



On-site PGA TOUR media contact:
Mark Williams
(904) 655-5380 (mobile)
markwilliams@pgatourhq.com

2018 Masters Tournament pre-tournament notes

Dates: April 2-8, 2018

Where: Augusta National Golf Club, Augusta, Ga.

Par/Yards: 72/7,435 yards

Field size: 87

2017 champion: Sergio Garcia

FedExCup: 600 points to the winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Cut: After 36 holes, top 50 and ties and players within 10 strokes of the lead play the final two rounds

How Sergio Garcia won the 2017 Masters

Spain's Sergio Garcia and England's Justin Rose began the final round tied at 6-under 210. When matching 3-under 69s resulted in sudden death, Garcia's birdie at the first extra hole, No. 18, proved too much for Rose's bogey. Garcia claimed his 10th career PGA TOUR title in his 313th start at the age of 37, as well as his first major championship in his 74th attempt.

More on Sergio Garcia (World No. 9)

- Since winning the Masters last year, married Angela Akins in July and the couple had a baby girl, Azalea, last month.
- Garcia's first-ever major win came in his 74th major championship start.
- Following his win at the Masters in 2017, made 10 additional starts on the PGA TOUR in the 2016-17 season, with a T10 at the season-finale TOUR Championship his best showing.
- Including his win at Augusta, won three times on the European Tour in 2017 (Omega Dubai Desert Classic, Andalucia Valderrama Masters).
- Won the 2018 SMBC Singapore Open by five strokes in January, an event co-sanctioned by the Asian Tour and the Japan Golf Tour.
- Has made four starts on the PGA TOUR this season, with top-10s in his last three starts: WGC-Mexico Championship (T7), Valspar Championship (4th) and WGC-Dell Technologies Championship (T9).
- Playoff win over Rose last year was 18th playoff in tournament history.
- With a win in 2018, would join Tiger Woods (2001-02), Nick Faldo (1989-90) and Jack Nicklaus (1965-66) as players to successfully defend a Masters title.
- Will make his 20th start in the Masters Tournament, with last year's win among four top-10 showings (2017/1st, 2013/T8, 2004/T4 and 2002/8th).

The Masters and the FedExCup

- With 600 FedExCup points for first place at the Masters, three players can mathematically surpass FedExCup leader Justin Thomas: Patton Kizzire (384 points behind), Phil Mickelson (519 points behind) and Bubba Watson (538 points behind).
- The top 10 in the current FedExCup standings, and 25 of the top 30 are in the field. (Luke List/18, Chesson Hadley/21, Charles Howell III/26, Beau Hossler/28 and James Hahn/30 are not in)
- 29 of 30 from last year's final FedExCup standings are in the field (Brooks Koepka is sidelined with a wrist injury).
- **Seven of the 10 different FedExCup champions are in the field:**
 - Tiger Woods (2007, 2009)
 - Vijay Singh (2008)
 - Henrik Stenson (2013)

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- Billy Horschel (2014)
- Jordan Spieth (2015)
- Rory McIlroy (2016)
- Justin Thomas (2017)
- **Nine of the 11 Masters winners in the FedExCup era have qualified for the TOUR Championship:**
 - Zach Johnson (2007)
 - Trevor Immelman (2008)
 - Angel Cabrera (2009)
 - Phil Mickelson (2010)
 - Bubba Watson (2012)
 - Adam Scott (2013)
 - Bubba Watson (2014)
 - Jordan Spieth (2015)
 - Sergio Garcia (2017)

Additional Field Notes

- 49 of 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking (No. 10 Brooks Koepka is injured).
- 17 of the 19 different winners on TOUR from the 2017-18 season (Ryan Armour/Sanderson Farms Championship, Brice Garnett/Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship).
- 65 of the 87 players in the field have won at least one PGA TOUR event.
- Past Masters champions (20): Sergio Garcia/2017, Danny Willett/2016, Jordan Spieth/2015, Bubba Watson/2012, 2014, Adam Scott/2013, Charl Schwartzel/2011, Phil Mickelson/2004, 2006, 2010, Angel Cabrera/2009, Trevor Immelman/2008, Zach Johnson/2007, Tiger Woods/1997, 2001, 2002, 2005, Mike Weir/2003, Vijay Singh/2000, Mark O'Meara/1998, Jose Maria Olazabal/1994, Bernhard Langer/1993, Fred Couples/1992, Ian Woosnam/1991, Sandy Lyle/1988 and Larry Mize/1987.
- PGA TOUR Champions professionals in the field (8): Fred Couples, Vijay Singh, Mark O'Meara, Bernhard Langer, Jose Maria Olazabal, Ian Woosnam, Sandy Lyle and Larry Mize.
- 23 countries represented, with 40 players from the United States, nine from England and five from South Africa. Spain, Australia and Japan each have four players in the field, while Germany, China, Canada and Sweden each have two representatives. Countries with one player in the field include Thailand, Argentina, Korea, Scotland, Northern Ireland, Italy, Chile, Belgium, India, Fiji, Venezuela, Austria and Wales.

World No. 1 Dustin Johnson

- 17-time PGA TOUR winner, including two victories (2017 THE NORTHERN TRUST, 2018 Sentry Tournament of Champions) since last year's Masters, from which he was forced to withdraw after injuring his back on the eve of the tournament.
- Is making his eighth start at the Masters Tournament, with top-10 finishes in 2015 (T6) and 2016 (T4).
- Has failed to post a sub-par third-round at Augusta National in the six times he's advanced to the weekend.

World No. 2 Justin Thomas

- 2017 FedExCup champion and current No. 1, making his third start in the Masters Tournament (T22/2017, T39/2016).
- Is one of three multiple winners on the PGA TOUR this season (Patton Kizzire and Bubba Watson) with victories at the 2017 CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES and the 2018 Honda Classic.
- Seeking second consecutive major championship after claiming his maiden major title at the 2017 PGA Championship. Last three players to win consecutive major championships are Jordan Spieth (2015 Masters, 2015 U.S. Open), Rory McIlroy (2014 The Open, 2014 PGA Championship) and Padraig Harrington (2008 The Open, 2008 PGA Championship).
- Seeking to become the fifth player to win the Masters the year following a PGA Championship victory – Phil Mickelson (2006 Masters, 2005 PGA Championship), Tiger Woods (2001 Masters, 2000 PGA Championship), Jack Nicklaus (1972 Masters, 1971 PGA Championship) and Sam Snead (1952 Masters, 1951 PGA Championship).

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World No. 3 Jon Rahm

- Finished T27 in his Masters debut last year. This week marks his seventh start in a major championship with his best result coming in his first major appearance (T23/2016 U.S. Open).
- Seeks to become the fourth Spanish player to win the Masters, following Seve Ballesteros (1980, 1983), Jose Maria Olazabal (1994, 1999) and Sergio Garcia (2017).
- Owns 17 top-10 finishes on the PGA TOUR, including two wins (2017 Farmers Insurance Open, 2018 CareerBuilder Challenge) in 43 TOUR starts. Won two European Tour titles in 2017.

World No. 4 Jordan Spieth

- 2015 FedExCup champion making his fifth start at the Masters Tournament; 2014 (T2), 2015 (1st), 2016 (T2), 2017 (T11).
- Became the first player to begin his Masters career with eight straight par-or-better rounds (2014: 71-70-70-72—283 2015: 64-66-70-70—270).
- 2015 Masters winner led after 54 holes in 2016, before a final-round 1-over 73 resulted in the T2. Sat T4 through 54 holes last year before finishing T11 after final-round 75.
- Seeking his fourth major championship crown in his 21st major start (2015 Masters, 2015 U.S. Open, 2017 The Open Championship).
- Looking for his 12th career PGA TOUR win and first of the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season after three victories last season (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, Travelers Championship, The Open Championship).
- Finished T3 at 16-under, three strokes out of a playoff at last week's Houston Open.

World No. 5 Justin Rose

- Shared the 54-hole lead with Sergio Garcia at last year's Masters and finished tied at 9-under with Garcia, three ahead of third-placed Charl Schwartzel, after both players shot final-round 69s. Lost to a Garcia birdie at the first hole of a sudden-death playoff.
- Five top-10s in 12 Masters appearances, including his last three, and never missed a cut (2nd/2017, T10/2016, T2/2015, T8/2012, T5/2007).
- 2013 U.S. Open victory is one of 13 top-10 results in 55 major championship starts.

World No. 6 Hideki Matsuyama

- Making his seventh start in the Masters Tournament, with top-10 showings in 2015 (5th) and 2016 (T7).
- Making his 22nd major championship start this week, with a T2 at the 2017 U.S. Open his best showing.
- Began the 2017-18 PGA TOUR Season with a T5 at the CIMB Classic and posted another top-five result (T4) at the Sentry Tournament of Champions.
- Took six weeks off after withdrawing from the 2018 Waste Management Phoenix Open following a first-round 69. Following treatment for a wrist injury, returned with a T49 result at the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

World No. 7 Rory McIlroy

- 2016 FedExCup champion is making 10th consecutive start in the Masters Tournament, where he has four top-10s in his last four starts: 2014 (T8), 2015 (4th), 2016 (T10) and 2017 (T7).
- Is making his 37th start in a major (16 top-10 finishes).
- The winner of the 2011 U.S. Open, 2012 and 2014 PGA Championship and 2014 Open Championship, looks to complete the career grand slam. Five players have won all four majors in a career:
Gene Sarazen 1935 Masters; 1922, 1932 U.S. Open; 1932 British Open; 1922, 1923, 1933 PGA Championship
Ben Hogan 1951, 1953 Masters; 1948, 1950, 1951, 1953 U.S. Open; 1953 British Open; 1946, 1948 PGA Championship
Gary Player 1961, 1974, 1978 Masters; 1965 U.S. Open; 1959, 1968, 1974 British Open; 1962, 1972 PGA Championship
Jack Nicklaus 1963, 1965, 1966, 1972, 1975, 1986 Masters; 1962, 1967, 1972, 1980 U.S. Open; 1966, 1970, 1978, British Open; 1963, 1971, 1973, 1975, 1980 PGA Championship

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Tiger Woods 1997, 2001, 2002, 2005 Masters; 2000, 2002, 2008 U.S. Open; 2000, 2005, 2006 British Open; 1999, 2000, 2006, 2007 PGA Championship

- A 14-time PGA TOUR winner, most recent victory was the 2018 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard.

World No. 8 Rickie Fowler

- Making his eighth consecutive start in the Masters Tournament.
- Best finish at the Masters was a T5 in 2014 when he recorded top-five finishes in all four major championships. Became the first player to perform the feat since Tiger Woods in 2005.
- First and only missed cut at the Masters came in 2016, following rounds of 80-73.
- Claimed his fourth career PGA TOUR win at the 2017 Honda Classic. Also won the unofficial Hero World Challenge in late 2017.

World No. 11 Jason Day

- Making his eighth start at the Masters Tournament, with three top-10 finishes; 2011 (T2), 2013 (3rd) and 2016 (T10).
- Never missed at cut at Augusta (withdrew in 2012).
- Making his 30th start in a major championship (14 top-10 finishes).
- In search of his second major title (2015 PGA Championship).
- 11-time PGA TOUR winner's most recent victory was the 2018 Farmers Insurance Open.

World No. 14 Henrik Stenson

- Making his 13th consecutive start in the Masters Tournament, where he has no top-10s. A T14 in 2014 is his best showing.
- Making his 47th major championship start this week, where he has collected 11 top-10 finishes (five of those have come at the PGA Championship).
- Claimed his first major championship title at the 2016 Open Championship with the record for low 72-hole tournament total in a major at 20-under 264.
- Claimed three top-10 finishes in three starts on the PGA TOUR this season; WGC-HSBC Champions (T2), Arnold Palmer Invitational (4th) and Houston Open (T6).

World No. 18 Phil Mickelson

- 2004, 2006 and 2010 Masters champion is making his 26th start in the Masters Tournament.
- Has 11 top-five finishes at the Masters. Players with the most top-five finishes at the Masters:
 - 15, Jack Nicklaus
 - 11, Tiger Woods
 - 11, Phil Mickelson
- Is in search of his fourth win at the Masters. Players with the most Masters wins:
 - 6, Jack Nicklaus
 - 4, Arnold Palmer
 - 4, Tiger Woods
- Has five top-10s in 10 starts this season, including a playoff win over Justin Thomas at the WGC-Mexico Championship. In two of the three years the 43-time PGA TOUR winner has won the Masters, he posted a PGA TOUR win heading into Augusta National (2004 CareerBuilder Challenge, 2006 BellSouth Classic). He has five major wins.

World No. 19 Bubba Watson

- 2012 and 2014 Masters champion is making his 10th start at the Masters Tournament. His two wins mark his only top-10s in nine starts.
- Looks to join Jimmy Demaret (1940, 1947, 1950), Sam Snead (1949, 1952, 1954), Gary Player (1961, 1974, 1978), Nick Faldo (1989, 1990, 1996) and Phil Mickelson (2004, 2006, 2010) as players to win the Masters exactly three times. Only eight players have won three or more Masters tournaments.
- Lefthanders have won six of the last 16 Masters (Phil Mickelson-3, Bubba Watson-2, Mike Weir-1).

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- 11-time winner is one of three players with multiple PGA TOUR victories this season (Patton Kizzire, Justin Thomas) with wins at the Genesis Open and WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play.

World No. 29 Ian Poulter

- Earned the final spot in the 2018 Masters Tournament field by winning last week's Houston Open, defeating Beau Hossler in a sudden-death playoff after both players tied at 19-under.
- Two weeks ago following the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, Poulter sat No. 51 in the Official World Golf Ranking. The top-50 players at that point earned invitations to the Masters.
- Poulter has made 12 appearances at the Masters, with three top-10 finishes (T6/2015, 7th/2012, T10/2010) and one missed cut (2013).
- In 55 major championship starts, Poulter's best result is runner-up at The Open Championship in 2008.
- In 2012, Poulter posted top-10 results in three of the four major championships (7th/Masters, T41/U.S. Open, T9/The Open, T3/PGA Championship).

Since 1934, just five players have won the week before winning the Masters Tournament.

2006	Phil Mickelson	won BellSouth Classic followed by Masters
1988	Sandy Lyle	won Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters
1959	Art Wall	won the Azalea Open followed by the Masters
1949	*Sam Snead	won the Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters
1939	Ralph Guldahl	won the Greater Greensboro Open followed by the Masters

**No event scheduled the week after first win. Major was next event contested*

World No. 60 Adam Scott

- The 2013 Masters champion is making his 17th consecutive start in the Masters Tournament.
- In addition to his win, also finished in the top 10 in 2002 (T9), 2011 (T2), 2012 (T8) and 2017 (T9).
- The only Australian to win the Masters.
- Making his 68th appearance in a major and 67th consecutive. Active consecutive major appearances (including 2018 Masters Tournament):
 - Sergio Garcia: 75
 - Adam Scott: 67

World No. 103 Tiger Woods

- After an absence of a year while recovering from back surgery, Tiger Woods returned to the PGA TOUR at the 2018 Farmers Insurance Open, finishing T23 with four rounds of par-or-better at Torrey Pines. Since then, Woods has posted two top-five results in four additional starts (MC/Genesis Open, 12th/The Honda Classic, T2/Valspar Championship, T5/Arnold Palmer Invitational).
- Enters the 2018 Masters Tournament ranked No. 104. After his last appearance at the Masters in 2015, the former World No. 1 was ranked No. 101.
- Makes his 21st start at the Masters, with four wins (1997, 2001, 2002, 2005), two runner-up results and one third-place finish among 13 top-10s. Jack Nicklaus (6), Arnold Palmer (4) and Woods (4) are the only players with four or more wins at Augusta National.
- With 14 major titles included in his 79 PGA TOUR wins, Woods seeks his first TOUR victory since the 2013 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational.
- In 20 starts, Woods recorded just one sub-70 opening round (68/2010). His scoring average for the tournament is 70.86.

First-timers at the Masters (16): Wesley Bryan, Austin Cook, Harry Ellis (a), Tony Finau, Dylan Frittelli, Doug Ghim (a), Patton Kizzire, Satoshi Kodaira, Haotong Li, Yuxin Lin (a), Yusaku Miyazato, Joaquin Niemann (a), Matt Parziale (a), Doc Redman (a), Xander Schauffele, Shubhankar Sharma.

Players who won the Masters in their first appearance: Horton Smith (1934), Gene Sarazen (1935), Fuzzy Zoeller (1979).

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Amateurs at the Masters (6): Harry Ellis (England), Doug Ghim (United States), Yuxin Lin (China), Joaquin Niemann (Chile), Matt Parziale (United States), Doc Redman (United States).

Best finishes by an amateur at the Masters: 2–Ken Venturi (1956); T2–Frank Stranahan (1947), Charles Roe (1961).

Miscellaneous Masters Notes

- Dating to 1991, with the exception of Zach Johnson in 2007 (T4), Bubba Watson in 2012 (T3), Adam Scott in 2013 (3rd) and Danny Willett in 2016 (T5), each Masters champion has been T2 or better after 54 holes.
- The only Masters champion who was not inside the top 10 on the leaderboard after 54 holes was Art Wall Jr. in 1959 (T13).
- The third-round leader/co-leader has gone on to win the Masters Tournament 44 (out of 81) times, most recently Sergio Garcia (2017), Jordan Spieth (2015), Bubba Watson (2014) and Angel Cabrera (2009).
- The eventual Masters champion has come out of the final Sunday pairing 22 out of the last 27 years, with Zach Johnson (2007), Charl Schwartzel (2011), Bubba Watson (2012), Adam Scott (2013) and Danny Willett (2016) the exceptions.
- The youngest winner of the Masters is Tiger Woods (1997, 21 years, 3 months, 14 days).
- The oldest winner of the Masters is Jack Nicklaus (1986, 46 years, 2 months, 23 days).
- Gary Player owns the most starts in Masters history (52).
- The largest comeback victory at the Masters is eight strokes (Jack Burke, 1956). Burke was eight behind Ken Venturi through three rounds but edged Venturi by one with a closing round of 71 (compared to Burke's 80).
- Americans have won 10 of the last 18 Masters to 2000.
- Low round at the Masters is 63 (Nick Price/R3/1986, Greg Norman/R1/1996), while low round at a major championship is 62 (Branden Grace/R3/2017 The Open Championship).
- Tournament record of 18-under 270 is shared by Tiger Woods (1997) and Jordan Spieth (2015).
- There have been 28 aces in Masters history. Last hole-in-one was recorded by Matt Kuchar at the 16th hole in the final round last year.
- Six of the last 12 Masters champions played the week before their win, most recently Jordan Spieth in 2015.
- The top three players with most prizemoney won at the Masters are Phil Mickelson (\$7,801,762/25 starts), Tiger Woods (\$7,360,473/20 starts) and Jordan Spieth (\$3,705,200/4 starts).
- Since the Masters began in 1934, not a single player has shot four rounds in the 60s during a Masters Tournament.

Below is the number of attempts before a first victory at the Masters:

- 1, Horton Smith, 1934
- 1, Gene Sarazen, 1935
- 1, Fuzzy Zoeller, 1979
- 2, Jimmy Demaret, 1940
- 2, Herman Keiser, 1946
- 2, Charl Schwartzel, 2011
- 2, Jordan Spieth, 2015
- 2, Danny Willett, 2016

Since 1934, most major starts without a victory:

Jay Haas	87
Lee Westwood	79
Colin Montgomerie	72
Miguel Angel Jimenez	71
Steve Stricker	71
Scott Hoch	70
Brad Faxon	68
Robert Allenby	65
Scott Verplank	65
John Cook	62

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Nineteen players competed at last week's Houston Open who are also in the Masters Tournament field: Here's how they fared in Houston: Ian Poulter (won), Jordan Spieth (T3), Henrik Stenson (T6), Matt Kuchar (T8), Russell Henley (T8), Daniel Berger (T18), Phil Mickelson (T24), Tony Finau (T24), Rickie Fowler (T43), Thomas Pieters (T52), Justin Rose (T52), Jason Dufner (T64), Jhonattan Vegas (MDF), Dylan Frittelli (MC), Yuta Ikeda (MC), Martin Kaymer (MC), Chez Reavie (MC), Shubhankar Sharma (MC), Rafa Cabrera Bello (MC).

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