



On-site PGA TOUR media contacts:

Chuah Choo Chiang, Senior Director, Communications, PGA TOUR, Tel : 012-217 2123, chuahchoochiang@pgatourintl.com.my

Alex Urban, Manager, Communications, PGA TOUR, Tel: +904-273-3577, alexurban@pgatourhq.com

Chris Reimer, Director, Communications, PGA TOUR, 904-806-6614, creimer@pgatourhq.com

Lynn Guha Thakurta Vice President, Group Corporate Communications, Group CEO's Office, CIMB Group, +6012-299 0931, lynn.thakurta@cimb.com

Doyle De Costa, Communications Senior Manager, Asian Tour, Tel: +603 7880 3714/3715, doyle.decosta@asiantour.com

2017 CIMB Classic Pre-Tournament Notes

Pre-tournament Interviews

Tuesday, Oct. 10

1:30 p.m.	Li Haotong
2 p.m.	Danny Chia
2:30 p.m.	Nicholas Fung
TBD afternoon	Hideki Matsuyama
TBD in afternoon	Anirban Lahiri

Wednesday, Oct. 11

TBD morning	Thomas Pieters
TBD morning	Davis Love III
TBD morning	Gavin Green
After morning Pro-Am	Justin Thomas
After morning Pro-Am	Xander Schauffele

TBC

Paul Casey

Dates: October 9-15, 2017 (part of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season)

Where: TPC Kuala Lumpur, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Par/Yards: 36-36--72/7,005 yards

Field: 78 players

Eligibility: Eligible players for the 78-player field are:

- The top 60 available players from the 2016-17 final FedExCup Points list, to a floor of 125th position.
- The top 10 available money leaders from the Asian Tour Order of Merit as of October 9, 2017.
- Eight sponsor exemptions: One designated for the defending champion, if needed, and five restricted to players who are PGA TOUR members. Two (2) Malaysians will qualify – one (1) via the CIMB National Championship held July 25-28 at TPC Kuala Lumpur and one (1) via the Official World Golf Rankings to the highest ranking Malaysian as of October 2, 2017.
- If necessary to fill the field to 78 players, additional players from 2016-2017 final FedExCup Points list in order of their final position. If necessary to fill the field to 78 players, those players in order of priority under Section III-A of the Tournament Regulations, except that the following shall not be eligible:
 - Open Qualifying
 - Past Champion of respective event
 - Top 10 from Previous Tournament

Withdrawals will be replaced by the highest-ranking alternate on the PGA TOUR alternate list until the groupings are posted on site Tuesday of tournament week (usually noon local time). After this time, if a member of the PGA TOUR alternate list is on site or in route he will retain his alternate position provided he has confirmed arrival information with PGA TOUR Competitions. Following any PGA TOUR alternates will be the next available player from the Asian Tour Order of Merit.

2016 champion: Justin Thomas

Purse: \$7,000,000/\$1,260,000 (winner)

FedExCup: 500 points (winner)

Format: 72-hole stroke play (not cut)

Website: cimbclassic.com

Facebook: facebook.com/CIMBClassic
Twitter: @CIMBClassic

CIMB Classic and the FedExCup

CIMB Classic is a 72-hole stroke play event combining players from three official sanctioning bodies – the PGA TOUR, the Asian Tour and the Professional Golf Association of Malaysia (PGAM). The tournament, in its eighth year, brings together top players from the PGA TOUR's FedExCup standings, top players from the Asian Tour Order of Merit and top players from Malaysia. The tournament is held at TPC Kuala Lumpur and is the only official FedExCup event on the PGA TOUR to be held in Southeast Asia with PGA TOUR members receiving official FedExCup points as part of the 2017-2018 PGA TOUR season. This is the fifth year that FedExCup points will be awarded at the event.

The CIMB Classic is the second event of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR season and is part of eight events during the fall of 2017, all of which will award FedExCup points. After a seven-week break, the season will resume in January with the traditional swing through Hawaii before moving to the West Coast. The FedExCup Playoffs once again features four events and concludes in September with the TOUR Championship and the crowning of the FedExCup champion.

In addition to 500 FedExCup points and a two-year PGA TOUR exemption, the winner this week (if not previously eligible) receives invitations to the 2018 Sentry Tournament of Champions, a winners-only event in January, along with two major championships (Masters Tournament and PGA Championship) and THE PLAYERS Championship. The player would also earn exemptions into six additional invitational events on the PGA TOUR.

Every week is significant in the race for the FedExCup – three of the seven winners from the fall calendar of 2016 (Justin Thomas, Hideki Matsuyama and Pat Perez) qualified for the TOUR Championship. The other four winners advanced through at least the second of four Playoffs events (Brendan Steele, Cody Gribble, Rod Pampling and Mackenzie Hughes).

Earlier this year in May, FedEx extended its contract as sponsor of the FedExCup by 10 years through 2027.

A look at the 2016 CIMB Classic

Trailing by four strokes beginning the final round, Justin Thomas birdied six of his first 10 holes en route to a bogey-free, 8-under 64 to successfully defend his title by three strokes over Hideki Matsuyama and claim his second career PGA TOUR victory in his 71st TOUR start at the age of 23 years, 5 months, 24 days.

More on Justin Thomas

With his win in 2016, Thomas joined Ryan Moore (2013-14) as players to successfully defend their CIMB Classic titles – Thomas will look to make it three in a row in 2017. On his way to victory in 2015, the first of his PGA TOUR career, Thomas set the tournament-record low for 72-hole score (26-under-par). He also owns the course record at TPC Kuala Lumpur, a 61 shot in the second round of his 2015 victory.

Thomas' 2016-17 season was a breakout year, recording one of the best seasons in recent PGA TOUR history. Along with his win at the CIMB Classic, he won back-to-back events in Hawaii at the Sentry Tournament of Champions and the Sony Open in Hawaii. Thomas' 59 in the opening round of the Sony Open made him the youngest of seven players (eight times) to record a sub-60 round on the PGA TOUR (23 years, 9 months, 14 days). His four-day total of 253 also set a new PGA TOUR record.

Thomas' season got even better in the late summer and early fall, as he won his first major championship at the PGA Championship at Quail Hollow. Thomas was never worse than fourth in the FedExCup standings following a T8 finish at the season-opening Safeway Open. In the FedExCup Playoffs, Thomas was able win the Dell Technologies Championship and entered the TOUR Championship at No. 2 in the standings. With a runner-up finish at the TOUR Championship, Thomas was able to cap off his season with the FedExCup, the fifth winner under the age of 30. Thomas joined Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and Jordan Spieth as the only players to win five times in a season, including a major, before the age of 25.

Thomas made his debut on the U.S. Presidents Cup Team at Liberty National Golf Club, where he recorded a 3-1-1 record in a victorious effort for the U.S. Team.

With his historic season, Thomas was named 2016-17 PGA TOUR Player of the Year. He is currently the No. 4 player in the Official World Golf Ranking and is making his PGA TOUR season debut.

Notables in the Field

Hideki Matsuyama

- Hideki Matsuyama of Japan is making his fifth straight start at the CIMB Classic this year.
- He has won six times in the last 12 months on the global stage, including two World Golf Championships tournaments, as well as posting two top-5 finishes in the U.S. Open and PGA Championship last season.
- Matsuyama also captured the Waste Management Phoenix Open last season, successfully defending his title – his strong play throughout the season made him the leader of the FedExCup standings entering the playoffs.
- At No. 3 in the Official World Golf Ranking, Matsuyama is the highest-ranked player in the field.
- He has a good record in this event, finishing runner-up to Justin Thomas last year and T5 in 2015.
- Matsuyama made his third appearance for the International Presidents Cup Team last month at Liberty National Golf Club, where the team was defeated by the U.S. Team.

Paul Casey

- Englishman Paul Casey capped off a second-straight outstanding season, finishing 11th in the final FedExCup standings on the strength of nine top-10s and 17 top-25s, against just one missed cut.
- Despite only one PGA TOUR win on his resume at the 2009 Shell Houston Open, Casey has amassed 48 top 10s in 219 career starts.
- Casey is ranked 14th in the Official World Golf Ranking, the third-highest ranked player in the field.
- Casey is making his fourth straight start in the CIMB Classic, his T21 finish last year his best showing.

Emiliano Grillo

- The Argentinian was the 2016 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year.
- Emiliano Grillo, now 25, was the third member of the famed high school class of 2011 to earn PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year honors, joining Jordan Spieth (2013) and Daniel Berger (2015). He is the second Argentinian to be named PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year along with Andres Romero (2008). Xander Schauffele joins this group as the 2016-17 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year.
- Grillo defeated Kevin Na in a playoff at the 2015 Safeway Open, becoming the first player to win in his first start as an official PGA TOUR member since Russell Henley at the 2013 Sony Open in Hawaii.
- He finished tied for eighth at the Men's Olympic Golf Competition in Rio in 2016.
- Grillo made his debut for the International Team at the Presidents Cup at Liberty National Golf Club last month.
- This is Grillo's second appearance in the CIMB Classic; he finished T17 last year.

Si Woo Kim

- Si Woo Kim is a two-time winner on the PGA TOUR, capturing the 2016 Wyndham Championship and THE PLAYERS Championship in 2017, the PGA TOUR's flagship event.
- In his win at THE PLAYERS, Kim fired a bogey-free, final round 69, the first player to shoot a bogey-free final round to win THE PLAYERS since Tim Clark in 2010. At the age of 21 years, 10 months and 16 days, Kim also became the youngest winner of THE PLAYERS.
- Two seasons ago, Kim was one of two PGA TOUR rookies to qualify for the season-ending TOUR championship.
- Kim is the first Asian player in PGA TOUR history to win twice before the age of 22.
- He is making his second start at the CIMB Classic, and he recorded a T10 finish last year in his debut.
- Kim made his first appearance for the International Team at the Presidents Cup last month at Liberty National Golf Club.

Li Haotong

- Chinese player Li Haotong is making his first start in the CIMB Classic.
- His best finish on the PGA TOUR came this past season at The Open Championship at Royal Birkdale, where he finished third with a closing 63.
- Haotong has two international victories, most recently at the Volvo China Open on the European Tour.

Davis Love III

- 21-time PGA TOUR winner Davis Love III will be making his second start in the CIMB Classic, having finished T8 in his only previous appearance in 2014.
- Love was inducted into the World Golf Hall of Fame at a ceremony during last month's Presidents Cup, where he was a Captain's Assistant for the victorious U.S. Team.
- Love is one of only six players to have multiple wins in THE PLAYERS Championship, winning the PGA TOUR's flagship event in 1992 and 2003.
- His 21 wins also includes the 1997 PGA Championship.

- Love won the Wyndham Championship in 2015 at the age of 51, making him the third-oldest winner in PGA TOUR history.

Xander Schauffele

- American Xander Schauffele had an incredible rookie season, becoming the first rookie to win the TOUR Championship on his way to being named the 2016-17 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year.
- Schauffele's mother is Taiwanese, and he also captured The Greenbrier Classic for his first PGA TOUR win.
- This will be Schauffele's debut at the CIMB Classic.

Anirban Lahiri

- Anirban Lahiri won the 2015 Malaysian Open at TPC Kuala Lumpur, and held a four-shot lead heading into the final round of the 2016 CIMB Classic, a tournament record, before eventually finishing T3.
- A seven-time Asian Tour winner and now full member on the PGA TOUR, Lahiri will make his sixth appearance at the CIMB Classic.
- Lahiri, from India, made his second start in last month's Presidents Cup as a Captain's pick for the International Team.
- Finished 51st in the FedExCup in his second season on the PGA TOUR last season, his best finish to date.

Asian Tour – Top-10

The leading 10 available players from the Asian Tour Order of Merit as of October 9 qualified for the CIMB Classic. They include Gavin Green (Mas), Scott Hend (Aus), David Lipsky (USA), SSP Chawrasia (Ind), Poom Saksansin (Tha), Phachara Khongwatmai (Tha), Jazz Janewattananond (Tha), Prayad Marksaeng (Tha), Juvic Pagunsan (Phi), Richard T. Lee (Can).

A broader look at the field

- The CIMB Classic will feature eight players that competed in last month's Presidents Cup at Liberty National Golf Club just outside of Manhattan. Thomas is the lone player on the U.S. side, while International Team Members Branden Grace, Charl Schwartzel of South Africa, Emiliano Grillo of Argentina, Canada's Adam Hadwin, South Korea's Si Woo Kim, Anirban Lahiri of India and Venezuela's Jhonattan Vegas will also star in the event.
- The CIMB Classic will feature four players in the top 20 of the Official World Golf Ranking, (Hideki Matsuyama/3, Justin Thomas/4, Paul Casey/14, Rafa Cabrera Bello/19). It will be the first time that two players from the top-5 will feature in the tournament.
- This year's field features five of the top 15 in last year's FedExCup standings (Justin Thomas/1, Xander Schauffele/3, Hideki Matsuyama/8, Paul Casey/11, Pat Perez/15).
- There are a combined 120 PGA TOUR victories by players in the field this week, Davis Love III, who leads the way with 21 career wins.
- Brendan Steele will arrive at the CIMB Classic on the back of another win for the second straight year after he became the first repeat winner of the Safeway Open on Sunday with a 72-hole winning score of 15-under 273 at Silverado Resort & Spa. This will be Steele's fifth appearance at the CIMB Classic. He finished T26 last year and T3 in 2015.

TPC Kuala Lumpur

In 2016, TPC Kuala Lumpur marked a milestone in the club's history with its successful acquisition of the licensing rights as Southeast Asia's first golf facility to join the PGA TOUR's prestigious Tournament Players Club (TPC) Network. TPC Kuala Lumpur joins the highly acclaimed network of golf courses affiliated with the PGA TOUR, most of which are based in the United States. As home of the CIMB Classic, TPC Kuala Lumpur will also hold the distinction of being Southeast Asia's first TPC-branded facility to ever host an official PGA TOUR event.

Additional 2016-17 PGA TOUR season notes

- The top-3 finishers in the FedExCup last season were all members of the high school class of 2011: Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth, and Xander Schauffele. The 2011 class accounted for a total of 11 PGA TOUR wins between the three players and Daniel Berger, who won the FedEx St. Jude Classic.
- With his win at the TOUR Championship, Xander Schauffele became the first rookie to win the TOUR Championship as a FedExCup Playoffs event. Schauffele was one of only two rookies (Patrick Cantlay) at the TOUR Championship and one of only 11 rookies since the inception of the FedExCup in 2007 to qualify for the tournament.
- Six players won multiple events in 2016-17: Justin Thomas (5), Dustin Johnson (4), Jordan Spieth (3), Hideki Matsuyama (3), Marc Leishman (2) and Xander Schauffele (2).

- Jordan Spieth, a three-time winner in 2016-17 and an 11-time PGA TOUR winner, and Tiger Woods are the only players in the modern era with 10 or more PGA TOUR wins before the age of 24. Woods had 15 before he turned 24.
- In the 2016-17 season, 28 of the 47 PGA TOUR events were won by players in their 20s Just five seasons ago, that number was just 11.
- Five rookies claimed victory in 2016-17: Cody Gribble/Sanderson Farms Championship, Mackenzie Hughes/The RSM Classic, Wesley Bryan/RBC Heritage, Grayson Murray/Barbasol and Xander Schauffele (The Greenbrier Classic and TOUR Championship). Bryan was one of three players to win on the PGA TOUR the season after earning Web.com Tour Player of the Year honors, joining Stewart Cink (1997) and Zach Johnson (2004).
- With 10 straight seasons of having collected at least one PGA TOUR title, Dustin Johnson owns the longest active streak of seasons with a TOUR victory.