



HOUSTON OPEN

EST. 1946

2018 Houston Open
(The 22nd of 44 events in the PGA TOUR season)

Humble, Texas **March 29 - April 1, 2018**
Golf Club of Houston (Tournament Course)

Purse: \$7,000,000 (\$1,260,000 to the winner)
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,441

Third-Round Notes – Saturday, March 31, 2018

Weather: Mostly sunny. High of 81. Wind SE 8-18 mph.

For the third consecutive day, preferred lies in closely-mown areas was in effect.

54-Hole Cut

75 players made the 54-hole cut at 3-under 213.

Third-Round Leaderboard

Ian Poulter	73-64-65—202 (-14)
Beau Hossler	65-68-69—202 (-14)
Greg Chalmers	67-72-65—204 (-12)
Emiliano Grillo	69-68-67—204 (-12)
Kevin Tway	65-70-69—204 (-12)
Paul Dunne	64-71-69—204 (-12)

Ian Poulter

Ian Poulter shot a bogey-free 7-under 65 to take a share of the 54-hole lead. Poulter, who has played his last 41 holes without a bogey, enters the final round tied at 14-under with Beau Hossler.

Entering this week, Poulter had one score of 65 or better since the start of the 2015-16 season (64/R4/2017 RBC Canadian Open). He has now done it in consecutive rounds (64/R2, 65/R3) after opening the event with a 1-over 73 (T123 after 18 holes).

This is Poulter's third time holding at least a share of the 54-hole lead. He finished T3 on both previous occasions.

Ian Poulter 54-hole leads on the PGA TOUR

Event	54-hole position	Result	R4 score
2015 The Honda Classic	1 st	T3	74 (+4)
2016 Puerto Rico Open	1 st	T3	72 (E)
2018 Houston Open	T1	TBD	TBD

Poulter is a two-time winner on the PGA TOUR (2010 World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play, 2012 WGC-HSBC Champions).

Poulter is making his third start at the Houston Open (MC/2014, T21/2006) and eighth of the season. Poulter advanced to the quarterfinals of last week's WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play before falling to Kevin Kisner.

Beau Hossler

Beau Hossler recorded a third-round 3-under 69 and enters the final round tied for the lead with Ian Poulter. This is the sixth tournament this season which Hossler has opened with three under-par rounds, but he has yet to post four such scores in an event in his career on the PGA TOUR.

Hossler has held at least a share of the 54-hole lead once before on the PGA TOUR (2017 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open). He shot a final-round 73 and finished T7, his best result to date.

This is Hossler's second start at the Houston Open. He finished T39 in 2017 as a sponsor exemption.

Hossler is making his 14th start of the 2017-18 season and is in search of his first career PGA TOUR win in his 26th start.

Third-Round Lead Statistics

Since the Houston Open moved to the Tournament Course in 2006, six third-round leaders/co-leaders have parlayed that position into a win: Jim Herman (2016), Phil Mickelson (2011), Anthony Kim (2010), Paul Casey (2009), Johnson Wagner (2008) and Stuart Appleby (2006).

Through 20 stroke-play events this season, nine third-round leaders/co-leaders have gone on to win. The most recent 54-hole leader to win was Brice Garnett at last week's Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship.

Additional Player Notes

Greg Chalmers (T3) has played his last 204 holes without a three-putt, the longest active streak on the PGA TOUR. His last three-putt came on the fourth hole during the final round of the Genesis Open.

Matt Kuchar has not missed a 36-hole cut since doing so at the 2017 Houston Open, a streak of 25 events over a full year. Kuchar missed the 54-hole cut at THE PLAYERS Championship in 2017.

Phil Mickelson leads the field in Strokes Gained: Putting (2.666). Entering the event, Mickelson ranked second on TOUR in that category (1.082; Jason Day/1.386).

Jordan Spieth hit 16 out of 18 greens in regulation in round three and has hit 46 out of 54 overall, tied for best in the field in both categories.

Keith Mitchell is one of four players tied for most birdies (18) through 54 holes. Mitchell led the field at last week's Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship with 22 birdies en route to a career-best second-place finish.

Rickie Fowler, who entered the third round T2, recorded a 1-over 73 and stands T17 after 54 holes. Fowler had made just two bogeys in his first 41 holes before making a bogey, a double-bogey and a triple-bogey in his third round.

Miscellaneous Notes

This week's Houston Open offers the last chance to qualify for the Masters. Among the six players T3 or better, none are currently qualified for the event.

Bogey-free rounds:

R1: Abraham Ancer (68), Ryan Armour (66), Keegan Bradley (68), Bronson Burgoon (67), Jonathan Byrd (69), Chad Campbell (69), Greg Chalmers (67), Joel Dahmen (68), Paul Dunne (64), Lucas Glover (65), Fabian Gomez (68), Emiliano Grillo (69), Chesson Hadley (68), Pdraig Harrington (67), Beau Hossler (65), Mackenzie Hughes (69), Jason Kokrak (67), Rob Oppenheim (69), Scott Piercy (68), Rory Sabbatini (69), Shawn Stefani (67), Brett Stegmaier (67), Henrik Stenson (68), Steve Stricker (67), Michael Thompson (67), Kevin Tway (65).

R2: Ian Poulter (64), Ethan Tracy (67), Henrik Stenson (68), Jhonattan Vegas (68), J.B. Holmes (68), Luke List (68), Xinjun Zhang (69), Justin Rose (69), Scott Piercy (70), Danny Lee (70), William McGirt (71).

R3: Ian Poulter (65), Emiliano Grillo (67), J.B. Holmes (68).

Scoring Averages:

	Front 9	Back 9	Total	Cumulative
R1	34.826	34.958	69.785	---
R2	35.622	35.413	71.035	70.408
R3	35.989	35.456	71.444	70.655