



## 2018 WORLD GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS-BRIDGESTONE INVITATIONAL

(The 41<sup>st</sup> of 44 events in the PGA TOUR Season)

**Akron, Ohio**  
**Firestone Country Club**  
**South Course**

**August 2-5, 2018**  
**Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,400**

**FedExCup Pts: 550**  
**Purse: \$10,000,000**

### First-Round Notes – Thursday, August 2, 2018

*Weather: Mostly cloudy, with a high of 83. Wind SW 4-8 mph.*

#### First-Round Leaderboard

Ian Poulter	62 (-8)
Rickie Fowler	63 (-7)
Kyle Stanley	63 (-7)

#### Five Things To Know

- Ian Poulter ties tournament record for lowest opening-round score of 62
- FedExCup points leader, World No. 1 and 2016 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational winner Dustin Johnson opens with a 1-under 69 (T39) in his ninth start at Firestone Country Club. His only top-10 finish in the event was his 2016 victory
- The Open Championship winner Francesco Molinari opens with an even-par 70 in his eighth tournament start
- Marc Leishman's 5-under 65 marks just his sixth sub-par score in 21 rounds at Firestone Country Club
- Defending WGC-Bridgestone Invitational champion Hideki Matsuyama opened with a 3-under 67 (T21)

#### First-Round Lead Notes

4 First-round leaders/co-leaders at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational to win (Adam Scott/2011, Stewart Cink/2004, Tiger Woods/1999, 2000).

8 First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on PGA TOUR in 2017-18 (most recent: Troy Merritt/Barbasol Championship)

#### Ian Poulter (-8/1<sup>st</sup>)

**Age:** 42 (January 10, 1976)

**Joined TOUR:** 2004

#### Entering this week

#34	FedExCup
#32	OWGR
248	PGA TOUR starts
3	PGA TOUR wins
13	Starts at WGC-Bridgestone Invitational
0	Top-10 finishes at WGC-Bridgestone Invitational
15	PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18
3	Top-10 in 2017-18
0/2	Wins when holding 18-hole lead/co-lead

**Wins (3):** 2018 Houston Open, 2012 WGC-HSBC Champions, 2010 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play

- Opening-round 8-under 62 ties the record for lowest first-round score in WGC-Bridgestone Invitational (Adam Scott/2011)
- In relation to par, ties his low round of the season (8-under 64/R2/Houston Open/Won)
- Made eight birdies and no bogeys in his 14<sup>th</sup> tournament start
- Hit 12/14 fairways in regulation and 15/18 greens
- Has never finished inside the top 10 in the event. Best showings were a pair of T13s in 2001 and 2006.
- Is making his first start in the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational since 2015 (T17)
- In 42 World Golf Championships starts, won the 2010 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play and 2012 WGC-HSBC Champions
- In addition to his win at the Houston Open, finished in the top 10 this season at the WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play (T5) and RBC Heritage (T7)
- Is coming off a T12 finish at last week's RBC Canadian Open

#### **Additional Player Notes**

##### **Rickie Fowler (-7/T2)**

- Made five birdies in a seven-hole stretch en route to a bogey-free 7-under 63
- Hit his approach shot into 18 from 165 yards to 2' 11" to secure his seventh birdie of the day
- With 26 strokes of the putter, made 109' 10" of putts
- Is making his ninth start in the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, having not finished outside the top 10 in his last four starts (2017/9<sup>th</sup>, 2016/T10, 2015/T10, 2014/T8). Also finished inside the top 10 in 2011 (T2)
- A four-time winner on the PGA TOUR, remains in search of his first win since the 2017 The Honda Classic

##### **Kyle Stanley (-7/T2)**

- Beginning on No. 10, made birdies at Nos. 11, 13, 14, 16, 17 and 18 to make the turn in 6-under 30. Made additional birdies at Nos. 2 and 5 against a lone bogey at the par-4 fourth hole
- 63 marks his lowest score in the event (nine rounds) by four strokes
- 63 falls one stroke shy of the lowest first-round score at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational (Adam Scott/2011/Won, Ian Poulter/2018/TBD)
- Is making his third start at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational (T41/2017, T16/2012)
- In both previous starts at the event, followed an under-par opening score with an over-par score in round two
- Is making his sixth start in a World Golf Championships event
- Is in search of his third career PGA TOUR win (2012 Waste Management Phoenix Open, 2017 Quicken Loans National)
- Has claimed four top-10 finishes on the PGA TOUR this season, including a playoff loss to Bryson DeChambeau at the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide

##### **Patrick Cantlay (-6/T4)**

- Making his first start in the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, made seven birdies against just one bogey
- Is making just his fourth start in a World Golf Championships event, with the previous three all coming this season (WGC-HSBC Champions/T15, WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play/T17, WGC-Mexico Championship/T30)
- In 15 starts this season on the PGA TOUR, first-round scoring average of 69.00 is his lowest. At 71.44, his second-round average is the highest by more than a stroke
- In 51<sup>st</sup> professional start on the PGA TOUR, is looking for his second career PGA TOUR title (2017 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open)
- In addition to Shriners Hospitals for Children Open playoff victory, has collected top-10 finishes this season at the Genesis Open (T4), RBC Heritage (T7), Zurich Classic of New Orleans (T7 with Patrick Reed) and the Memorial Tournament (4<sup>th</sup>)

##### **Rory McIlroy (-5/T7)**

- 2014 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational champion made five birdies and no bogeys in round one
- 65 in round one marks his ninth consecutive sub-par score on the PGA TOUR. Only over-par score in last 14 rounds was 10-over 80 in round one of the U.S. Open

- Is making his eighth start in the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, having collected top-10 finishes in 2017 (T5), 2014 (1<sup>st</sup>), 2012 (T5), 2011 (T6) and 2010 (T9)
- 14-time PGA TOUR winner is in search of his second win of the season (Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard)
- Comes to Firestone Country Club on the heels of a T2 finish at The Open Championship two weeks ago

#### **Tiger Woods (-4/T14)**

- Eight-time winner of the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational opened with made five birdies and one bogey
- Beginning on No. 10, sank a 50-foot birdie putt from off the green at No. 18 to make the turn in 3-under 32
- On the three other occasions he has posted a 3-under or better on his front nine in round one of the event, has converted for the win all three times
- Only bogey of the day came at his last hole, No. 9. Last bogey-free score on the PGA TOUR came in the final round of the 2015 A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier (3-under 67/T32)
- 66 marks his first sub-par score in an opening round on the PGA TOUR since a 4-under 68 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by MasterCard (eight starts)
- In last 11 starts at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, has posted a sub-par score in round two on just three occasions
- Hit 7/14 fairways in regulation and 13/18 greens. Was 4/5 in scrambling and needed 27 putts to complete his round
- In 15 previous starts at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, 67.47 is nearly a full stroke lower than any other round (68.40/R3). At 69.00, final rounds have giving him the most difficulty
- Owns the tournament record of 259 (21-under) which he posted in 2000. His 11-stroke win that year is also the largest winning margin in tournament history
- A win this week would come in his 37<sup>th</sup> start since his most recent PGA TOUR victory, the 2013 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational

#### **Course Statistics**

##### **Toughest Hole**

**R1:** Par-4 9<sup>th</sup> (4.268)

##### **Easiest Hole**

**R1:** Par-5 2<sup>nd</sup> (4.507)

#### **Scoring Averages**

	<b>Front 9</b>	<b>Back 9</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Cumulative</b>
<b>R1:</b>	34.155	34.211	68.366	--
	<b>Early</b>	<b>Late</b>		
<b>R1:</b>	68.39	68.34		

#### **Bogey-free:**

**R1:** Ian Poulter (62), Rickie Fowler (63), Jason Day (65), Luke List (65), Rory McIlroy (65), Patrick Reed (66) Daniel Berger (67), Matt Kuchar (68)