



## 2018 Farmers Insurance Open

(The 12<sup>th</sup> of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

**San Diego, Calif.**                      **Jan. 25-28, 2018**                      **Purse: \$6,900,000 (\$1,242,000 to the winner)**  
**Torrey Pines Golf Course**                      **500 FedExCup points to winner**  
**South Course (Host)**                      **Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,698**  
**North Course**                      **Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,258**

### First-Round Notes – Thursday, January 25, 2018

**Weather:** Mostly Cloudy. High of 60. Winds W 10-15 mph.

#### First-Round Leaderboard

Tony Finau	65 (-7) NC
Ted Potter Jr.	66 (-6) SC
Ryan Palmer	66 (-6) SC
Jon Rahm	68 (-4) SC
Patrick Reed	68 (-4) SC
Hunter Mahan	68 (-4) SC
Eight Others	68 (-4)

#### Tony Finau

Finau finished T4 at last year's Farmers Insurance Open. It was one of eight top-10s on the season, and he advanced to the TOUR Championship before finishing 19th in the FedExCup.

This is the third time he has been a first-round leader/co-leader, and the first time he has held the solo lead. The two previous occasions came at the 2014 OHL Classic at Mayakoba (finished T7) and the 2015 Barclays (finished T16).

He has three top-25 finishes in five starts this season, with his best being a runner-up finish at the Safeway Open. He is currently 12th in the FedExCup.

#### First-round Lead Notes

The last seven winners played the South Course in the first round. Ben Crane in 2010 was the last player to start on the North Course and win the Farmers Insurance Open.

The last four winners have shot 72 or higher in the first round. Tiger Woods (2013) is the last player to open with a sub-70 round and go on to win.

- 2017 – Jon Rahm (72)
- 2016 – Brandt Snedeker (73)
- 2015 – Jason Day (73)
- 2014 – Scott Stallings (72)
- 2013 – Tiger Woods (68)

Through 11 events in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, five players have converted an 18-hole lead into victory, including Jon Rahm at last week's CareerBuilder Challenge.

George Burns in 1987 is the last first-round leader/co-leader to go on to win the Farmers Insurance Open.

#### Ted Potter Jr.

This is his second start at the Farmers Insurance Open. He missed the cut (74-73) in his only other appearance in 2012.

He secured his PGA TOUR card for the 2017-18 season with a 14th-place finish on the 2017 Web.com Tour Regular Season money list. He finished the Web.com Tour season with 22 starts, two runner-ups and 15 cuts made.

## **Ryan Palmer**

In his first start at the Farmers Insurance Open since 2010, Palmer carded one of five bogey-free rounds Thursday and is T2 after shooting 66 on the South Course. This is his best first-round position since he shared the lead after the first round of the 2015 FedEx St. Jude Classic.

He began the 2017-18 season on a Major Medical Extension, with six events available to earn the necessary 29 points to equal No. 125 J.J. Henry's 365-point total from the 2017 FedExCup points list. In his second start of the season last week at the CareerBuilder Challenge, he finished T20 and earned 37.55 points, so he has retained full eligibility through the end of the season.

## **Jon Rahm**

Defending champion Jon Rahm is T4 after shooting a 4-under 68 on the South Course. Last year, he was T77 after opening with an even-par 72 on the South Course.

Since the start of the 2017 FedExCup Playoffs, Rahm has six top-10s in his last seven starts.

Should Rahm go on to win, he would be the first player to successfully defend a PGA TOUR title since Brendan Steele won the 2016 and 2017 Safeway Open. The last player to win consecutive Farmers Insurance Opens was Tiger Woods (2005-2008).

With a win this week, he would supplant Dustin Johnson as the No. 1-ranked player in the Official World Golf Ranking.

## **Tiger Woods**

Woods opened with an even-par 72 on the South Course and is T84. He hit a 6-iron to 8 inches on the 188-yard 16th for his third and final birdie of the day.

At last year's Farmers Insurance Open, he carded rounds of 76-72 and missed the cut. It was his only official start of the 2016-2017 season.

The seven-time winner of the Farmers Insurance Open has failed to break par in his last four rounds at this tournament. In his first 53 rounds, he recorded 44 rounds under-par.

His total distance of made putts was 34' 11" in round one, marking his fourth-lowest total in a round on TOUR in the ShotLink era (2003). The field average was 74' 1".

### **First-Round Stats**

- 8 of 14 fairways
- 12 of 18 greens in regulation
- 22 putts on 12 GIR (31 putts total)
- 3 of 6 scrambling

### **Additional Player Notes**

Xander Schauffele, the reigning Rookie of the Year, is T35 after shooting a 2-under 70 on the North Course. Last year, he shot 74-74 and missed the cut in his debut at the Farmers Insurance Open. He went on to win twice, including the season-ending TOUR Championship, and finished third in the FedExCup.

Hunter Mahan, playing as a sponsor's exemption, opened with a 68 on the South Course and is T4. He has shot an under-par first round in five of seven starts in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season. In the 2016-17 season, he shot an under-par first round in just eight of 26 starts. This is his 14th start at the Farmers Insurance Open, and his best finishes were when he tied for sixth in 2011 and 2012.

Francesco Molinari carded a 4-under 68 on the South Course and is T4. It was his fifth consecutive round under-par at this tournament, as he was one of five players to card four rounds under-par in 2017 (7-under/T14).

Julian Suri is part of the 11-way tie for fourth after shooting a 4-under 68 on the South Course. Despite playing only a partial European Tour season in 2017, the 26-year-old won the Made In Denmark tournament and finished 52nd in the Road to Dubai. His only other PGA TOUR appearance was a MC at The Open Championship in 2017.

Ben Crane (neck), winner of the 2010 Farmers Insurance Open, withdrew before the first round. His spot was filled by Ricky Barnes, who shot 74 on the South Course.

Seven past champions are in the field:

<b>Player</b>	<b>R1 Score</b>	<b>Course</b>	<b>Position</b>
Jon Rahm	68 (-4)	South	T4
Brandt Snedeker	72 (E)	South	T84
Jason Day	73 (+1)	South	T113
Scott Stallings	75 (+3)	South	T142
Tiger Woods	72 (E)	South	T84
Nick Watney	69 (-3)	South	T15
Phil Mickelson	70 (-2)	North	T35

**Scoring Averages: R1**

North Course 71.308 (The first-round scoring average for the North Course in 2017 was 70.756)  
South Course 71.615

**Hardest/Easiest Holes**

Hardest (South) – Par-4, No. 12 (4.474)                      Easiest (South) – Par-5, No. 6 (4.462)  
Hardest (North) – Par-4, No. 4 (4.333)                      Easiest (North) – Par-5, No. 17 (4.513)

**Bogey-free rounds:**

R1 – Ryan Palmer (South – 66), Ted Potter Jr. (South – 66), Rory Sabbatini (North – 68), Nick Watney (South – 69), Peter Uihlein (North – 68)

**Notable Tournament Records**

- The largest final round come-from-behind win at the Farmers Insurance Open is eight shots by Scott Simpson in 1998.
- Since 2000, only four players have carried the 54-hole lead on to victory at the Farmers Insurance Open. Phil Mickelson in 2000, Tiger Woods in 2003 and 2008 and John Daly in 2004.
- Dating to 1997, only eight players have recorded all four rounds in the 60s at the Farmers Insurance Open. Most recently, Jhonattan Vegas and Phil Mickelson performed this feat in 2011, which was the first time since 2001 (Frank Lickliter II, Mike Weir, Jay Don Blake and Shigeki Maruyama). The other two players were Billy Ray Brown and Bill Glasson in 1999.