

TOSHIBA**CHAMPIONS**

Toshiba Classic

Newport Beach Country Club | Newport Beach, California | March 9-11, 2018

Media Contact

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Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** Newport Beach Country Club (Par 71, 6,584 yards)
- **Designed by:** William Bell (1953), Harry Rainville (1973), Ted Robinson (1985, 1998, 1999)
- **Purse:** \$1,800,000 (Winner: \$270,000)
- **Golf Channel Coverage (all times ET):** Friday: 6-8 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday: 5:30-8 p.m.
- **Social Media:** Twitter ([@ToshibaClassic](#)), Instagram ([@toshibaclassic](#)), [Facebook](#)

Field Overview (as of 3/6/18)

The PGA TOUR Champions west coast swing continues this week in California for the 23rd Toshiba Classic at Newport Beach Country Club. The tournament was held in March for its first 20 years (1995-2014), and after being played in October in 2015 and 2016, it has returned to its traditional March date. The 78-player field includes 28 of the top 30 players in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, including Jerry Kelly, who reclaimed the No. 1 position after finishing T2 at last week's Cologuard Classic. Fred Couples will play his hometown event for the seventh time in his career, and this week will mark his first start since he finished T6 at the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Couples will be joined by six other members of the World Golf Hall of Fame: Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, Mark O'Meara, Jose Maria Olazabal, Vijay Singh and Tom Watson.

- 35 of the 36 players who qualified for the 2017 Charles Schwab Cup Championship
- 28 of the top 30 players in the current Charles Schwab Cup standings
- 7 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
- 53 PGA TOUR winners with 360 total career victories
- 48 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 277 total career victories
- 19 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 16 with a PGA TOUR major

2016 Recap: Haas Tallies 18th PGA TOUR Champions Win at Age 62

In 2016, 62-year-old Jay Haas became the second-oldest winner in PGA TOUR Champions history when he defeated Bart Bryant on the first hole of a sudden-death playoff. With the win, Haas (2007, 2016) became the Toshiba Classic's third repeat winner, joining Fred Couples (2010, 2014) and Hale Irwin (1998, 2002). It was his 18th win on PGA TOUR Champions, which is tied for 14th on the Tour's all-time wins list.

Tournament Storylines

Kelly, Toms are Newport Beach Newcomers

Jerry Kelly and David Toms are Nos. 1 and 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, and they will make their debuts at the Toshiba Classic. After closing with an 8-under 65 to finish T2 at last week's Cologuard Classic, Kelly moved to No. 1 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings for the second time this year. The reigning Rookie of the Year won the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, and he has led the standings three of the first four weeks this season.

Toms opened the year with three straight top-five finishes, and he was No. 1 in the standings following his T2 finish at the Chubb Classic. He enters this week No. 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup following his T30 finish at the Cologuard Classic. Toms has carded 24 straight rounds of par or better, the longest active streak on PGA TOUR Champions, and he ranks second on Tour with scoring average of 68.25.

Boom Boom is Back

Fred Couples will make his second start of the season, and first since he finished T6 at the season-opening Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai. Couples has six top-10s in six starts at the Toshiba Classic, including wins in 2010 and 2014. In 18 rounds at Newport Beach Country Club, he has a scoring average of 66.67 and his highest score was a 2-over 73, his only round over-par.

Strong Starts for Mediate, Sauers

Along with David Toms, the only other two players with three top-10s this season are Rocco Mediate and Gene Sauers. For Mediate, the resurgence comes on the heels of a 2017 season that included just one top-10 and a 66th-place finish in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. This year, he finished sixth at the Boca Raton Championship, T10 at the Chubb Classic and T5 at the Cologuard Classic, and he is currently No. 8 in the Charles Schwab Cup. This will be his fifth start at the Toshiba Classic, and his best finish was a tie for sixth in 2013.

Sauers is coming off a T2 finish at the Cologuard Classic, and he has seven top-10s in his last 12 starts, dating back to last year. He leads the Tour in scrambling (84.00%) and is T4 in greens in regulation (76.85%), which has helped him record the sixth-best scoring average (68.75). He has finished 11th and 17th in the Charles Schwab Cup the last two years, and he is currently No. 6 in the standings.

All-American Start to the Season

For the first time since 2012, the year's first four winners have been from the United States (Jerry Kelly, Mark Calcavecchia, Joe Durant and Steve Stricker). In 2012, the foursome was Dan Forsman, Corey Pavin, Kenny Perry and Loren Roberts. The pattern occurred in 2008 as well, and Bernhard Langer broke the American winning streak when he won the Toshiba Classic.

By the Numbers: Newport Beach Country Club

- **Easiest Hole (2016):** The 492-yard par-5 15th hole played to a 4.481 average, yielding 8 eagles and 124 birdies.
- **Hardest Hole (2016):** The 203-yard par-3 eighth hole played to a 3.154 average, yielding just 17 birdies.
- **Holes to Note:** The 339-yard par-4 first hole played to a 3.759 average and was the fourth-easiest opening hole on Tour in 2016. The 510-yard par-5 18th hole played to a 4.531 average was the third-easiest closing hole on Tour in 2016.

Past Champions in the Field

With his win in 2016, Jay Haas became the tournament's third repeat champion, joining Fred Couples and Hale Irwin. Haas' win also marked the fifth playoff in tournament history and first since Bernhard Langer won in 2008. In all, this year's 78-player field includes six past champions: Haas (2016, 2007), Duffy Waldorf (2015), Couples (2014, 2010), David Frost (2013), Bernhard Langer (2008), Tom Purtzer (2004).

Year	Champion	Total	To Par
2016	Jay Haas ⁵	197	-16
2015	Duffy Waldorf	193	-20
2014	Fred Couples	198	-15
2013	David Frost	194	-19
2012	Loren Roberts	205	-8
2011	Nick Price	196	-17
2010	Fred Couples	195	-18
2009	Eduardo Romero	202	-11
2008	Bernhard Langer ⁴	199	-14
2007	Jay Haas	194	-19
2006	Brad Bryant	204	-9
2005	Mark W. Johnson	200	-13
2004	Tom Purtzer	198	-15
2003	Rodger Davis	197	-16
2002	Hale Irwin	196	-17
2001	Jose Maria Canizares ³	202	-11
2000	Allen Doyle	136	-6
1999	Gary McCord ²	204	-9
1998	Hale Irwin	200	-13
1997	Bob Murphy ¹	207	-6
1996	Jim Colbert	201	-12
1995	George Archer	199	-11

1. Bob Murphy needed nine extra holes to defeat Jay Sigel. Murphy drained an 80-foot birdie putt in near darkness for the win. At the time, it was the longest playoff in PGA TOUR Champions history. (David Graham defeated Dave Stockton on the 10th playoff hole at the 1998 Royal Caribbean Classic.)
2. Gary McCord went five extra holes to defeat John Jacobs. It started as a four-man playoff, as Al Geiberger and Allen Doyle were eliminated earlier in the extra session.
3. For the second time in five years, a nine-hole playoff was needed to decide the champion. This time, Jose Maria Canizares defeated Gil Morgan on the ninth playoff hole.
4. Bernhard Langer outlasted Jay Haas, the tournament's defending champion, with a short birdie putt on the seventh extra hole.
5. Jay Haas birdied the first playoff hole to defeat Bart Bryant.

Toshiba Classic in the PGA TOUR Champions Record Book

- There have been 12 rounds of 60 in PGA TOUR Champions history, and it has happened three times at Newport Beach Country Club: Duffy Waldorf (2015), Nick Price (2011) and Tom Purtzer (2004). All three players went on to win to tournament that year.
- Duffy Waldorf made 26 birdies when he won with a 20-under total in 2015. Only two other players have made 26 birdies in a 54-hole tournament: Loren Roberts (2006 MasterCard Championship at Hualalai) and Fred Couples (2011 AT&T Championship).
- In 2015, the tournament scoring average was 68.896, which is the third-lowest all-time.
- In 2016, Ian Woosnam made the 40th double eagle in Tour history. He holed a 3-iron from 215 yards on the 490-yard, par-5 15th hole.

PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Season Overview

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older, including 35 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour's mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. In 2018, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 27 tournaments across the United States, Scotland and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$56 million. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long champion. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air in excess of 190 countries and territories, reaching more than 330 million potential households. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at PGATOUR.com, at facebook.com/PGATOURChampions, on Twitter [@ChampionsTour](https://twitter.com/ChampionsTour) and on Instagram [@pgatourchampions](https://instagram.com/pgatourchampions).

Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs

In 2017, Kevin Sutherland became just the third player to win the Charles Schwab Cup Championship and the Charles Schwab Cup in the same season. His breakthrough win at the season-ending event was the first of his PGA TOUR Champions career, and it was enough for him to surpass Bernhard Langer, who had won the Charles Schwab Cup the previous three years.

The third edition of the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will begin with 72 players at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Oct. 15-21). The top 54 will advance to the following week's PowerShares QQQ Championship, and the season will conclude with the top 36 players at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Nov. 5-11).

The 2018 Rookie Class

For players to become eligible to compete for PGA TOUR Champions events they must turn 50 years of age by the first competition round. If a player plays less than six tournaments in his first season of eligibility, he is considered a rookie the following season. Newcomers for 2018 with at least one PGA TOUR win include:

- Brent Geiberger (May 22)
- Robert Gamez (July 21)
- Dudley Hart (August 4)
- Darren Clarke (August 14)
- Chris DiMarco (August 23)

Upcoming rookie classes include:

- 2019 – Retief Goosen (February 3), Angel Cabrera (September 12), Ernie Els (October 17)
- 2020 – Jim Furyk (May 12), Mike Weir (May 12), K.J. Choi (May 19), Phil Mickelson (June 16)

PGA TOUR Champions – 2018 Schedule

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Jerry Kelly birdied the 18th hole in the final round to turn a one-shot deficit into a one-shot victory over Colin Montgomerie. Leading by one on No. 18, Montgomerie found the fairway bunker off the tee and missed the green with his approach. After Kelly made his 18-foot birdie putt, Montgomerie had a chance to force a playoff, but his six-foot par putt slid by the hole.
2. **Boca Raton Championship:** Mark Calcavecchia captured his fourth PGA TOUR Champions title in wire-to-wire fashion, finishing two shots better than Bernhard Langer. Langer, who trailed by as many as four on Sunday, evened the score at 16-under with two holes to play, but he bogeyed the last two holes and finished second. The win was Calcavecchia's first since the 2015 Principal Charity Classic.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Over the last six holes at the Chubb Classic, Joe Durant and Steve Stricker traded two two-shot swings and one three-shot swing. In the end, it was Durant's birdie-birdie finish that produced a 19-under total and four-shot victory, the third of his PGA TOUR Champions career and first since the 2016 3M Championship.
4. **ColoGuard Classic:** One year after bogeying No. 18 and finishing runner-up in his PGA TOUR Champions debut, Steve Stricker parred the closing hole en route to a 14-under total and two-stroke victory. It was his first win in his eighth start on Tour, and it was his first victory since the 2012 Sentry Tournament of Champions.
5. Toshiba Classic
6. Rapiscan Systems Classic
7. Mitsubishi Electric Classic
8. Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge
9. Insuperity Invitational
10. Regions Tradition
11. KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship
12. Principal Charity Classic
13. American Family Insurance Championship
14. U.S. Senior Open
15. Constellation SENIOR PLAYERS Championship
16. The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex
17. 3M Championship
18. DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
19. Boeing Classic
20. Shaw Charity Classic
21. Ally Challenge
22. The Sanford International
23. PURE Insurance Championship
24. SAS Championship
25. Dominion Energy Charity Classic
26. PowerShares QQQ Championship
27. Charles Schwab Cup Championship