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2017 U.S. Open Notes

Name: 117th U.S. Open Championship

Dates: June 15-18, 2017

Where: Erin Hills (par 72/7,741 yards); Erin, WI

Field: 156

36-Hole Cut: Low 60 players and ties

Playoff: If necessary, an 18-hole playoff will take place on Monday beginning at 11 a.m.

Defending Champion: Dustin Johnson

Purse: \$12,000,000; **Winner's Share:** \$2,160,000; **Format:** 72-hole stroke play

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Erin Hills history

- Erin Hills will be the first par-72 setup in a U.S. Open since 1992 when Pebble Beach Golf Links hosted and ninth since World War II.
- Erin Hills will be the first course in the state of Wisconsin to host a U.S. Open
- The 2017 U.S. Open will mark the first in the Midwest since 2003 when Olympia Fields, in Illinois hosted.
- Erin Hills is the third course in the last decade to host a U.S. Open for the first time (Torrey Pines/2008/won by Tiger Woods, Chambers Bay/2015/won by Jordan Spieth)
- Erin Hills will host its third USGA championship (2008 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links won by Tiffany Joh, 2011 U.S. Amateur won by Kelly Kraft)

What the 2016 U.S. Open champion will receive

- 10-year U.S. Open exemption
- Five-year exemption to the Masters, Open Championship, PGA Championship and THE PLAYERS
- Five-year exemption on the PGA TOUR (if a member or joins the TOUR)
- 600 FedExCup points (if a member)

Applications for the 2017 U.S. Open

The 2017 U.S. Open generated 9,485 entries, the fifth-highest behind the record 10,127 applicants accepted for the 2014 U.S. Open at Pinehurst No. 2. Applications were received from 50 states, the District of Columbia and 66 foreign countries. Among this year's total are 51 players, including 11 past champions, who are fully exempt into the field. To be eligible, a player must have a handicap not exceeding 1.4, or be a professional.

Qualifying for the 2017 U.S. Open

1. Local qualifying, played over 18 holes at 113 sites in the United States, took place between May 2-18.
2. Sectional qualifying, played over 36 holes, was conducted May 22 (Japan), May 29 (England) and June 5 (at 10 sites in the United States, ranging from New Jersey to California). This will be the 13th year with two international qualifiers, which were established in 2005.

The U.S. Open and the FedExCup

- 600 points will be awarded to the winner of the U.S. Open.
- Six of the 10 winners (including the last four) of the U.S. Open in the FedExCup era have qualified for the season-ending TOUR Championship. Jordan Spieth won the U.S. Open in 2015 and went on to win the FedExCup.
- Seven of the 9 FedExCup champions are in the field: Jim Furyk (2010), Bill Haas (2011), Brandt Snedeker (2012), Henrik Stenson (2013), Billy Horschel (2014), Jordan Spieth (2015), Rory McIlroy (2015).

How Dustin Johnson won the 2016 U.S. Open at Oakmont Country Club

Dustin Johnson entered the final round of the 116th U.S. Open Championship trailing 54-hole leader Shane Lowry by two strokes before a final-round 1-under 69 (which included a one-stroke penalty for his ball moving on the par-4 fifth green) led to a three-stroke victory over Jim Furyk (66), Scott Piercy (69) and Lowry (76). Johnson won his first major and 10th PGA TOUR title in his 193rd start at the age of 31 years, 11 months, 28 days.

More on Dustin Johnson

- FedExCup leader and World No. 1 Dustin Johnson became the first player to follow a runner-up finish at the U.S. Open (2015) with a victory the next season since Tiger Woods (2007-2008).
- With the U.S. Open victory, Johnson won at least one tournament in each of his first nine seasons on the PGA TOUR. By winning the 2017 Genesis Open, the first of three PGA TOUR victories this season, Johnson now has at least one victory in each of his first 10 seasons on TOUR. Other victories this season include the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship and the World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play.
- Johnson recorded the fifth win by an American in the last 13 U.S. Opens: Tiger Woods (2008), Lucas Glover (2009), Webb Simpson (2012), Jordan Spieth (2015), Dustin Johnson (2016).
- Johnson joined Tiger Woods, Ernie Els, Geoff Ogilvy, Rory McIlroy, Justin Rose and Martin Kaymer as players with victories at the U.S. Open and a World Golf Championships event.
- Johnson is seeking to become the first back-to-back winner of the U.S. Open since Curtis Strange (1988-89). Six players have won the U.S. Open in back-to-back years: Curtis Strange (1988-89), Ben Hogan (1950-51), Ralph Guldahl (1937-38), Bobby Jones (1929, 1930) and John McDermott (1911-12). Willie Anderson is the only player to win three straight U.S. Opens (1903-05).
- By winning the Dell Technologies Match Play in Austin, Texas earlier this year, Johnson became the only player to win all four current World Golf Championships events (HSBC Champions, Bridgestone Invitational, Mexico Championship and Dell Technologies Match Play).

Title Defense

- Since 1991, five champions have finished better than 15th in trying to defend their U.S. Open crowns. Tiger Woods tied for sixth in 2009 after capturing his third Open title at Torrey Pines the previous year. Woods also tied for 12th in 2001 after winning his first U.S. Open at Pebble Beach. Retief Goosen tied for 11th in 2005 following his second U.S. Open championship victory, at Shinnecock Hills Golf Club. Graeme McDowell tied for 14th the year after winning the 2010 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach. Justin Rose tied for 12th in 2014 following his victory at Merion Golf Club in 2013. Eight champions missed the cut the next year during this period, including Martin Kaymer in 2015.

A look at the field

- 19 of the top 20 players in the current FedExCup standings, led by No. 1 Dustin Johnson. No. 20 Mackenzie Hughes is not in the field.
- Following the third round of the 2017 Memorial Tournament, Phil Mickelson announced to media that he will likely not be competing in the U.S. Open at Erin Hills, due to a time conflict with the high school graduation of his daughter, Amanda.
- 11 past U.S. Open champions (12 wins): Dustin Johnson (2016), Jordan Spieth (2015), Martin Kaymer (2014), Justin Rose (2013), Webb Simpson (2012), Rory McIlroy (2011), Graeme McDowell (2010), Lucas Glover (2009), Angel Cabrera (2007), Jim Furyk (2003), Ernie Els (1994, 1997).
- 49 of the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking, led by World No. 1 Dustin Johnson. Ryan Moore is not in the field due to a shoulder injury.
- 25 major championship winners, led by five-time winner Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els (4), Rory McIlroy (4), Angel Cabrera (2), Zach Johnson (2), Martin Kaymer (2), Jordan Spieth (2), Bubba Watson (2), Lucas Glover, Dustin Johnson, Graeme McDowell, Justin Rose, Webb Simpson, Sergio Garcia, Adam Scott, Danny Willett, Henrik Stenson, Jason Day, Jason Dufner, Jimmy Walker, Jim Furyk, Charl Schwartzel, Louis Oosthuizen, Keegan Bradley, Stewart Cink.
- 14 amateur participants will compete in the 2017 U.S. Open. In 2015, 16 amateurs were in the field and six advanced to the weekend. Here's a look at the amateurs in the field this year: Brad Dalke, Scott Gregory (England), Maverick McNealy, John Oda, Mason Anderson, Stewart Hagestad, Sahith Theegala, Cameron Champ, Joaquin Nieman (Chile), Alex Smalley, Christopher Crawford, Scott Harvey, Scottie Scheffler, Walker Lee.

2016 FedExCup champion Rory McIlroy

- Rory McIlroy took off more time than he expected after THE PLAYERS Championship to rest a rib injury. McIlroy withdrew from the European Tour's BMW PGA Championship and then the Memorial Tournament on the PGA TOUR and has not competed for more than a month.

- McIlroy makes his ninth appearance at the U.S. Open. His win in 2011 is one of three top-10 finishes in the championship (1-2011, T9-2015, T10-2009).
- McIlroy owns four major championship titles amongst the 15 top-10 finishes he's recorded in 33 major championship appearances.
- McIlroy is a 13-time PGA TOUR winner but has yet to post a victory in six starts this season. He sits 68th in the FedExCup standings.

Jason Day

- Has finished inside the top 10 in 13 of 25 major championship appearances.
- Owns five top-10 finishes in six U.S. Open starts: 2nd-2011, T59-2012, T2-2013, T4-2014, T9-2015, T8-2016.
- Hoping to join U.S. Open champions from Australia: David Graham (1981) and Geoff Ogilvy (2006).
- Owns 10 PGA TOUR victories: 2010 AT&T Byron Nelson, 2014 World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play, 2015 Farmers Insurance Open, 2015 RBC Canadian Open, 2015 PGA Championship, 2015 The Barclays, 2015 BMW Championship, 2016 Arnold Palmer Invitational, 2016 World Golf Championships-Dell Match Play, 2016 THE PLAYERS.

Hideki Matsuyama

- After the close of the 2015-16 PGA TOUR season, Matsuyama won five of 10 worldwide starts, including the World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions and the Waste Management Phoenix Open in a four-hole playoff over Webb Simpson. Matsuyama also claimed the Japan Golf Open and the VISA Taiheyo Masters in his home country and beat a small-but-stellar field in the Bahamas to capture the Hero World Challenge. During this period he also finished runner-up at the CIMB Classic and the SBS Tournament of Champions.
- Matsuyama has been at the top, or near the top, of the FedExCup standings this season and currently lies third behind leader Dustin Johnson and No. 2 Justin Thomas.
- Matsuyama makes his fifth appearance at the U.S. Open, with a T10 in his first start in 2013 his best result.
- Matsuyama owns at least one top-10 result in each of the four major championships (T4-2016 PGA, 5-2015 Masters, T6-2013 The Open, T7-2016 Masters, T10-2013 U.S. Open).

2015 FedExCup champion Jordan Spieth

- The 2015 FedExCup champion is fifth in the current FedExCup standings.
- Recorded 72-hole total of 5-under 275 at the 2015 U.S. Open for a one-stroke victory over Dustin Johnson and Louis Oosthuizen.
- The 2015 U.S. Open was Spieth's fourth TOUR title, coming in his 75th start at age of 21 years, 10 months and 25 days. Went on to become the youngest winner of the FedExCup and TOUR Championship (22 years, 2 months). He now owns nine PGA TOUR victories: 2013 John Deere Classic, 2015 Valparaiso Championship, 2015 Masters Tournament, 2015 U.S. Open, 2015 John Deere Classic, 2015 TOUR Championship by Coca-Cola, 2016 Hyundai Tournament of Champions, 2016 DEAN & DELUCA Invitational, 2017 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.
- Spieth is the last player to win two majors in one year (2015 Masters, U.S. Open). Overall, he was the 19th player to win two majors in a season, with that group performing the feat 32 times.
- Spieth will make his sixth U.S. Open appearance (T21-2012, MC-2013, T17-2014, Won-2015, T37-2016).

Sergio Garcia

- Appeared in first U.S. Open in 2000 and makes his 18th consecutive U.S. Open start, with T5 last year one of five top-10 results. Best finish was T3 in 2005 but followed with his only two missed cuts in the event in 2006 and 2007.
- Attempting to become the fourth player to win two majors in the same year since 2008: Jordan Spieth (2015 Masters Tournament and U.S. Open), Rory McIlroy (2014 Open Championship and PGA Championship), Pádraig Harrington (2008 British Open and PGA Championship).
- Attempting to become the 17th player to win the Masters and U.S. Open during their careers, with six players performing the feat in the same season (designated with an *):

Gene Sarazen	1922, 1932 U.S. Open; 1935 Masters
Byron Nelson	1939 U.S. Open; 1937, 1942 Masters
Ralph Guldahl	1937, 1938 U.S. Open; 1939 Masters
*Craig Wood	1941 U.S. Open; 1941 Masters
*Ben Hogan	1948, 1950, 1951, 1953 U.S. Open; 1951, 1953 Masters
Cary Middlecoff	1949, 1956 U.S. Open; 1955 Masters
*Arnold Palmer	1960 U.S. Open; 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964 Masters
Billy Casper	1959, 1966 U.S. Open; 1970 Masters
*Jack Nicklaus	1962, 1967, 1972, 1980 U.S. Open; 1963, 1965, 1966, 1972, 1975, 1986 Masters
Gary Player	1965 U.S. Open; 1961, 1974, 1978 Masters
Tom Watson	1982 U.S. Open; 1977, 1981 Masters
Fuzzy Zoeller	1984 U.S. Open; 1979 Masters

Raymond Floyd	1986 U.S. Open; 1976 Masters
*Tiger Woods	2000, 2002, 2008 U.S. Open; 1997, 2001, 2002, 2005 Masters
Angel Cabrera	2007 U.S. Open; 2009 Masters
*Jordan Spieth	2015 Masters, 2015 U.S. Open

Steve Stricker

- After the United States Golf Association denied his request for a special exemption into the U.S. Open, Steve Stricker, 50, of Madison, Wisc., shot rounds of 67-65 to win a sectional qualifier in Memphis, Tenn., and earn his spot in the field at Erin Hills.
- Stricker, a 12-time winner on the PGA TOUR and the 2017 Presidents Cup U.S. Team captain, will be making his 20th appearance in the U.S. Open. He finished fifth in both 1998 and '99.

Jordan Niebrugge

- Jordan Niebrugge qualified for the 2017 U. S. Open at the Tacoma, Wash., sectional with rounds of 73-67 and will be making his U.S. Open debut.
- Niebrugge is an Oklahoma State product and Missouri native who resides in Mequon, Wisconsin.
- Missed the cut in his professional debut at the 2016 Quicken Loans National after three starts on TOUR as an amateur and failed to make a cut in six additional starts on TOUR this season. He missed the cut at the 2014 Masters after qualifying as the 2013 U.S. Amateur Public Links champion at Erin Hills. Later that season he was T27 at the John Deere Classic while playing on an invitation. In 2015, he finished T6 at The Open Championship at St. Andrews and was the leading amateur. He missed the cut at The Open in 2016 at Troon.
- At 23, he is just eight days younger than Jordan Spieth.
- Niebrugge's wins in the Wisconsin Match Play Championship, the Wisconsin State Amateur, the Wisconsin State Open and the WIAA High School Championship joins him with PGA TOUR winner Mark Wilson as the only players to win all four events of the "Wisconsin Slam".
- As a senior at OSU, Niebrugge finished second in the Erin Hills Intercollegiate, a tournament hosted by Marquette University.
- Earlier this month, Niebrugge finished T2 at the Freedom 55 Financial Open on the Mackenzie Tour-PGA TOUR Canada.

Additional player notes

- The last three players to win major championships at courses hosting major championships for the first time are – Jordan Spieth/2015 U.S. Open/Chambers Bay, Rory McIlroy/2012 PGA Championship/Kiawah Island, Tiger Woods/2008 U.S. Open/Torrey Pines.
- The last six major champions are first time winners of major championships (Sergio Garcia/2017 Masters, Jimmy Walker/2016 PGA, Henrik Stenson/2016 The Open, Dustin Johnson/2016/U.S. Open, Danny Willet/2016 Masters, Jason Day/2015 PGA).
- Ernie Els will make his 25th consecutive appearance at the U.S. Open in 2017, with wins in 1994 and 1997 among his 10 top 10s. He is seeking to become the seventh player with at least three U.S. Open wins (4 – Willie Anderson, Robert Trent Jones, Jr., Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus; 3 – Hale Irwin, Tiger Woods).
- Gene Sauers, 54, won the 2016 U.S. Senior Open in Ohio to earn a spot in this week's field. Sauers was runner-up to Colin Montgomerie after losing a three-hole playoff at the 2014 U.S. Senior Open. The three-time PGA TOUR winner from Savannah, Ga., returned to golf in 2012 after being given only a 25-percent chance of survival after recovering from a rare, painful skin condition (Stevens-Johnson syndrome) contracted in 2006.
- 18 players who competed in the 2011 U.S. Amateur (results) are in this week's U.S. Open field: Byeong-Hun An (WD), Christopher Crawford (FQ), Bryson DeChambeau (Rd. 32), Kevin Dougherty (Rd. 64), Harris English (Rd. 32), Emiliano Grillo (FQ), Stewart Hagestad (FQ), Russell Henley (Rd. 32), Stephan Jaeger (Rd. 32), Brooks Koepka (FQ), Ben Kohles (FQ), Daniel Miernicki (FQ), Cheng-Tsung Pan (FQ), Jonathan Randolph (Rd. 64), Scottie Scheffler (FQ), Justin Spieth (Q-Final), Justin Thomas (Rd. 32) and Peter Uihlein (Q-Final).

Phil Mickelson most likely absent from the U.S. Open

- Following the third round of the 2017 Memorial Tournament, Phil Mickelson announced to media that he will likely not be competing in the U.S. Open at Erin Hills, due to a time conflict with the high school graduation of his daughter, Amanda.
- Mickelson has a record six runner-up finishes in 25 previous U.S. Open appearances (1999, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2009, 2013), the most by any player. Players with four runner-up finishes: Bobby Jones, Sam Snead, Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus.
- The only player with more runner-up finishes in a single major is Jack Nicklaus (7-The Open Championship).

Miscellaneous U.S. Open notes

- Oldest winner is Hale Irwin, 1990 (45 years, 15 days)
- Youngest winner is John J. McDermott, 1911 (19 years, 10 months, 14 days)
- Amateur winners: Francis Ouimet (1913), Jerome D. Travers (1915), Charles Evans Jr. (1916), Robert T. Jones Jr. (1923, 1926, 1929, 1930), John Goodman (1933)
- Wins: 4 – Willie Anderson, Robert T. Jones Jr., Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus; 3 – Hale Irwin, Tiger Woods
- Wire-to-wire wins (no ties): Walter Hagen (1914), James Barnes (1921), Ben Hogan (1953), Tony Jacklin (1970), Tiger Woods (2000, 2002), Rory McIlroy (2011), Martin Kaymer (2014).
- Winner in debut appearance: Horace Rawlins (1895), Fred Herd (1898), Harry Vardon (1900), George Sargent (1909), a-Francis Ouimet (1913)
- Lowest score (72 holes): 268, Rory McIlroy (2011)
- Lowest score (18 holes): 63 (Johnny Miller/R4/Oakmont/1973; Tom Weiskopf /R1/Baltusrol/1980; Jack Nicklaus/R1/Baltusrol/1980; Vijay Singh/R2/Olympia Fields/2003).
- Most strokes under par (72 holes): 16, Rory McIlroy (2011)
- Number of times a leader/co-leader has gone on to win: after 18 holes (21), after 36 (41), after 54 (51).
- Number of playoffs: 33 (in 115 championships)
- Number of aces: 44 (most recently, Zach Johnson in 2014/R4).

The Last Time it happened at the U.S. Open

- Last foreign winner – Martin Kaymer in 2014
- Last to defend title successfully – Curtis Strange in 1989
- Last winner who won the Open on his first attempt – Francis Ouimet in 1913
- Last winner to win the Open on his second attempt – Webb Simpson in 2012 (finished T14 in 2011)
- Last start-to-finish winner with no ties – Martin Kaymer in 2014
- Last winner to birdie the 72nd hole and win by one stroke – Jordan Spieth in 2015
- Last winner to birdie the 72nd hole – Dustin Johnson in 2016
- Last winner to birdie the 72nd hole to force a playoff – Tiger Woods in 2008
- Last winner without a round in the 60s – Dustin Johnson in 2016
- Last winner without a sub-par round – Geoff Ogilvy in 2006
- Last winner with all rounds in the 60s – Rory McIlroy in 2011
- Last winner between ages 20-29 – Jordan Spieth was 21 in 2015
- Last winner between ages 30-39 – Dustin Johnson was 31 in 2016
- Last winner over age 40 – Payne Stewart was 42 in 1999
- Last winner after receiving a special exemption – Hale Irwin in 1990
- Last winner to come through sectional qualifying – Lucas Glover in 2009
- Last winner to come through local and sectional qualifying – Orville Moody in 1969
- Last defending champion to miss the cut – Martin Kaymer in 2015
- Last amateur to win the Open – John Goodman in 1933

Miscellaneous Amateur Notes at the U.S. Open

- The U.S. Open has had eight amateur winners (5 players): Francis Ouimet (1913), Jerome D. Travers (1915), Charles Evans Jr. (1916), Robert T. Jones Jr. (1923, 1926, 1929, 1930), John Goodman (1933).
- The last amateur to finish inside the top 15 was Spencer Levin (T13) in 2004 at Shinnecock Hills.
- Most top-10 finishes by an amateur at the U.S. Open: 10 (Robert T. Jones, Jr.)
- Most times low amateur: 9 (Robert T. Jones, Jr.)
- Lowest 18-hole score by an amateur: 65 (James McHale/1947, James Simons/1971, Nick Taylor/2009).
- Low 72-hole score by an amateur: 282 (Jack Nicklaus/1960)

About Erin Hills

Located 35 miles northwest of downtown Milwaukee and 110 miles from Chicago's O'Hare Airport, Erin Hills occupies a stunning swath of rolling land left by the collision of receding lobes of the Green Bay and Lake Michigan glaciers 20,000 years ago. Designed by the team of Dr. Michael Hurdzan, Dana Fry and Ron Whitten, the course opened in 2006. The 652-acre property features bent-grass tees and greens and fine fescues covering the fairways and rough. The average green size is 6,650 square feet with No. 2 being the smallest (3,800 square feet) and No. 7 being the largest (10,900 square feet). The course record (66) is shared by Ben Geyer and Mike Ignasiak, set during stroke play portion of 2011 U.S. Amateur. The course previously hosted two USGA Championships – the 2008 U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links (won by Tiffany Joh) and the 2011 U.S. Amateur Championship (won by Kelly Kraft). Golf Digest ranked Erin Hills No. 8 among America's great Public Courses and No. 42 among America's 100 Greatest Courses overall.

Future U.S. Open venues

- June 14-17, 2018 – Shinnecock Hills Golf Club, Southampton, N.Y.
- June 13-16, 2019 – Pebble Beach Golf Links, Pebble Beach, Calif.
- June 18-21, 2020 – Winged Foot Golf club, Mamaroneck, N.Y.

- June 17-20, 2021 – Torrey Pines Golf Course, San Diego, Calif.
- June 16-19, 2022 – The Country Club, Brookline, Mass.
- June 15-18, 2023 – Los Angeles Country Club, Los Angeles, Calif.
- June 13-16, 2024 – Pinehurst Resort & Country Club, Village of Pinehurst, N.C.