



2019 Open Championship Pre-Tournament Notes

On-site PGA TOUR media contact: Amanda Herrington | (770) 616-4412 | amandaherrington@pgatourhq.com

Dates: July 15-21, 2019

Where: Portrush, Northern Ireland

Course: Royal Portrush Golf Club (Dunluce Links) (36-35—71/7,344 yards)

Field size: 156

Defending champion: Francesco Molinari

Purse: \$10,750,000 (\$1,935,000/winner)

FedExCup: 600 points to the winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Things to know

- Major champions Darren Clarke, Graeme McDowell and Rory McIlroy, winners of a combined 23 PGA TOUR titles, look to win in native Northern Ireland
- Americans have won each of the first three majors in 2019 and have not won all four since 1982
- No player has won the U.S. Open and The Open in the same year since Tiger Woods in 2000; Gary Woodland can be the first in that span
- Woods is in search of his 16th major championship title and record-tying PGA TOUR win No. 82
- Brooks Koepka looks to become the fourth player to win five or more majors before turning 30 and first to finish first or second in all four majors in a single year
- Francesco Molinari hopes to join seven others since WWII in successfully defending title at The Open

Notes on the field

- 28 of the top 30 in the FedExCup standings (No. 13 Charles Howell III and No. 22 Scott Piercy withdrew)
- Nine FedExCup champions: Tiger Woods (2007, 2009), Jim Furyk (2010), Brandt Snedeker (2012), Henrik Stenson (2013), Billy Horschel (2014), Jordan Spieth (2015), Rory McIlroy (2016), Justin Thomas (2017), Justin Rose (2018)
- 49 of the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking (No. 32 Kevin Na withdrew)

A look back at The 2018 Open Championship

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Francesco Molinari	70	72	65	69	276 (-8)
T2	Kevin Kisner	66	70	68	74	278 (-6)
T2	Rory McIlroy	69	69	70	70	278 (-6)
T2	Justin Rose	72	73	64	69	278 (-6)
T2	Xander Schauffele	71	66	67	74	278 (-6)

- Molinari won his second PGA TOUR title and first major championship with a final-round 69 after trailing by three entering the final round
- The win was Molinari’s second in a three-start stretch that also included a runner-up (Win/Quicken Loans National, T2/John Deere Classic, Win/The Open)
- Molinari became the first player from Italy to win a major championship
- Tiger Woods finished T6, his first top-10 in a major since 2013
- 54-hole co-leader Jordan Spieth (T9) failed to make a birdie in the final round

PGA TOUR members from Northern Ireland in the field

Rory McIlroy

- From Holywood, roughly 60 miles from Portrush
- Shot a 61 at Royal Portrush as a 16-year-old
- Four-time major champion: 2011 U.S. Open, 2012 PGA Championship, 2014 The Open, 2014 PGA Championship
- Has finished in the top five in each of his last four starts at The Open (Won/2014, DNP/2015, T5/2016, T4/2017, T2/2018)

- Two wins during the 2018-19 season: THE PLAYERS Championship, RBC Canadian Open
- Leads the PGA TOUR with 11 top-10s; recorded a career-high 12 in 2014

Graeme McDowell

- Native of Portrush
- Playing first Open Championship since 2016 (Royal Troon/T63)
- Got into the event through The Open Qualifying Series with a T8 at the RBC Canadian Open
- Estimates that he has played Royal Portrush “300 to 500 times”
- Won fourth PGA TOUR title at the 2019 Corales Puntacana Resort & Club Championship
- No. 46 in the FedExCup standings; has never qualified for the TOUR Championship

FedExCup and The Open Championship

- Only three weeks (five events) remain until the start of the FedExCup Playoffs
- Six of the last seven winners of The Open have advanced to the season-ending TOUR Championship (Henrik Stenson finished No. 36 in 2016)
- Francesco Molinari had never been to the TOUR Championship before finishing 17th in the final 2017-18 FedExCup standings
- No player has ever won The Open and the FedExCup in the same season
- 2015 champion Zach Johnson is one of 10 players that has advanced to the FedExCup Playoffs each season; he enters the week No. 141 in the standings
- Two players are within 100 points of the lead entering the final three weeks of the Regular Season for the first time in the history of the FedExCup

Wyndham Rewards Top 10

The top 10 in the FedExCup at the conclusion of the PGA TOUR Regular Season will share a \$10 million bonus pool through the Wyndham Rewards Top 10 program. Updated standings are below:

Pos.	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Points Behind	Starts	Projected Bonus
1	Matt Kuchar	2,287	2	8	--	17	\$2 million
2	Brooks Koepka	2,202	2	6	85	16	\$1.5 million
3	Rory McIlroy	2,195	2	11	92	14	\$1.2 million
4	Xander Schauffele	1,817	2	5	470	16	\$1.1 million
5	Gary Woodland	1,789	1	8	498	19	\$1.0 million
6	Patrick Cantlay	1,658	1	8	629	16	\$850,000
7	Dustin Johnson	1,631	1	7	656	14	\$700,000
8	Paul Casey	1,541	1	6	746	17	\$600,000
9	Justin Rose	1,308	1	6	979	12	\$550,000
10	Rickie Fowler	1,293	1	5	994	16	\$500,000

Trends

- 20 of the last 21 major winners entered the week in the top 25 of the Official World Golf Ranking (only Jimmy Walker/48th/2016 PGA Championship did not)
- Only three players under the age of 35 have won The Open during the FedExCup era (2007-present)

Year	Player	Age
2017	Jordan Spieth	23 years, 361 days
2014	Rory McIlroy	25 years, 77 days
2010	Louis Oosthuizen	27 years, 272 days

- Three of the last four winners of The Open finished T3 or better in their most recent PGA TOUR start prior to winning

Year	Player	Most recent PGA TOUR start	Result
2018	Francesco Molinari	John Deere Classic	T2
2017	Jordan Spieth	Travelers Championship	Win
2016	Henrik Stenson	U.S. Open	WD
2015	Zach Johnson	John Deere Classic	T3

- In the last 10 years (2009-18), no winner of The Open finished better than T30 the year prior to winning; Stewart Cink (winner in 2009), Louis Oosthuizen (2010), Ernie Els (2012), Phil Mickelson (2013), Rory McIlroy (2014) and Francesco Molinari (2018) all missed the cut the year before

Top player notes

Francesco Molinari

- Last player to successfully defend title at The Open: Pádraig Harrington (2007, 2008)
- In addition to win in 2018, has one other top-10 at The Open (T9/2013)
- Won third PGA TOUR title at 2019 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
- No. 24 in the FedExCup standings

Brooks Koepka

- Four-time major champion: 2017 U.S. Open, 2018 U.S. Open, 2018 PGA Championship, 2019 PGA Championship
- With a win, would become the fourth player to win five majors before turning 30, joining Bobby Jones, Jack Nicklaus and Tiger Woods
- Results in 2019 majors: T2/Masters Tournament, Win/PGA Championship, 2nd/U.S. Open; no player has ever finished first or second in all four majors in a single year
- Has two top-10s in five starts at The Open (T10/2015, T6/2017)
- En route to T39 in 2018, co-led the field in Birdies with (17)
- Stands No. 2 in the FedExCup and has never held the top position
- Caddie Ricky Elliott grew up in Portrush

Tiger Woods

- In search of 82nd PGA TOUR title, which would tie Sam Snead for the most all-time
- A 16th major championship win would bring him within two of Jack Nicklaus' record (18)
- Three wins at The Open Championship: 2000, 2005, 2006
- Winner of the 2019 Masters Tournament; has not won multiple majors in the same season since 2006 (The Open, PGA Championship)
- T6 in 2018 was first top-10 at the event since 2013 (T6)
- Finished T21 at the U.S. Open in most recent start

Additional notes

- **Gary Woodland** can become the first player since Tiger Woods in 2000 and seventh overall to win the U.S. Open and The Open in the same year; others to do so: Bobby Jones (1926, 1930), Gene Sarazen (1932), Ben Hogan (1953), Lee Trevino (1971), Tom Watson (1982)
- No FedExCup leader has ever won The Open; **Matt Kuchar** looks to join Tiger Woods (2007 PGA Championship, 2008 U.S. Open) and Jordan Spieth (2015 U.S. Open) as FedExCup No. 1s to win a major
- **Dustin Johnson** has three top-10s in 10 starts at The Open, highlighted by a T2 in 2011
- 2018 runner-up **Xander Schauffele**, winner of two tournaments in 2018-19, has four top-fives and a T6 in 10 career starts in major championships
- Americans have won each of the first three majors in 2019; the last time players from the United States won all four majors in a single year was 1982 (Craig Stadler/Masters Tournament, Tom Watson/U.S. Open, Watson/The Open, Raymond Floyd/PGA Championship)
- Eight events (six weeks), including the FedExCup Playoffs remain in the 2018-19 season and no player has won three or more events; there have only been three seasons since 1970 in which no player achieved the three-win mark (1983, 1991, 2011)

Return to Royal Portrush

- Royal Portrush has previously hosted The Open once: 1951
- Max Faulkner won his only major with a two-shot victory
- The Open winners Fred Daly (T4), Bobby Locke (T6) and Peter Thomson (T6) all finished in the top-10