



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

Final-Round Notes – Sunday, April 1, 2018

Weather: Mostly cloudy. High of 83. Wind SE 10-20 mph.

In round four, the ball was played as it lied.

Final-Round Leaderboard

Ian Poulter	73-64-65-67—269 (-19)**
Beau Hossler	65-68-69-67—269 (-19)
Emiliano Grillo	69-68-67-68—272 (-16)
Jordan Spieth	68-67-71-66—272 (-16)

**won with a par on the first hole of sudden death

The 2018 Houston Open featured the ninth playoff of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season and first since Phil Mickelson won the World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship.

Ian Poulter

Beginning the final round tied with PGA TOUR rookie Beau Hossler at 14-under 202, England's Ian Poulter sank a 20-foot birdie on the 72nd hole to match Hossler's 5-under 67 and force sudden death. On the first extra hole, No. 18, Poulter's par proved good for the win.

This marked Poulter's first playoff on the PGA TOUR.

Poulter claims his third career PGA TOUR victory in his 241st start at the age of 42 years, 2 months, 22 days. He previously won the 2010 World Golf Championships-Dell Technologies Match Play and 2012 WGC-HSBC Champions.

At the midway point in the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season, Poulter becomes the fifth different winner in his 40s, joining Pat Perez (OHL Classic at Mayakoba), Ryan Armour (Sanderson Farms Championship), Paul Casey (Valspar Championship) and Phil Mickelson (WGC-Mexico Championship). In all of last season, there was a total of five.

With the win, Poulter collects 500 FedExCup points and moves from 109th to No. 20 in the standings with 677 points. It took 365 points to qualify for the FedExCup Playoffs in 2017, 483 to qualify for Dell Technologies Championship, 689 for BMW Championship and 1,322 for the TOUR Championship.

Poulter's victory comes with a two-year exemption to the PGA TOUR, carrying him through the 2019-20 season.

If not otherwise exempt, Poulter's win earns him a spot into the following 2017-18 season events (in order of play): Masters Tournament, RBC Heritage, THE PLAYERS Championship, Fort Worth Invitational, the Memorial Tournament, The National and PGA Championship.

In the 2018-19 season, Poulter earns a spot into the following 2018-19 season events (in order of play): Sentry Tournament of Champions, CareerBuilder Challenge, Arnold Palmer Invitational and RBC Heritage.

With the win, Poulter claims the final spot into this week's Masters Tournament.

Poulter's opening-round 1-over 73 ties Jason Day's first-round score from the Farmers Insurance Open as the high start by a winner on the PGA TOUR this season. Poulter's position of T123 was lower than Day's standing of T113 after 18 holes.

From the 14th hole in round one through No. 8 in the final round, Poulter played 49 holes without a bogey.

Poulter wins in his third start in the Houston Open (2006/T21, 2014/MC, 2018/1st).

Poulter becomes the seventh different international winner of the Houston Open (nine wins) and first tournament winner from England since Paul Casey in 2009.

This marked Poulter's third time to hold at least a share of the 54-hole lead. He finished T3 on both previous occasions after being unable to break par in either final round (2015 The Honda Classic/+4, 2016 Puerto Rico Open/E).

Since the Houston Open moved to the Tournament Course in 2006, seven third-round leaders/co-leaders have now parlayed that position into a win: Ian Poulter (2018), Jim Herman (2016), Phil Mickelson (2011), Anthony Kim (2010), Paul Casey (2009), Johnson Wagner (2008) and Stuart Appleby (2006).

Through 21 stroke-play events this season, 10 54-hole leaders/co-leaders have now held on for the win.

2017-18 starts-made cuts-top-10s-wins: 8-6-2-1

PGA TOUR career starts-made cuts-top-10s-wins: 241-186-40-3

Poulter's stats for the week:

R1 – 11 of 14 fairways, 13 of 18 greens in regulation, 2/5 scrambling, 31 putts.

R2 – 11 of 14 fairways, 14 of 18 greens in regulation, 4/4 scrambling, 24 putts.

R3 – 11 of 14 fairways, 16 of 18 greens in regulation, 2/2 scrambling, 28 putts.

R4 – 12 of 14 fairways, 17 of 18 greens in regulation, 1/1 scrambling, 31 putts.

About Ian Poulter

Height: 6-1

Weight: 189

Birthdate: January 10, 1976

Family: Wife, Katie; Aimee-Leigh, Luke, Lily, Joshua

Birthplace: Stevenage, England

Residence: Buckinghamshire, England / Orlando, Florida

Education: Barclay School

Turned Pro: 1995

Joined TOUR: 2004

Beau Hossler

Beau Hossler started his final round with seven straight pars before making his first of five birdies on the round at No. 8. With matching 5-under 67s, Hossler found himself in his first PGA TOUR playoff. On the first extra hole, No. 18, second and third shots from bunkers preceded a drop from the water hazard and eventual runner-up finish.

This week marked the sixth tournament of the season in which Hossler opened with three under-par rounds, but before today he had yet to post four such scores in an event in his PGA TOUR career.

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

This was Hossler's second start at the Houston Open. He finished T39 in 2017 as a sponsor exemption. Hossler was making his 14th start of the 2017-18 season and was in search of his first career PGA TOUR win in his 26th start.

Jordan Spieth

In his sixth start at the Houston Open, Jordan Spieth offset a bogey at the par-4 10th hole with five birdies and an eagle-3 at No. 4 to post a 6-under 66, good for a T3 with Emiliano Grillo. Spieth sank a 29-foot par putt on the 72nd hole to claim the top-five finish.

With scores of 68-67-71-66—272 (-16), Spieth made 21 birdies and an eagle over the course of the week.

Spieth was in search of his 12th career PGA TOUR win and first since last year's Open Championship. This marks his 55th top-10 showing in 136 TOUR starts.

Additional Player Notes

Argentina's Emiliano Grillo made six birdies and two bogeys in his final round to post a 4-under 68 and finish T3 with Jordan Spieth at 16-under 272. This marks his best finish since a T2 at the 2016 THE NORTHERN TRUST.

Defending Houston Open champion Russell Henley drained a 44-foot putt for birdie at the 72nd hole, his eighth birdie of the day, to close with a 7-under 65 and finish T8 (69-71-70-65—275/-13). In relation to par, Henley's 65 is his lowest score on TOUR since posting the same number in last year's final round of the Houston Open.

Sam Ryder, the last man in the field when Vaughn Taylor withdrew, finished alone in fifth place. Ryder was making his 12th start of the season, with a T50 at the CareerBuilder Challenge his previous-best showing.

Monday qualifier Julian Suri made six birdies and one bogey en route to a final-round 5-under 67 and T8 finish (66-69-73-67—275/-13). Suri, a non-member of the PGA TOUR, was making his fifth start of the 2017-18 season and sixth overall on TOUR.

With scores of 68-71-72-67—278 (-10), 2011 Houston Open champion Phil Mickelson finished T24 in his 14th start in the event.

Michael Thompson began the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season on a Top Finishers from the Web.com Tour Medical, where he had six starts available to earn 87 FedExCup points (coupled with his 278 from last season) to equal No. 125 (365 points) from last year's FedExCup points list. With this week being his sixth and final opportunity, Thompson came into the week three points shy. With his T14 finish, worth 54 FedExCup points, Thompson will retain his exempt status for the remainder of the season.

For the second week in a row, PGA TOUR rookie Keith Mitchell made 22 birdies, tied for third in the field. Mitchell led the field in that category at last week's Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship en route to a career-best second-place finish. At 14-under 274, Mitchell finished T6 this week.

Miscellaneous Notes

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).

R4: Matt Every (66), Phil Mickelson (67), Beau Hossler (67), Daniel Berger (68), Denny McCarthy (68), Seamus Power (69), Scott Piercy (70).

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
R4	35.040	35.280	70.320	70.600