



Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship

Firestone Country Club | Akron, Ohio | July 8-14, 2019

PGA TOUR Media Contacts

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Quick Facts

- Golf Course: Firestone Country Club (Par 70 / 7,400 yards)
- Designed by: Bert Way and Robert Trent Jones (1929)
- Purse: \$2,800,000 (Winner: \$420,000)
- Golf Channel Coverage (all local times): Thurs-Fri, 1:30 – 4:00 p.m.; Sat-Sun, 3:00 – 6:00 p.m.
- Social Media: @seniorplayers ([Instagram](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#))

Field Overview

The 37th annual Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship comes to Akron, Ohio in 2019 and will be played at Firestone Country Club for the first time. The event, formerly one that rotated venues, will be contested at Firestone through 2022. **Vijay Singh** will return to defend his title, and he will be joined by eight other past champions of the event: **Scott McCarron** (2017), **Bernhard Langer** (2014, 2015, 2016), **Kenny Perry** (2013), **Fred Couples** (2011), **Mark O'Meara** (2010), **Jay Haas** (2009), and **Loren Roberts** (2007), **Bobby Wadkins** (2006).

- Seven World Golf Hall of Fame members in the field
- Nine players who have won the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship
- Two players who have won a professional event at Firestone (Singh, World Golf Championships 2008; Frost, NEC World Series of Golf 1989)
- 59 PGA TOUR winners with 362 total career victories
- 57 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 285 total career victories
- 17 players with a PGA TOUR major victory; 23 with a PGA TOUR Champions major
- Six Charles Schwab Cup champions, spanning 13 years

2018 Recap: Vijay Singh Earns First Senior Major Championship at Exmoor Country Club

Vijay Singh started the final round one shot behind in fourth place and went on to card a final-round 67 to earn a spot in a playoff against Jeff Maggert. Singh birdied the second playoff hole, defeating Maggert and ultimately earning his third win on PGA TOUR Champions, his first senior major championship and an exemption into the 2019 PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass. In addition to being defending champion, the Fijian is also one of only two men in the field to have won a professional event at Firestone Country Club. Singh won the 2008 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, while South Africa's David Frost won the NEC World Series of Golf in 1989.

Following his 2018 SENIOR PLAYERS Championship victory, the World Golf Hall of Fame member went on to notch another win at the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. He finished the season ranked No. 4 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

Vijay Singh press conference: 2:30 p.m. Wednesday (scrum on the range)

Couples Returns to Firestone

At this week's Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS, Couples will be honored as the 2019 Ambassador of Golf. The Ambassador of Golf Award honors a person who has fostered the ideals of the game on an international level and whose concern for others extends beyond the golf course. Past honorees include a range of industry titans including most recent winners Hale Irwin (2009); Tom Watson (2010); Nick Price (2011); Nick Faldo (2012); Jack Nicklaus (2013); Johnny Miller (2014); Judy Rankin (2015); Davis Love III (2016); Peter Jacobsen (2017); Jim Nantz (2018).

The 15-time PGA TOUR Champions winner won the Masters in 1992 when he came from one stroke behind on the final day, ultimately defeating Raymond Floyd by two strokes. His Masters win completed a remarkable stretch where he won three times and finished runner-up twice in six starts. He went on to become No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking after his Masters victory and maintained that position for 16 weeks. It marked the first time an American player achieved the No. 1 ranking since the advent of the OWGR.

This week marks Couples' fourth start at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS. In three of those four starts, he finished inside the top five, including a win in 2011 when the event was played at Westchester Country Club in Harrison, New York. This will be his sixth start of the season and first since he finished T17 at the Rapiscan Systems Classic in March.

Fred Couples press conference: 11:15 a.m. (scrum, on the range)

Stricker Steps into SENIOR PLAYERS Field

Wisconsin native Steve Stricker continues to compete on both the PGA TOUR and PGA TOUR Champions. He has made seven starts on the PGA TOUR in 2019 and the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS will mark his ninth start on PGA TOUR Champions. Halfway through his second season on the over-50 Tour, Stricker has already collected five wins, including two senior majors this season. He broke through with a six-shot victory at the Regions Tradition in May, and most recently he put up a record-setting performance at the U.S. Senior Open, as his 19-under total was six shots clear of Jerry Kelly and David Toms. It's the 21st time a player has won multiple majors in a season and it marks the eighth-straight year it has happened.

Although this will be Stricker's first appearance at the SENIOR PLAYERS, it will not be his first time competing at Firestone Country Club. The 12-time PGA TOUR winner played in eight World Golf Championship-Bridgestone Invitationals (highlighted by a T2 finish in 2012) in addition to one start at the NEC World Series of Golf in 1996 where he also finished T2.

Steve Stricker press conference: 1:30 p.m. Wednesday (interview room)

Langer Loves the SENIOR PLAYERS

Another standout player to watch this year is World Golf Hall of Fame member Bernhard Langer. Langer has won the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS three times and is the only player in history to have earned the wins in three consecutive years (2014-16). A 39-time winner on PGA TOUR Champions, Langer holds the record for most Charles Schwab Cup wins (5), senior major victories (10) and tops the all-time money list (\$27,637,896). He owns one victory this season (Oasis Championship) and is currently No. 9 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

Langer won at least one major four straight years (2014-17) and is the only player to complete the Senior Slam and win all five majors. He has made seven starts in majors since his last victory (2017 Senior Open Championship), his longest winless streak since he made 16 starts between his wins at the 2010 U.S. Senior Open and 2014 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship.

Bernhard Langer press conference: 10:00 a.m. Wednesday (interview room)

Charles Schwab Cup Well Underway

After cashing a winner's check of \$720,000, Steve Stricker moved to No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, his highest position since May 2018. Scott McCarron held steady at No. 1 for the ninth consecutive week, and his lead has

been more than \$400,000 the last five weeks. Bob Estes made the biggest move at the U.S. Senior Open, as he finished fourth and improved from 47th to 26th, while Kevin Sutherland earned enough to cross the \$1 million threshold for the fifth consecutive season.

Player	Money	Season Summary	Last Week
1. Scott McCarron	\$1,902,205	Three wins, eight top-10s	T6
2. Steve Stricker	\$1,422,327	Two major wins, five top-10s	Won
3. Jerry Kelly	\$1,363,913	One win, eight top-10s	T2
4. Kirk Triplett	\$1,127,152	One win, four runner-up finishes	5th
5. David Toms	\$1,107,285	Three runner-up finishes, six top-10s	T2

Major Winners in the Field

Of the 78 players in this year's field, 22 have won 25 major titles on the PGA TOUR. As a group they have won 363 PGA TOUR events and 285 more on PGA TOUR Champions. Below is a list of those who claimed major titles on the PGA TOUR.

Masters	U.S. Open	Open Championship	PGA Championship
Vijay Singh (2000)	Retief Goosen (2004)	Mark O'Meara (1998)	Vijay Singh ('98, '04)
Mark O'Meara (1998)	Steve Jones (1996)	Tom Lehman (1996)	David Toms (2001)
Bernhard Langer ('85, '93)	Lee Janzen ('93, '98)	Mark Calcavecchia (1989)	Jeff Sluman (1988)
Fred Couples (1992)	Corey Pavin (1995)	Sandy Lyle (1985)	John Daly (1991)
Sandy Lyle (1988)	Scott Simpson (1987)	John Daly (1995)	Mark Brooks (1996)
Larry Mize (1987)			Shaun Micheel (2003)

Other Players to Watch

- Scott McCarron:** McCarron has been a force on PGA TOUR Champions since joining the Tour in 2015, and this season he has become a dominant presence. He has notched three wins (Mitsubishi Electric Classic, Insuperity Invitational, Mastercard Japan Championship), which brings his total career wins on Tour to 11. McCarron held steady at No. 1 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings for the nine consecutive weeks, and his lead has been more than \$400,000 the last five weeks. The Charlotte resident won the 2017 SENIOR PLAYERS Championship in dramatic fashion when he shot a bogey-free, 6-under 66 to make up a six-shot deficit and ended Bernhard Langer's three-year winning streak, earning McCarron his first senior major championship win.
- Jerry Kelly:** Kelly is in his third year on PGA TOUR Champions and owns four wins. He is currently ranked No. 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup standing and most recently notched a win in his hometown of Madison, Wisconsin at the American Family Insurance Championship. This will be Kelly's third start at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS, and his best finish came in 2018 where he finished T4. In his 12 starts this season, he has posted eight top-10s.
- David Toms:** The 2018 U.S. Senior Open champion has been chasing a second win on PGA TOUR Champions throughout the 2019 season. Toms has made 12 starts and placed in the top 25 in all but one event. His best three finishes this season were all second-place turnouts, first at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, then at the Regions Tradition, and most recently at the U.S. Senior Open Championship. The 13-time PGA TOUR winner's best showing at Firestone Country Club came in 2004 at the World Golf Championships-Bridgestone Invitational where he finished T6.
- Kirk Triplett:** Triplett has put forth an impressive season thus far, notching six top-10 finishes in 15 starts and a win early in the season at the Hoag Classic where he beat Woody Austin in a playoff. He is currently ranked No. 4 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings and will make his eighth start at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS this week.

Raising Their Games

Of the 29 players that have played all 12 rounds in the season's first three majors, three have a sub-70 scoring average in those rounds: **Steve Stricker** (68.58), **Jerry Kelly** (69.08) and **Paul Broadhurst** (69.50). In addition to Stricker's two wins, he finished T41 at the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, while Kelly and Broadhurst are the only players with top-15 finishes in all three majors. However, no one is in position to match Miguel Angel Jimenez's record last year, as he posted top-10s in all five majors, including two victories.

From Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS to THE PLAYERS

Ever since Bobby Wadkins won in 2006, the winner of the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship has earned an exemption into the subsequent year's PLAYERS Championship. The tradition will continue in 2020, as this week's champion will earn a spot in The PLAYERS Championship next year (March 10-15, 2019). In all, the exemption has been used ten times, and Mark O'Meara is the only player of this group that has made the cut.

Year	Player	Scores (Finish)
2019	Vijay Singh	73-76 (MC)
2018	Scott McCarron	79-73 (MC)
2017	Bernhard Langer	71-78 (MC)
2016	Bernhard Langer	72-72 (MC)
2015	Bernhard Langer	73-73 (MC)
2014	Kenny Perry	77-70 (MC)
2013	Joe Daley	78-77 (MC)
2012	Fred Couples	DNP
2011	Mark O'Meara	66-74-79-77 (74th)
2010	Jay Haas	71-73 (MC)
2009	D.A. Weibring	WD
2008	Loren Roberts	DNP
2007	Bobby Wadkins	77-75 (MC)

Five PGA TOUR Champions players in the field this week have won THE PLAYERS Championship:

Year	Player	Score (Finish)	Runner Up
2006	Stephen Ames	274 / -14	Retief Goosen
2005	Fred Funk	279 / -9	Luke Donald Tom Lehman Scott Verplank
1984, 1996	Fred Couples	270 / -18	Colin Montgomerie Tommy Tolles
1995	Lee Janzen	283 / -5	Bernhard Langer
1987	Sandy Lyle	274 / -14	Jeff Sluman

Field Includes Eight Former Charles Schwab Cup Winners

Eight Charles Schwab Cup winners who have qualified for the 2019. This list includes Jay Haas (2006), Loren Roberts (2007, '09), Bernhard Langer (2010, '14, '15, '16, '18), Kenny Perry (2013), Tom Lehman (2011, '12) and Kevin Sutherland (2017). The only other three players who have won the Cup but are not in the field are Hale Irwin, Tom Watson and Allen Doyle who no longer play full schedules on PGA TOUR Champions.

Field Has International Flavor

This year's field includes players from 10 countries. In addition to the United States, players hail from England (Paul Broadhurst), Fiji (Vijay Singh), Mexico (Esteban Toledo), Germany (Bernhard Langer), South Africa (Retief Goosen and David Frost) Scotland (Colin Montgomerie and Sandy Lyle), Spain (Miguel Angel Jiménez), Sweden (Jesper Parnevik), Paraguay (Carlos Franco) and Canada (Stephen Ames).

PGA TOUR Champions – 2019 Season Overview

Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs

The 2019 Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will begin with 72 players at the Dominion Energy Charity Classic (Oct. 14-20). The top-54 will advance to the Invesco QQQ Championship (Oct. 28 - Nov. 3), and the season will conclude with the top-36 players at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Nov. 4-10), where they will compete for the Charles Schwab Cup.

At the start of the Playoffs, each player's regular-season money total will become the equivalent number of points (e.g. \$330,000 equals 330,000 points). During the three Playoffs events, each dollar earned is worth two points, and those points will be added to a player's regular-season point total. After the Dominion Energy Charity Classic, the top 54 players will advance, and after the Invesco QQQ Championship, the top 36 players will qualify for the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. The player with the most points at the conclusion of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship will win the Charles Schwab Cup.

The 2019 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 2019 with at least one PGA TOUR win include:

- Shaun Micheel (January 5, 1969)
- Retief Goosen (February 3, 1969)
- Frank Lickliter, II (July 28, 1969)
- Shigeki Maruyama (September 12, 1969)
- Angel Cabrera (September 12, 1969)
- Rod Pampling (September 23, 1969)

Upcoming rookie classes include:

- **2020** – Ernie Els (October 17, 1969), Tim Herron (February 6, 1970), Jim Furyk (May 12, 1970), Mike Weir (May 12, 1970), K.J. Choi (May 19, 1970), Phil Mickelson (June 16, 1970)
- **2021** – John Senden (April 20, 1971), Stuart Appleby (May 1, 1971), Robert Allenby (July 12, 1971), Pádraig Harrington (August 31, 1971)
- **2022** – David Duval (November 9, 1971), Brian Gay (December 14, 1971), Y.E. Yang (January 15, 1972), Justin Leonard (June 15, 1972), Notah Begay II (September 14, 1972)

2019 Schedule

The 2019 schedule features 27 official tournaments in Canada, Japan, Scotland and 19 states, with prize money totaling nearly \$58 million. After the 24-event Regular Season, the fourth-annual Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will determine the winner of the season-long race for the Charles Schwab Cup.

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Tom Lehman closed with a 7-under 65 to erase a four-shot deficit and win the season-opener with a 17-under total. Lehman topped David Toms, who opened with rounds of 65-65 and led by four at the start of the final round. He maintained a three-shot cushion through 12 but was 1-over on his last six holes, including a three-putt bogey on No. 18, and fell one shot shy of Lehman's winning total.
2. **Oasis Championship:** Bernhard Langer became the tournament's first repeat champion, winning with a tournament-record score of 19-under 197. His five-stroke victory over Marco Dawson is the largest margin in the Oasis Championship's 13-year history. With the win, he surpassed Hale Irwin and became No. 1 on the Tour's all-time money list.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Miguel Angel Jimenez defeated Bernhard Langer and Olin Browne on the first playoff hole to secure his seventh career victory Sunday at the Chubb Classic. Jimenez posted the day's only bogey-free round, a 5-under 66, and played the last 39 holes (38 regulation, 1 playoff) of the tournament bogey free.

4. **Cologuard Classic:** Mark O'Meara ended an eight-year winless drought when he won the Cologuard Classic by closing with a 7-under 66 for a four-shot victory. At 8 years, 4 months and 21 days, it is the second-longest gap between victories on Tour. The 62-year-old became the fourth-oldest winner in PGA TOUR Champions history.
5. **Hoag Classic:** Kirk Triplett defeated Woody Austin on the second playoff hole when he made a 12-foot eagle putt to claim his seventh victory on PGA TOUR Champions. It was Triplett's second playoff in his career, improving his record to 2-0.
6. **Rapiscan Systems Classic:** Kevin Sutherland birdied the seventh playoff hole Monday morning and defeated Scott Parel to win the Rapiscan Systems Classic. Sutherland led by three after 36 holes, but a 3-over 75 on Sunday left him tied at 7-under with Parel, who erased a six-shot deficit with a final-round 69. The two players played five extra holes Sunday evening before play was suspended due to darkness.
7. **Mitsubishi Electric Classic:** Scott McCarron posted his ninth win on PGA TOUR Champions and third victory at TPC Sugarloaf, as he won the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in wire-to-wire fashion at TPC Sugarloaf, site of two of his PGA TOUR victories. McCarron was the only player to card three rounds under par (68-70-71) and his 7-under total was two shots better than Joe Durant, Jerry Kelly, Kirk Triplett and Kent Jones.
8. **Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge:** Scott Hoch and Tom Pernice Jr. opened the final round with a hole-in-one on the first hole and won with a tournament-record total of 23-under. At 63 years, 5 months and 4 days, Hoch became the oldest player to win on PGA TOUR Champions.
9. **Insperty Invitational:** Three back-nine birdies lifted Scott McCarron to a two-stroke victory over Scott Parel at the Insperty Invitational. It was his second win of the season, extending his streak to four straight years with multiple victories, and he became the 38th player with at least 10 wins on PGA TOUR Champions.
10. **Regions Tradition:** Steve Stricker captured his first major championship title as he closed with a 4-under 68 for a six-shot victory over Billy Andrade, Paul Goydos and David Toms. It was Stricker's fourth win in 18 PGA TOUR Champions starts and he became the 15th player to make the Regions Tradition his first major victory. Due to inclement weather over the weekend, the tournament finished on Monday.
11. **KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship:** Ken Tanigawa overcame a three-shot deficit on the back nine to pass defending champion Paul Broadhurst and win the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship by one stroke. Tanigawa converted a 10-foot par putt on the 72nd hole to secure his first major championship victory.
12. **Principal Charity Classic:** Kevin Sutherland shot a course-record 62 and erased an eight-shot deficit, the third largest in PGA TOUR Champions history, to win on the second playoff hole. Sutherland made eight back-nine birdies to catch first- and second-round leader Scott Parel, who shot a final-round 70 and was unable to match Sutherland's birdie on the second extra hole.
13. **Mastercard Japan Championship:** With three birdies on the back nine, Scott McCarron edged away from the field and won by three over Billy Andrade and Kirk Triplett. It was his third win of the season and his 11th overall, making him the 31st player to win at least 11 titles on PGA TOUR Champions.
14. **American Family Insurance Championship:** Wisconsin native Jerry Kelly defeated tournament host Steve Stricker and World Golf Hall of Fame member Retief Goosen in a three-hole playoff to secure his fourth victory Sunday at the American Family Insurance Championship. Kelly became the tournament's fourth straight come-from-behind winner as he started the day T5.
15. **U.S. Senior Open:** Steve Stricker claimed his first U.S. Senior Open victory and second major championship win of the year with a six-stroke win over Jerry Kelly and David Toms. After building a six-shot lead through 54 holes, Stricker carded a final-round 69 to finish at 19-under 261, the second-lowest score in relation to par in U.S. Senior Open history.