



Mastercard Japan Championship

Narita Golf Club-Accordia Golf | Narita-shi, Chiba, Japan | June 7-9, 2019

Media Contacts

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Quick Facts

Golf Course: Narita Golf Club-Accordia Golf (7,140 yards / par 72)

Course Designer: Taiso Kawata (1988)

Purse: \$2,500,000 (Winner: \$400,000)

Golf Channel Coverage (all times Eastern):

- Thursday, 6/6: 10:00 p.m. – 12:30 a.m. (live); 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. (replay)
- Friday, 6/7, : 12:30 – 3:00 a.m. (live); 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. (replay)
- Saturday, 6/8: 12:30 – 3:00 a.m. (live); 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. (replay)

Quick Links: [Tournament Field](#) | [Tee Times](#)

Social Media: Twitter ([@ChampionsTour](#)), Instagram ([@pgatourchampions](#))

Tournament Overview (as of June 5, 2019)

After a year hiatus, PGA TOUR Champions returns to Tokyo for this week's Mastercard Japan Champions. Narita Golf Club-Accordia Golf will once again host a 68-player field featuring five members of the World Golf Hall of Fame members including defending champion **Colin Montgomerie**, **Tom Watson**, **Mark O'Meara**, **Sandy Lyle** and **Larry Nelson** as well as 13 PGA TOUR major championship winners.

- 68 players from 10 countries
- Five members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
- 13 PGA TOUR major championship winners
- 45 PGA TOUR winners with a combined 252 titles
- 17 Japan Golf Tour winners w/101 titles
- 14 former Ryder Cup team members, including four captains

2017 Recap: Montgomerie makes history

Colin Montgomerie birdied six of his final 11 holes to complete his three-shot comeback victory at the inaugural event, the first official PGA TOUR-sanctioned tournament in Japan. He started the final round T3 and three shots behind second-round leader Scott McCarron. Through seven holes Sunday, he was 1-over for the day and 8-under for the tournament and still trailed by three. He birdied Nos. 8, 10, 12, 13, 14 and 17 to finish at 14-under-par. He took his first outright lead with his birdie on No. 14, and a birdie on 17 put him one shot ahead of Billy Mayfair, who was in the clubhouse at 13-under.

Montgomerie went on to win again the following month (SAS Championship) before closing the year at No. 8 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. So far in 2019, Montgomerie has four top-10 finishes and is ranked No. 20 in the Schwab Cup.

Colin Montgomerie & Tom Watson Press Conference: 2:30 p.m, Wednesday

Japanese, Thai Players in the Field

Former PGA TOUR member and 30-time Japan Golf Tour winner **Massy Kuramoto** sits atop the list of eight players to receive sponsor exemptions. He'll be joined by **Tsuyoshi Yoneyama**, **Prayad Marksaeng**, **Toru Suzuki**, **Keiichiro Fukabori**, **Toshimitsu Izawa**, **Masayoshi Yamazoe** and Shigetoshi Hasegawa, a former Major League Baseball pitcher who made his PGA TOUR Champions debut in April at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic in Atlanta.

Past Winners in Japan

The 68-player field includes 17 players who have won a collective 101 titles on the Japan Golf Tour. **Carlos Franco** has the most wins among the American players, as he won five times between 1994 and 1999. Six players won the Dunlop Phoenix – **Tom Watson** (1997, 1980), **Prayad Marksaeng** (2008), **David Frost** (1992), **Larry Nelson** (1991), **Larry Mize** (1989, 1990), **Scott Simpson** (1984). Other notable winners in Japan include **Darren Clarke** (3), **Mark O'Meara** (2), **Corey Pavin** (2) and **Jerry Pate** (2).

Sutherland Surges

Kevin Sutherland shot a course-record 62 and erased an eight-shot deficit, the third largest in PGA TOUR Champions history, to beat **Scott Parel** on the second playoff hole last week at the Principal Charity Classic. It was the second time he's met—and beat—Parel in overtime this season, after they went head-to-head in seven hole playoff that ended on Monday at the Rapiscan Systems Classic. Sutherland now has two wins and six top-10s this season and improved to No. 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

McCarron: The Man Out Front

Through 12 events, Scott McCarron has now extended his lead to \$476,958 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings. McCarron's lead is the second-largest through this point in the season since 2000 (Bernhard Langer led by \$880,300 in 2017), and he has led each of the last five weeks. Ken Tanigawa improved 20 spots and is No. 2 after his win at Oak Hill, while Retief Goosen went from 40th to 22nd after his fourth-place finish in the year's second major.

Player Capsules

A total of 24 players are competing at the Mastercard Japan Championship for the first time, here is a closer look at some of the notables.

- **Jerry Kelly** has four top-10s in his last five starts and improved to No. 8 in the Charles Schwab Cup.
- **Mark O'Meara** ended an eight-year drought when he won the 2019 Cologuard, the second-longest gap between victories on Tour. The 62-year-old became the fourth-oldest winner in PGA TOUR Champions history. He is currently ranked No. 23 in the Charles Schwab Cup.
- **Darren Clarke** has two top-10s this season, including a tie for second at the Cologuard Classic, and is No. 33 in the Charles Schwab Cup.

International Contingent

A total of 10 countries spanning the globe are represented in this year's field including Australia (**David McKenzie**, **Stephen Leaney**), South Africa (**David Frost**), Sweden (**Jesper Parnevik**), Canada (**Stephen Ames**) and Paraguay (**Carlos Franco**).

Tanigawa Near the Top

Ken Tanigawa, who was born in Japan and moved to the United States when he was five, captured his first major title when he won the KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship at Oak Hill last month. The two-time Arizona Amateur champion (2015, 2017) earned status through Q-School in 2017 and won the PURE Insurance Championship last year en route to Rookie of the Year honors. This year, he has three top-10s and improved from No. 22 to 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings following his \$585,000 payday at the Senior PGA.

Player	Money	Season Summary	Last Week
1. Scott McCarron	\$1,366,211	Two wins, seven top-10s	T21
2. Ken Tanigawa	\$889,253	Won Senior PGA Championship, three top-10s	T18
3. Kevin Sutherland	\$884,942	Two wins, six top-10s	Won

4. Bernhard Langer	\$773,154	Won Hoag Charity Classic, three runner-ups	DNP
5. Scott Parel	\$773,113	Two runner-ups, four top-10s	2nd

Narita Golf Club

In 2017, the par-72 layout played to a 70.751 average, which made Narita Golf Club the seventh-easiest course on Tour.

Hardest holes (tie): No. 11 (par 4, 431 yards) and No. 18 (par 4, 447 yards), 4.106 average

Easiest hole: No. 17 (par 5, 501 yards), 4.497 average

Year	R1	R2	R3	Overall Average (Rank)
2017	70.556	70.286	71.413	70.751 (20th / 26)

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), Padraig 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 at the Principal Charity Classic. 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**

14. American Family Insurance Championship
15. U.S. Senior Open Championship
16. Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship
17. The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex
18. DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
19. Boeing Classic
20. Shaw Charity Classic
21. The Ally Challenge
22. Sanford International
23. PURE Insurance Championship
24. SAS Championship
25. Dominion Energy Charity Classic
26. Invesco QQQ Championship
27. Charles Schwab Cup Championship