship:

United States (28 winners, 43 wins)  
 Scotland (22 winners, 41 wins)  
 England (14 winners, 28 wins)  
 South Africa (4 winners, 10 wins)  
 Australia (4 winners, 9 wins)  
 Northern Ireland (3 winners, 3 wins)  
 Spain (1 winner, 3 wins)  
 Republic of Ireland (1 winner, 2 wins)  
 Argentina (1 winner, 1 win)  
 France (1 winner, 1 win)  
 New Zealand (1 winner, 1 win)  
 Zimbabwe (1 winner, 1 win)

### History of the Open Championship at St. Andrews

St. Andrews will host the Open Championship for the 29<sup>th</sup> time, five more than the second course on the list – Prestwick. Here's a look at the winners of Open Championships hosted at St. Andrews since 1970:

Year	Winner	Winning Score
1970	Jack Nicklaus	5-under 283
1978	Jack Nicklaus	7-under 281
1984	Seve Ballesteros	12-under 276
1990	Nick Faldo	18-under 270
1995	John Daly	6-under 282
2000	Tiger Woods	19-under 269
2005	Tiger Woods	14-under 274
2010	Louis Oosthuizen	16-under 272

### A look back at the 2010 Open Championship

Rank	Player	72-hole Score
1	Louis Oosthuizen	16-under 272
2	Lee Westwood	9-under 279

T3	Paul Casey	8-under 280
	Rory McIlroy	8-under 280
	Henrik Stenson	8-under 280
6	Retief Goosen	7-under 281
T7	Martin Kaymer	6-under 282
	Sean O'Hair	6-under 282
	Robert Rock	6-under 282
	Nick Watney	6-under 282

#### **A look back at the 2005 Open Championship**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>72-hole Score</b>
1	Tiger Woods	274 (-14)
2	Colin Montgomerie	279 (-9)
T3	Fred Couples	280 (-8)
	Jose Maria Olazabal	280 (-8)
T5	Michael Campbell	281 (-7)
	Sergio Garcia	281 (-7)
	Retief Goosen	281 (-7)
	Bernhard Langer	281 (-7)
	Geoff Ogilvy	281 (-7)
	Vijay Singh	281 (-7)

#### **A look back at the 2000 Open Championship**

<b>Rank</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>72-hole Score</b>
1	Tiger Woods	269 (-19)
T2	Thomas Bjorn	277 (-11)
	Ernie Els	277 (-11)
T4	Tom Lehman	278 (-10)
	David Toms	278 (-10)
6	Fred Couples	279 (-9)
T7	Paul Azinger	280 (-8)
	Darren Clarke	280 (-8)
	Pierre Fulke	280 (-8)
	Loren Roberts	280 (-8)

#### **The Claret Jug**

The Claret Jug, also known as The Golf Champion Trophy, is presented each year to the Open Championship winner. The trophy was created by Mackay Cunningham & Company of Edinburgh and was hallmarked in 1873. The first player to receive the trophy was 1873 champion Tom Kidd, but Tom Morris Junior's name was the first to be engraved on it as the 1872 winner. Prior to that, the Open Championship champion was presented with the Challenge Belt, made of rich morocco leather and embellished with a silver buckle and emblems.