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2018 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open

Dates: October 29-November 4, 2018

Where: TPC Summerlin

Par/Yards: 71/7,225

2017 champion: Patrick Cantlay

Purse: \$7,000,000/\$1,260,000

FedExCup: 500 points to the winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Field: 132

Twitter: @shrinersopen

2018-19 PGA TOUR Season continues at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open

This week's Shriners Hospitals for Children Open marks the sixth event of the 2018-19 PGA TOUR Season in a wraparound schedule that bridges two years with 46 events -- 43 Regular Season events and three FedExCup Playoffs events. The fall includes eight FedExCup events, which began at the Safeway Open and ends with The RSM Classic in November. Following a break, the season resumes in January with the Sentry Tournament of Champions in Hawaii.

Significant changes for PGA TOUR in 2018-19

1. A season with a better flow from start to finish; a return of THE PLAYERS Championship to March, which kicks off a cadence of significant events over five months; and a season that concludes with the FedExCup Playoffs. Every week matters – four of the eight winners during the fall of 2017 qualified for the season-ending TOUR Championship (Justin Thomas, Patton Kizzire, Patrick Cantlay and FedExCup champion Justin Rose).
2. The FedExCup Playoffs – which have been reduced from four to three events beginning this season and will conclude before Labor Day, allowing the TOUR to compete to own the August sports calendar – will feature fields of 125 for THE NORTHERN TRUST, 70 for the BMW Championship and 30 for the TOUR Championship, where the FedExCup Champion will be determined.
3. A simplified, strokes-based scoring system at the TOUR Championship that crowns a singular champion. Instead of a points reset at the TOUR Championship, the TOUR is instituting a strokes-based system related to the FedExCup standings through the BMW Championship. The scoring system virtually replicates the win probabilities of the current system but uses strokes instead of points – which is much easier for golf fans, and the casual sports fan, to understand. The leader through the first two FedExCup Playoffs events will begin the TOUR Championship at 10-under par. The next four players will start at -8 through -5, respectively. The next five will begin at -4, regressing by one stroke per five players until players 26-30 start at even par. With the implementation of this change, the player with the lowest total score including FedExCup Starting Strokes will be the FedExCup champion and be credited with an official victory in the TOUR Championship. Two constants will the drama and the crowning of a deserving champion seen over the first 12 years of the FedExCup. Using next year's scoring at the 2018 TOUR Championship, Justin Rose – thanks to a birdie on the 72nd hole -- would have captured the FedExCup by a single stroke over Tiger Woods, Billy Horschel and Dustin Johnson.
4. A \$10 million Wyndham Rewards-sponsored bonus – the Wyndham Rewards Top 10 -- where players will be rewarded for their outstanding play during the Regular Season, prior to the start of the FedExCup Playoffs. The top Regular Season finisher in FedExCup points through the Wyndham Championship will earn \$2 million, followed by \$1.5 million for the runner-up with the 10th-place finisher earning \$500,000. Dustin Johnson led last year's FedExCup standings through the Wyndham Championship, just 83 points ahead of Justin Thomas.
5. Including the Wyndham Rewards Top 10, there will be a doubling of FedExCup total bonus money available to players, from \$35 million to \$70 million.

A look back at the 2017 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open

- Patrick Cantlay defeated Alex Cejka and Whee Kim in a playoff for his first career PGA TOUR victory
- Cantlay would go on to qualify for the season-ending TOUR Championship for the second time in his career (No. 20 in final FedExCup standings)
- Five other players finished in the top 20 and advanced to the TOUR Championship: Patton Kizzire (T4), Bryson DeChambeau (T7), Tony Finau (T16), Gary Woodland (T18) and Webb Simpson (T20)

Five field notes to know

- Patrick Cantlay returns for his first title defense on the PGA TOUR
- Jordan Spieth is making his tournament debut
- Eight past champions (Patrick Cantlay/2017, Rod Pampling/2016, Webb Simpson/2013, Ryan Moore/2012, Kevin Na/2011, Martin Laird/2009, Jim Furyk/1995, 1998, 1999 and Davis Love III/1993)
- Eight players from the 2018 TOUR Championship (Patrick Cantlay, Bryson DeChambeau, Tony Finau, Rickie Fowler, Kevin Na, Webb Simpson, Aaron Wise and Gary Woodland)
- Several players with Las Vegas connections are in the field, including former champions Ryan Moore and Kevin Na, as well as Charley Hoffman, Scott Piercy, Aaron Wise and Shintaro Ban.

Top contenders

Bryson DeChambeau (making season debut)

Entering the week

#6	OWGR
2	Starts at Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
1	Top-10 at Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
72	PGA TOUR starts
4	PGA TOUR wins
26	PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18
3	Wins in 2017-18
9	Top-10s in 2017-18
3	Final 2017-18 FedExCup standing

Wins (4): 2017 John Deere Classic, 2018 the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide, 2018 THE NORTHERN TRUST, 2018 Dell Technologies Championship

Best 2017-18 results: Won/the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide, Won/THE NORTHERN TRUST, Won/Dell Technologies Championship, 2nd/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, T3/RBC Heritage

- Finished T7 at the 2017 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
- First start at the event came in 2016 (T36)
- Won three titles, including two at FedExCup Playoffs events, in 2017-18 to finish third in the FedExCup standings

Tony Finau

Entering the week

#7	FedExCup
#15	OWGR
4	Starts at Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
3	Top-20s at Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
120	PGA TOUR starts
1	PGA TOUR wins
1	PGA TOUR starts in 2018-19
28	PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18
3	2 nd -place finishes in 2017-18
11	Top-10s in 2017-18 (T-most on TOUR)

Wins (1): 2016 Puerto Rico Open

Best 2018-19 results: P2/World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions

- Making fifth start at Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, with lone top-10 coming in 2015 (T7), his first career top-10 on TOUR
- Tied Dustin Johnson for most top-10s on TOUR in 2017-18 (11), including runner-up results at the Safeway Open, Genesis Open, and THE NORTHERN TRUST
- Lost in a playoff at the WGC-HSBC Champions in his first start of the season

Rickie Fowler (making season debut)

Entering the week

#9	OWGR
3	Starts at Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
1	Top-10s at Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
216	PGA TOUR starts
4	PGA TOUR wins
20	PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18
6	Top-10s in 2017-18
17	Final 2017-18 FedExCup standing

Wins (4): 2012 Wells Fargo Championship, 2015 THE PLAYERS Championship, 2015 Dell Technologies Championship, 2017 The Honda Classic

Best 2017-18 results: 2nd/Mayakoba Golf Classic, 2nd/Masters Tournament, T4/Sentry Tournament of Champions

- Making fourth start at Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, with lone top-10 coming in 2009 (T7)
- Finished 17th in the final 2017-18 FedExCup standings, highlighted by runner-up results at the Mayakoba Golf Classic and Masters Tournament

Jordan Spieth (making season and tournament debuts)

Entering the week

#13	OWGR
150	PGA TOUR starts
11	PGA TOUR wins
23	PGA TOUR starts in 2017-18
5	Top-10s in 2017-18
31	Final 2017-18 FedExCup standing

11 PGA TOUR wins; most recent: 2017 The Open Championship

Best 2017-18 results: 3rd/Masters Tournament, 3/Houston Open

- Making first start of the season and first at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
- Missed the TOUR Championship for the first time in his career in 2017-18 after a career-low five top-10s
- In search of first victory since 2017 The Open Championship

Las Vegas connections

Shintaro Ban

- Named first-team All-America for UNLV in 2018
- Won four individual titles as a senior, tied for most in one season in school history
- Making second career PGA TOUR start (MC/2018 U.S. Open)

Charley Hoffman

- Part of UNLV's 1998 NCAA Championship team
- Honorable mention All-America in 1998
- Has three top-10s in 13 starts at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (4th/2014, T5/2006, 6th/2009)

Ryan Moore

- Resides in Las Vegas

- Graduated from UNLV in 2005; won the 2004 NCAA Championship as a junior and each major award (Ben Hogan Award, Jack Nicklaus Award, and Haskins Award) as a senior
- Earned second of five PGA TOUR victories at the 2012 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
- Making 13th start at the event (highlights: Won/2012, T7/2009, T9/2014)

Kevin Na

- Resides in Las Vegas
- Appeared in a 2010 episode of "CSI: Las Vegas" on CBS along with Rocco Mediate, Duffy Waldorf, Gary McCord and David Feherty
- Earned first of two PGA TOUR victories at the 2011 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
- Making 12th start at the event (highlights: Won/2011, T2/2015)

Aaron Wise

- Resides in Las Vegas
- Making third start at the event (T10/2016, T32/2017)
- Only PGA TOUR rookie to advance to 2018 TOUR Championship; earned first career victory at 2018 AT&T Byron Nelson
- Was named 2017-18 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year

Tournament records and history

- 18-hole score: 59 (**Chip Beck/R3/1991**)
- 72-hole score: 259 (**Stuart Appleby/2003**)
- Margin of victory: 8 (**Davis Love III/1993**)
- Come-from-behind victory: 7 (**Smylie Kaufman/2015**)
- Playoffs: 9 (most recent: 2017/**Patrick Cantlay** def. **Alex Cejka** and **Whee Kim**)
- Holes-in-one since 2000: 15 (most recent: 2017/**Brice Garnett, Kelly Kraft**)