



Primary on-site PGA TOUR media contact:
Chris Reimer, Director, Communications, PGA TOUR, 904-806-6614, creimer@pgatourhq.com
Allison Kolodziej Baker, Falls Communications, 216-696-0229, abaker@fallscommunications.com

World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational pre-tournament notes

Field: There are 77 (of 80 qualified) players officially committed. Players who are not currently qualified have a final chance to join the field by winning the Quicken Loans National.

Pre-Tournament Interview Schedule:

Tuesday, August 4

10:00 a.m. Zach Johnson
11:00 a.m. Jason Day
2:00 p.m. President Cup Captains Jay Haas (U.S. Team) and Nick Price (International Team)

Wednesday, August 5

9:00 a.m. Olympics Press Conference: Byeong Hun An, Henrik Stenson, Matt Kuchar with Ty Votaw, Vice President, International Golf Federation
2:30 p.m. Troy Merritt
3:00 p.m. Martin Kaymer
3:30 p.m. Jordan Spieth

Dates: August 5-9

Where: Firestone Country Club, Akron, Ohio

Par/Yards: 35-35—70 /7,400

Qualification/Eligibility requirements:

- Playing members of the 2014 U.S. and European Ryder Cup teams.
- The top 50 players, including any tied for 50th place, from the Official World Golf Ranking as of Monday, July 27, 2015 and Monday, August 3, 2015.
- Tournament winners, whose victories are considered official, of tournaments from the Federation Tours since the prior year's Bridgestone Invitational (with an Official World Golf Ranking Strength of Field Rating of 115 points or more).
- The winner of the following tournaments from each of the following Tours:
 - Japan Golf Tour: Japan Golf Tour Championship (2015) and Bridgestone Open (2014)
 - Australasian Tour: Australian Masters (2014)
 - Southern Africa Tour: Dimension Data Pro-Am (2015)
 - Asian Tour: Thailand Golf Championship (2014)

FedExCup Points: 550

Purse: \$9,250,000; **Winner's Share:** \$1,570,000

Format: 72-hole stroke play; no cut

Defending Champion: Rory McIlroy (not playing due to injury)

How the Bridgestone Invitational was won in 2014

Rory McIlroy was three shots behind Sergio Garcia entering the final round before recording a 4-under 66 to win by two shots. McIlroy wins in his last two starts on TOUR (Open Championship) and captures his first win in a World Golf Championships event. McIlroy jumps to No. 3 in the FedExCup and regains the No. 1 spot in the Official World Golf Rankings..

Due to an ankle injury suffered in early July, McIlroy is unable to return to defend his title. McIlroy becomes the second defending champion unable to return to play the following year at the Bridgestone Invitational. Tiger Woods did not play in 2008 due to knee surgery after winning the event in 2007.

With his victory at last year's McIlroy regained the No. 1 spot in the Official World Golf Ranking, taking the top spot from Adam Scott. Below is McIlroy's history at No. 1 in the OWGR:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| March 5, 2012-March 12, 2012 | 2 weeks |
| April 16, 2012-April 30, 2012 | 3 weeks |
| May 7, 2012-May 27, 2012 | 3 weeks |
| August 13, 2012-March 24, 2013 | 29 weeks |
| August 3, 2014 – present | currently 52 weeks |

Select Player Notes

Jordan Spieth

Jordan Spieth will be making his second start at the Bridgestone Invitational and his eighth career World Golf Championships start. The FedExCup leader Spieth has moved to No. 2 in the Official World Golf Ranking thanks to four PGA TOUR victories, including two major championship wins this season, and victories at the Hero World Challenge and the Emirates Australian Open to end 2014. Spieth's 2014-15 PGA TOUR campaign continues to be one of the best in TOUR history with 12 top-10 finishes, eight in the top three.

With a victory at the Bridgestone Invitational, Spieth could take over the top spot in the Official World Golf Ranking at the same event in which McIlroy become No. 1 in the world with a victory last year.

Spieth's incredible season means an equally incredible lead in the FedExCup standings with 3,763 points – nearly doubling his closest competitor in Bubba Watson (2,043 points). Spieth holds the record for most PGA TOUR Season points previously held by Tiger Woods.

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

| Year | Player | PGA TOUR Season Points |
|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 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 |
| 2014-15 | Jordan Spieth | 3,763 |

Jason Day

Day, whose wife Ellie is from Northeast Ohio, will come to Akron following his fourth PGA TOUR victory at the RBC Canadian Open, the week following a near-miss at The Open Championship. Playing in the second to the last group, Day drained a birdie putt from 21 feet 10 inches on No. 18 to come from two shots behind third-round leader David Hearn for his RBC Canadian Open victory. Day is in search of his second career World Golf Championships victory, having won the 2014 Cadillac Match Play. Day will be teeing it up at the Bridgestone Invitational for the fifth time in his career. His career-best finish came in 2011 with a T4.

With the win, Day moved from No. 16 in the FedExCup standings to No. 4 with only five events before the Playoffs. The win also moved Day to No. 4 in the Official World Golf Ranking.

Zach Johnson

Zach Johnson recorded his second major championship victory at The Open Championship after entering the final round trailing Jason Day, Paul Dunne and Louis Oosthuizen by three strokes. Johnson stormed back with a final-round 6-under 66 to win the 144th Open Championship in a playoff over Oosthuizen and Marc Leishman for his 12th PGA TOUR title. With the win, Johnson became the sixth player to win majors at Augusta National and St. Andrews, joining Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo and Sam Snead. The victory gave the 39-year-old wins in eight out of the last nine seasons on the PGA TOUR, including four consecutive seasons.

Johnson will make his 12th career start at Firestone Country Club with his best result at the Bridgestone Invitational coming in 2013 with a T4.

Rickie Fowler

Rickie Fowler, the only Quicken Loans player ambassador on TOUR (a partnership which began the week of The Masters), finished in second place in his fourth start at Quicken Loans National: 2nd/2015, T21/2013, T13/2011 and MC/2010. Fowler earned his second PGA TOUR title earlier this season at THE PLAYERS Championship (2012 Wells Fargo Championship) and is just three weeks removed from winning the Scottish Open on the European Tour. He is now No. 16 in the FedExCup standings.

Bubba Watson

Watson holds a total of six top-10 finishes this season, including two victories at the Travelers Championship and the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions and is ranked 2nd in the FedExCup standings. Watson's HSBC Champions victory came in dramatic fashion by holing a bunker shot on the 72nd hole to force a playoff with Tim Clark and then burying a long putt in the first playoff hole for victory.

Both the Travelers and HSBC Champions victories came in playoffs moving Watson's playoff record to 5-of-6. Watson is one of four players with multiple wins this season joined by Jimmy Walker (Sony Open in Hawaii, Valero Texas Open), Rory McIlroy (WGC-Cadillac Match Play, Wells Fargo Championship), Jason Day (Farmers Insurance Open, RBC Canadian Open) and Jordan Spieth (Valspar Championship, Masters Tournament and U.S. Open). Of Watson's eight wins, six have now come in come-from-behind fashion.

Most World Golf Championships appearances (Cadillac Match Play, Cadillac Championship, Bridgestone Invitational and HSBC Champions since become a World Golf Championships event in 2009)

| | |
|---------------------|----|
| Westwood, Lee | 51 |
| Els, Ernie | 48 |
| Furyk, Jim | 45 |
| Garcia, Sergio | 45 |
| Mickelson, Phil | 44 |
| Woods, Tiger | 44 |
| Scott, Adam | 43 |
| Poulter, Ian | 42 |
| Harrington, Padraig | 40 |

(These numbers do not include the 2015 Bridgestone Invitational)

FedExCup implications

Several top players have work remaining on the road back to East Lake when the FedExCup Playoffs begin at The Barclays in three weeks.

| Player | Current FEC rank | Average finish in the FedExCup past 5 years |
|----------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Webb Simpson | 50 | 28 (reached TOUR Championship each of the last four years) |
| Phil Mickelson | 52 | 22 (played in seven of eight TOUR Championships since 2007) |
| Keegan Bradley | 65 | 23 |
| Hunter Mahan | 70 | 14 (only player to play every Playoff event since start of the FedExCup) |
| Adam Scott | 82 | 15 |

Countries, players represented in the field

Total players in the field – 77

Countries represented – 25

| | | | | | |
|-----|----|-----|---|-----|---|
| USA | 32 | IRE | 2 | IND | 1 |
| AUS | 6 | JPN | 2 | ITA | 1 |
| ENG | 6 | KOR | 2 | NED | 1 |
| RSA | 3 | SCO | 2 | NIR | 1 |
| SWE | 2 | ARG | 1 | NZ | 1 |
| DEN | 2 | AUT | 1 | THA | 1 |
| ESP | 2 | CHI | 1 | WAL | 1 |
| FRA | 2 | COL | 1 | | |
| GER | 2 | FIN | 1 | | |

The 25 countries represented in this year's World Golf Championship-Bridgestone Invitational are the most in tournament history. The previous best – 22 countries – occurred in 2014.

First-time Bridgestone Invitational participants

There are 16 players participating in their first-ever Bridgestone Invitational this week, including seven who will make their World Golf Championships debut:

Nick Cullen, Byeong Hun An, Fabian Gomez, James Hahn, Kevin Kisner, Troy Merritt and David Lingmerth are all in their first-ever World Golf Championships event. Koumei Oda, Andrew Dodt, Brooks Koepka, Anirban Lahiri, David Lipsky, Ben Martin, Gary Stal, Marc Warren and Robert Streb are playing in the Bridgestone Invitational for the first time.

Of the players with 12 or more rounds of experience at the Firestone Country Club since 1999, Keegan Bradley leads in stroke average with 67.75 in 16 career rounds.

| Rank | Player | Scoring Avg. | Rounds |
|------|----------------|--------------|--------|
| 1 | Keegan Bradley | 67.75 | 16 |
| 2 | Tiger Woods | 68.34 | 55 |
| 3 | Rory McIlroy | 68.92 | 24 |
| 4 | Jim Furyk | 68.98 | 56 |

Major champions and Firestone Country Club

Major champions Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods, Greg Norman, Adam Scott, Rory McIlroy, Raymond Floyd, Arnold Palmer and Ken Venturi have all recorded victories at Firestone Country Club. Since 1994, only one player (Hunter Mahan) has been victorious at Firestone Country Club's South Course who hadn't won, or didn't go on to win, a major championship. Since 1999 and the inception of the World Golf Championships event at Firestone, there are more winners with major championship victories than any other tournament on the PGA TOUR. During that stretch, 14 of 15 winners have also claimed major championships (does not include 2002 when Craig Parry won at Sahalee Country Club). The next best over that time frame is the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines with 12 of 16.

One year from golf returning to the Olympics in 2016

The 2015 Bridgestone Invitational marks one year from golf's return to the Olympic games. The Olympic field will consist of 60 players for each of the men's and women's competition. The International Golf Federation will utilize the Official World Golf Rankings to create the Olympic golf rankings as a method of determining eligibility. The top 15 world-ranked players will be eligible for the Olympics, with a limit of four players from a given country. Beyond the top-15, players will be eligible based on the world rankings, with a maximum of two eligible players from each country that does not already have two or more players among the top 15.

The qualification deadline will be the Olympic Golf Rankings of July 11, 2016

The host country is guaranteed at least one (1) athlete in each of the Women's and Men's Competitions respectively, only if it does not qualify any athlete through the Olympic Golf Rankings of 11 July 2016. The updated rankings will be published weekly at <http://www.igfgolf.org/olympic-games/ogr-men/>.

If the qualification deadline were this week, 30 out of the 60 players to qualify for the Olympic games would be represented in the field at the Bridgestone Invitational.

| Player | Country | | |
|-------------------|---------|---------------------|-----|
| An, Byeong Hun | KOR | Lee, Danny | NZ |
| Bae, Sang-Moon | KOR | Lingmerth, David | SWE |
| Bjorn, Thomas | DEN | Lowry, Shane | IRE |
| Day, Jason | AUS | Luiten, Joost | NED |
| Dubuisson, Victor | FRA | Matsuyama, Hideki | JPN |
| Furyk, Jim | USA | Molinari, Francesco | ITA |
| Garcia, Sergio | ESP | Oosthuizen, Louis | RSA |
| Grace, Branden | RSA | Rose, Justin | ENG |
| Ilonen, Mikko | FIN | Scott, Adam | AUS |
| Jaidee, Thongchai | THA | Siem, Marcel | GER |
| Johnson, Dustin | USA | Spieth, Jordan | USA |
| Kaymer, Martin | GER | Stenson, Henrik | SWE |
| Kjeldsen, Soren | DEN | Villegas, Camilo | COL |
| Lahiri, Anirban | IND | Watson, Bubba | USA |

Due to golf's return to the 2016 Olympics Games and the men's competition being held August 11-14, the 2016 World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational's traditional August date will shift, and the event will be held at Firestone Country Club on June 29-July 3.

Field notes

- Twenty-four of the top 30 in the FedExCup standings are in the Bridgestone Invitational field. With 550 points awarded to the winner,
- There are 48 of the top 50 in the OWGR; Rory McIlroy and Chris Kirk are unable to play due to injury.
- Only three weeks (and four events) remain for players to earn FedExCup points and improve their position heading into the FedExCup Playoffs (Bridgestone Invitational/Barracuda Championship; PGA Championship; Wyndham Championship).
- At the conclusion of the 2015 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola, the TOUR will crown the FedExCup Champion and the Arnold Palmer Award and the Byron Nelson Award winners will be determined. Additionally, the Jack Nicklaus Award for PGA TOUR Player of the Year and PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year award ballots will be distributed, marking the second consecutive year in the FedExCup era where all season ending awards are determined or put in process at the conclusion of the TOUR Championship.
- Twelve players who have won World Golf Championships events in the field
 - **Player** **World Golf Championship Wins**
 - Dustin Johnson 2 (2013 HSBC Champions, 2015 Cadillac Championship)
 - Hunter Mahan 2 (2010 Bridgestone Inv, 2012 Cadillac Match Play)
 - Ian Poulter 2 (2010 Cadillac Match Play, 2012 HSBC Champions)
 - Keegan Bradley 1 (2012 Bridgestone Invitational)
 - Jason Day 1 (2014 Cadillac Match Play)
 - Matt Kuchar 1 (2013 Cadillac Match Play)
 - Phil Mickelson 1 (2009 Cadillac Championship)
 - Patrick Reed 1 (2013 Cadillac Championship)
 - Justin Rose 1 (2012 Cadillac Championship)
 - Adam Scott 1 (2011 Bridgestone Invitational)
 - Henrik Stenson 1 (2007 Cadillac Match Play)
 - Bubba Watson 1 (2015 HSBC Champions)
- In 2014, Sergio Garcia led after the third round by three strokes but finished two strokes behind Rory McIlroy. Garcia has eight top-5 finishes in World Golf Championships events. Garcia's eight finishes in World Golf Championships events without a win put him second all-time behind Jim Furyk (9) and ahead of Retief Goosen (7) and Davis Love III (7).

Presidents Cup qualification

United States Team - The top 10 U.S. players who earn the most official FedExCup points, beginning with the 2013 BMW Championship through the 2015 Deutsche Bank Championship, with points earned in 2015 doubled.

- Current player standings: United States Team
- Two Captain's selections will be made September 8, 2015

International Team - The top 10 international players (excluding those eligible for the European Ryder Cup team) from the Official World Golf Ranking as the conclusion of the 2015 Deutsche Bank Championship.

- Current player standings: International Team
- Two Captain's selections made on September 8, 2015

Alpha field listing

Byeong-Hun An
Sangmoon Bae
Thomas Bjorn
Steven Bowditch
Keegan Bradley
Paul Casey
Nick Cullen
Jason Day
Andrew Dodt

James Hahn
Padraig Harrington
Russell Henley
Charley Hoffman
J.B. Holmes
Billy Horschel
Mikko Ilonen
Thongchai Jaidee
Dustin Johnson

WC Liang
David Lingmerth
David Lipsky
Shane Lowry
Joost Luiten
Hunter Mahan
Ben Martin
Hideki Matsuyama
Graeme McDowell

Charl Schwartzel
Adam Scott
Marcel Siem
Webb Simpson
Brandt Snedeker
Jordan Spieth
Gary Stal
Henrik Stenson
Robert Streb

Jamie Donaldson
Victor Dubuisson
Matt Every
Rickie Fowler
Jim Furyk
Stephen Gallacher
Sergio Garcia
Fabian Gomez
Branden Grace
Bill Haas

Zach Johnson
Martin Kaymer
Kevin Kisner
Soren Kjeldsen
Brooks Koepka
Matt Kuchar
Anirban Lahiri
Pablo Larrazabal
Danny Lee
Marc Leishman

Troy Merritt
Phil Mickelson
Francesco Molinari
Ryan Moore
Kevin Na
Koumei Oda
Louis Oosthuizen
Ryan Palmer
Ian Poulter
Patrick Reed
Justin Rose

Brendon Todd
Camilo Villegas
Marc Warren
Jimmy Walker
Bubba Watson
Lee Westwood
Bernd Wiesberger
Danny Willett
Oliver Wilson
Gary Woodland

75 Players