



## 2015 World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions Fact Sheet and Pre-Tournament Notes

### Wednesday 4th November 2015

Dustin Johnson	9.30 am
Henrik Stenson	10:00 am
Bubba Watson	10.30 am
Jordan Speith	3.30 pm
Rory McIlroy	4:00 pm

**Dates:** November 2-8, 2015

**Where:** Shanghai, China

**Course:** Sheshan International Golf Club

**Par/yardage:** Par 72/ 7,266

**Field:** 78 players

**Purse:** \$8.5 million (\$1.4 million to the winner)

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

**Defending Champion:** Bubba Watson

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### Quick review of tournament history:

- The HSBC Champions was created in November 2005 and became an official European Tour and Asian Tour event beginning in 2006. Event champions during that timeframe: 2005 – David Howell; 2006 – Y.E. Yang; 2007 – Phil Mickelson; 2008 – Sergio Garcia.
- In 2009, the HSBC Champions was granted World Golf Championships status but was an unofficial event on the PGA TOUR. Phil Mickelson's win in 2009 is not considered an official PGA TOUR victory.
- Beginning in 2010, the HSBC Champions counted as an official PGA TOUR victory and offered a three-year exemption on the PGA TOUR—provided the tournament was won by a PGA TOUR member. Prize money, however, did not count toward the official PGA TOUR money list, even in a PGA TOUR member won the tournament. Tournament winners during this timeframe include: 2010 – Francesco Molinari (unofficial PGA TOUR win); 2011 – Martin Kaymer (unofficial PGA TOUR win); 2012 – Ian Poulter (official PGA TOUR win).
- On the final day of the 2012 event, HSBC announced renewal of its title sponsorship through 2015, along with the announcement that the event would become a part of the PGA TOUR's FedExCup schedule, awarding official money and FedExCup points (and a three-year exemption) beginning in 2013 with Dustin Johnson winning the 2013 event and Bubba Watson winning last year.

### A look back at the 2014 event

After making nine combined birdies on the final five holes in rounds 2 and 3, Bubba Watson again birdied the 14<sup>th</sup> hole during the final round but a par on 15, a bogey on 16 and a double bogey on 17 meant the 36-year-old needed eagle on the final hole to put him in a tie for the lead. Watson made his eagle with a dramatic shot from a greenside bunker to force a playoff with Tim Clark. On the first playoff hole, Watson found himself in the same bunker, but his blast to the green came up more than 20 feet short. Watson again seized the opportunity, making the putt for his first career victory in a World Golf Championships event and his seventh

PGA TOUR victory at the time at the age of 36 years and four days after celebrating his birthday earlier in the week on November 5.

Watson also won the Travelers Championship in a sudden-death playoff, this time over Paul Casey, giving him a 5-for-6 record in playoffs in his PGA TOUR career. After winning the HSBC Champions, Watson has only spent one week outside the top 10 in the FedExCup standings for the entire season – the week after missing the cut at the U.S. Open before winning the next week at the Travelers Championship.

Watson was one of five players with multiple wins on the PGA TOUR last season along with Jimmy Walker (Sony Open in Hawaii, Valero Texas Open), Rory McIlroy (World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play, Wells Fargo Championship), Rickie Fowler (THE PLAYERS Championship, Deutsche Bank Championship), Jason Day (Farmers Insurance Open, RBC Canadian Open, PGA Championship, The Barclays, BMW Championship) and Jordan Spieth (Valspar Championship, Masters Tournament, U.S. Open, John Deere Classic, TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola).

**Tournament notes:**

Major championship winners: Rory McIlroy (4), Martin Kaymer (2), Jordan Spieth (2), Bubba Watson (2), Louis Oosthuizen (1), Charl Schwartzel (1), Adam Scott (1)

Four FedExCup champions are teeing it up this week: Henrik Stenson (2013), Billy Horschel (2014) and Jordan Spieth (2015).

Five past HSBC Champions are in the field: David Howell (2005), Sergio Garcia (2008), Martin Kaymer (2011), Ian Poulter (2012), Dustin Johnson (2013) and Bubba Watson (2014).

There are 11 past winners of World Golf Championships events in the field: Rory McIlroy (2014 Bridgestone Invitational, 2015 Dell Match Play), Dustin Johnson (2013 HSBC Champions, 2015 Cadillac Championship); Hunter Mahan (2010 Bridgestone Invitational, 2012 Dell Match Play); Ian Poulter (2010 Dell Match Play, 2012 HSBC Champions); Luke Donald (2011 Dell Match Play); Shane Lowry (2015 Bridgestone Invitational); Patrick Reed (2014 Cadillac Championship); Adam Scott (2011 Bridgestone Invitational); Henrik Stenson (2007 Dell Match Play); Bubba Watson (2014 HSBC Champions); Martin Kaymer (2011 HSBC Champions)

Sixteen players will make their World Golf Championships debut this week. Aside from Jeff Maggert, who won the very first World Golf Championships at the 1999 Accenture Match Play Championship, no player has won a World Golf Championships in his first start in the series.

- Wu Ashun
- Daniel Berger
- Yi Cao
- Danny Chia
- Ze-Cheng Dou
- Trevor Fisher, Jr.
- Matthew Fitzpatrick
- Emiliano Grillo
- Russell Knox
- Satoshi Kodaria
- Richard. T Lee
- Hao Tong Li
- James Morrison
- Thomas Pieters
- Daniel Summerhays
- Justin Thomas

There are 16 of the 24 members from The Presidents Cup teams represented in the field including: International Team (10) – Steven Bowditch, Branden Grace, Thongchai Jaidee, Anirban Lahiri, Marc Leishman, Danny Lee, Hideki Matsuyama, Louis Oosthuizen, Charl Schwartzel and Adam Scott.

United States Team (7) – Rickie Fowler, Dustin Johnson, Chris Kirk, Patrick Reed, Jordan Spieth and Bubba Watson

The youngest winner of the HSBC Champions is Sergio Garcia, who was 28 years, 10 months, 1 day when he won in 2008, although the HSBC Champions wasn't yet a part of the World Golf Championships series. During the 2014-15 PGA TOUR season, 24 of the 47 PGA TOUR events were won by players in their 20s, a record on the PGA TOUR. The 2015-16 season has started in similar fashion with all three winners, Emiliano Grillo, Smylie Kaufman and Justin Thomas all 23 years or younger. Grillo and Thomas are both in the field this week – each making their first start in a World Golf Championships event.

Showing the true global reach of the World Golf Championships, there are 22 countries represented in this week's field. The United States boasts the most players in the field with 17 U.S. players. England has 13 players included, while Australia (9) has the third-most players in the field. China and South Africa each have six players represented. The remaining countries are Japan (3), Sweden (3), Denmark (2), Scotland (2), Spain (2), India (2), South Korea (2), Thailand (2), Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Germany, Ireland, Malaysia, Northern Ireland, and New Zealand.

There are 26 players who competed in last week's CIMB Classic in Malaysia who are in this week's HSBC Champions including the winner, Justin Thomas, Adam Scott (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Kevin Na (T3).

<b>Name</b>	<b>CIMB Classic finish</b>
Daniel Berger	T64
Steven Bowditch	71
Paul Casey	T24
Danny Chia	T68
Andrew Dodt	T56
Luke Donald	T64
Harris English	T43
Sergio Garcia	T24
Branden Grace	T17
Scott Hend	T27
Matt Jones	T37
Kevin Kisner	T37
Anirban Lahiri	T21
Danny Lee	WD
Marc Leishman	T29
David Lingmerth	T14
Hideki Matsuyama	5 <sup>th</sup>
Kevin Na	T3
Scott Piercy	T7
Patrick Reed	T10
Adam Scott	2 <sup>nd</sup>
Henrik Stenson	T47
Robert Streb	T53
Daniel Summerhays	T14
Justin Thomas	1 <sup>st</sup>
Gary Woodland	T56

**Select player notes:**

**Jordan Spieth**, 22, will be making his first start of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR Season following a historic and record-breaking season in 2014-15. Spieth won five times on the PGA TOUR including wins at the first two majors of the season at The Masters and the U.S. Open and capped the year with a victory at the season-ending TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola clinching the season-long FedExCup competition in the process.

With the win at Augusta National, Spieth (21 years, 8 months, 16 days at the time) added his name to several records, including becoming the second-youngest winner of the Green Jacket in the tournament's 79-year history behind Tiger Woods (21 years, 3 months, 14 days) and his 18-under-par 270 total matched Woods' record-setting 1997 performance.

At the U.S. Open in June, Spieth posted a 1-under 69 Sunday to move out of a four-way tie for the 54-hole lead and into the record books, becoming just the sixth player to win the Masters Tournament and U.S. Open in the same season. The victory made Spieth the youngest player to win two career majors since Gene Sarazen in 1922. He also became just the second player since 1940 to win four times on the PGA TOUR before the age of 22.

With his win at the TOUR Championship, Spieth became the youngest winner of the FedExCup and of the TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola at the age of 22 years, 2 months. Spieth became the youngest player since Horton Smith (turned 21 in the middle of the season) in 1929 to win five times in a season.

Spieth's 2014-15 season broke the PGA TOUR record for most money won in a season with \$12,030,465. Vijay Singh (2004) held the previous record with \$10,905,166.

**Rory McIlroy** – In four previous appearances at the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, Rory McIlroy has finishes of 4<sup>th</sup> (2009), 5<sup>th</sup> (2010), T4 (2011) and T6 (2013). His two PGA TOUR victories in 2015 could have easily been overlooked, largely due to an injury that forced him to miss his defense of The Open Championship. McIlroy's play in the World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play was nothing short of inspired. After surviving an early match against Billy Horschel with a desperation birdie putt on the 17th hole, he faced elimination against Jim Furyk in the semifinals. He was 1-down with three to play when he matched Furyk's birdie at 16, birdied 17 to square the match and then eagled the final hole to complete the dramatic comeback. McIlroy's victory in the finals over Gary Woodland seemed almost anticlimactic. The win at the Dell Match Play was Rory's second career World Golf Championships victory along with the 2014 Bridgestone Invitational.

A few weeks later, McIlroy shot a third-round 61 on his way to win the Wells Fargo Championship. An injured ankle kept him from attempting to defend his Open Championship title at St. Andrews as well as the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational.

**Dustin Johnson** – After missing a chance to defend his 2013 HSBC Champions title last year, Dustin Johnson returns to Sheshan International Golf Club looking for a repeat performance after shooting a 24-under par for a three-stroke victory over Ian Poulter. Johnson added a second World Golf Championships victory at the 2015 Cadillac Championship after he and fellow long hitters J.B. Holmes and Bubba Watson finished 1, 2, 3, respectively. Johnson finished the 2014-15 season inside the top 10 (7<sup>th</sup>) in the FedExCup for the fourth time in his career.

**Rickie Fowler** – While the 2014 HSBC Champions provided one of the most exciting finishes of the season for Bubba Watson, Rickie Fowler would likely like to replay the 72<sup>nd</sup> hole in which he needed a birdie to advance to the playoff with Bubba Watson and Tim Clark. Fowler went for the green in two from more than 225 yards away, but his approach just missed reaching the green and found the greenside pond. His ability to finish a tournament, however, was noticeably different later in the year at THE PLAYERS Championship.

For the first time in his PGA TOUR career, Fowler won multiple events during the 2014-15 season. Fowler's first victory of the season came at THE PLAYERS Championship in one of the more memorable finishes in recent history. He finished birdie, eagle, birdie, birdie to shoot a final-round 66 and finish at 12-under-par, earning a spot in the three-hole aggregate playoff with Kevin Kisner and Sergio Garcia. Fowler finished the three-hole

playoff tied with Kisner at 1-under through those three holes with scores of par, birdie, par. With Garcia eliminated (par-par-par), Fowler and Kisner advanced to sudden-death at the 17th hole, where Fowler's tee shot landed 4' 8" from the cup. Kisner's par and Fowler's birdie gave the 26-year-old his second-career PGA TOUR win.

In regulation, Fowler played holes 15, 16, 17 and 18 at TPC Sawgrass in a 5-under-par total of 11 strokes. The four-hole score of 11 set a new low on the final four holes at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course for a single round in tournament history. Fowler also become the first winner on the PGA TOUR to play holes 15-18 in 5-under in the final round of any event since the PGA TOUR began tracking hole-by-hole scores in 1983.

His second win of the year came at the Deutsche Bank Championship, the second event of the FedExCup Playoffs. With the win, Fowler moved to No. 3 in the FedExCup standings and became the fourth player of the season year to win multiple tournaments at age 27 or younger, joining Jordan Spieth, Rory McIlroy and Jason Day. The last time four or more players, all 27 or younger, won multiple TOUR events in one year was 1997: Tiger Woods, David Duval, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els and Justin Leonard.

### **LEE WESTWOOD**

Lee Westwood is playing in his 53<sup>rd</sup> career World Golf Championships event, the most of any player in World Golf Championships history. He remains winless in World Golf Championships events but has several strong performances at the HSBC Champions since it became part of the World Golf Championships series in 2009: T8 (2009), 2 (2010), T13 (2011) and T6 (2012).

### **Most World Golf Championships appearances (Bridgestone Invitational, Dell Match Play, Cadillac Championship and HSBC Champions since it became a World Golf Championships event in 2009)**

Westwood, Lee 53\*

Els, Ernie 48

Garcia, Sergio 47\*

Furyk, Jim 46

Mickelson, Phil 45

Scott, Adam 45\*

Woods, Tiger 44

Poulter, Ian 44\*

*\*includes start this week*

Westwood carded a 61 in round three of the 2012 HSBC Champions, his lowest round in a World Golf Championships event and personal-best in a PGA TOUR or PGA TOUR co-sanctioned event, but shot 72 on Sunday to finish T6.