



2020 The American Express Pre-Tournament Notes

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Dates: January 13-19, 2020

Where: La Quinta, California

Courses: Stadium Course at PGA WEST (72/7,113) (Host)

Nicklaus Tournament Course at PGA WEST (72/7,159)

La Quinta Country Club (72/7,060)

Defending champion: Adam Long

Purse: \$6,700,000/\$1,206,000

FedExCup: 500 points to the winner

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Field: 156

Things to Know

- American Express serves as the new title sponsor in the event's 61st year
- Two-time champion Phil Mickelson returns as tournament host and looks to become winningest TOUR player in California (since 1983)
- American Express ambassador Tony Finau makes his first start since helping the United States Team to victory at the 2019 Presidents Cup
- Five-time PGA TOUR winner Rickie Fowler returns to The American Express for the first time since 2014
- Stadium Course at PGA WEST was designed by Pete Dye, who passed away on January 9 at age 94
- South Korea's Seung Yul Noh plays on the PGA TOUR for the first time since completing his mandatory military commitment for his country

A look back at 2019 The American Express

Pos	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Adam Long	63	71	63	65	262 (-26) NT-SC-LQ-SC
T2	Adam Hadwin	65	66	65	67	263 (-25) SC-LQ-NT-SC
T2	Phil Mickelson	60	68	66	69	263 (-25) LQ-NT-SC-SC
4	Talor Gooch	67	67	66	64	264 (-24) SC-LQ-NT-SC

- Adam Long earned his first PGA TOUR victory in sixth career start
- Long became the first player to win in six TOUR starts or fewer since Smylie Kaufman at the 2015 Shriners Hospitals for Children Open
- Long needed 98 putts for the week, tied for fewest on TOUR in 2018-19
- Phil Mickelson earned his 36th career runner-up on TOUR and fourth top-three result in 16 starts at The American Express
- Adam Hadwin recorded his third consecutive top-three result at the event (T2/2019, T3/2018, 2nd/2017)

Field Notes

- 17 of the top 30 in the current FedExCup standings, led by Brendon Todd (No. 2) and Sebastian Munoz (No. 4)
- 10 of the 30 players that qualified for the 2019 TOUR Championship
- 83 PGA TOUR winners combining for 257 total victories
- 7 major championship winners combining for 12 major victories, led by Phil Mickelson (5)
- 10 past champions of The American Express: Phil Mickelson (2002, 2004), Charley Hoffman (2007), D.J. Trahan (2008), Jhonattan Vegas (2011), Mark Wilson (2012), Brian Gay (2013), Bill Haas (2010, 2015), Jason Dufner (2016), Hudson Swafford (2017), Adam Long (2019)

FedExCup and The American Express

- 14th event of the 2019-20 PGA TOUR Season
- All 13 winners of The American Express in the FedExCup era have gone on to qualify for the FedExCup Playoffs and advance to the BMW Championship
- Four of the last six winners qualified for the season-ending TOUR Championship in the same season: Patrick Reed (2014), Bill Haas (2015), Jason Dufner (2016), Jon Rahm (2018)

Current FedExCup standings

The top 10 in the FedExCup at the conclusion of the PGA TOUR Regular Season will be recognized through the Wyndham Rewards Top 10 program and be well-positioned entering the FedExCup Playoffs

Position	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Points Behind	Starts	Projected Bonus
1	Justin Thomas	1,162	2	3	--	5	\$2 million
2	Brendon Todd	1,024	2	3	138	10	\$1.5 million
3	Lanto Griffin	887	1	2	275	10	\$1.2 million
4	Sebastian Munoz	867	1	3	295	9	\$1.1 million
5	Cameron Smith	740	1	2	422	6	\$1 million
6	Rory McIlroy	713	1	2	449	2	\$850,000
7	Joaquin Niemann	697	1	2	465	8	\$700,000
8	Cameron Champ	636	1	1	526	6	\$600,000
9	Sungjae Im	636	--	2	526	7	\$550,000
10	Xander Schauffele	630	--	3	532	3	\$500,000

Notable Players

Phil Mickelson

Entering the week

#79	OWGR
16	Start at The American Express
2	Wins at The American Express
617	PGA TOUR starts
44	PGA TOUR wins
4	PGA TOUR starts in 2019-20
0	Top-10s in 2019-20

Best 2019-20 results: T28/World Golf Championships-HSBC Champions, T31/THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES

- World Golf Hall of Fame member is a two-time winner of The American Express (2002 and 2004)
- Will serve as the tournament's official host after acting as an ambassador for a number of years
- The Mickelson Foundation serving as host organization; funds from the event will remain in the Coachella Valley to support local charities
- Making fifth start of 2019-20 season, with T28 at the WGC-HSBC Champions as his best result
- Striving for his 30th consecutive TOUR season with at least one top-10 finish; only two players, Sam Snead (34) and Raymond Floyd (32), have gone longer in TOUR history
- With a win, would become the winningest TOUR player in California since 1983; tied Tiger Woods with 14 titles at 2019 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am
- Became the only player to advance to the BMW Championship in each of the first 13 seasons of the FedExCup era, finishing the 2018-19 season No. 47 in the FedExCup standings

Tony Finau

- American Express ambassador
- Owns one top-10 in the 2019-20 season at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open (T9)
- Making third start at The American Express (2015/T59, 2016/MC)
- Made his Presidents Cup debut in Australia with a captain's pick from Tiger Woods, finishing with a 0-1-3 record en route to a U.S. Team victory

Rickie Fowler

- Finished T5 at the 2020 Sentry Tournament of Champions in his most recent start, finishing inside the top six in all four of his starts in Maui
- Making third start at The American Express (2010/MC, 2014/T33)
- Chosen by Tiger Woods as Brooks Koepka's replacement at the 2019 Presidents Cup; finished with a 1-0-3 record in Melbourne

Adam Long

- Earned first career TOUR victory at The American Express in 2019
- Seeking to join Johnny Miller (1975, 1976) as back-to-back winners of the event
- Has five top-25 finishes during the 2019-20 season, highlighted by his first career runner-up on TOUR at the Mayakoba Golf Classic
- Was one of five rookies to advance to the BMW Championship during the 2018-19 season, finishing No. 69 in the FedExCup standings

Paul Casey

- In three starts at The American Express, missed two cuts (2002, 2015) and finished T58 in 2017
- Owns two top-20 finishes in three starts during the 2019-20 season (T17/ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, T19/Sentry Tournament of Champions)
- Finished No. 5 in the 2019 FedExCup standings, advancing to the FedExCup Playoffs for the sixth consecutive season (ninth total)

Matthew Wolff

- Agoura Hills, California native making tournament debut
- In four starts during the 2019-20 season, best finish has come at the 2020 Sentry Tournament of Champions (T11)
- Claimed first career PGA TOUR victory at the 2019 3M Open playing on a sponsor exemption, becoming the eighth player to win in four career starts or less

Seung-Yul Noh

- Making first PGA TOUR start since completing mandatory military commitment for South Korea
- Competing under the Major Medical Extension category
- Competed in two KPGA events following his service (2019 Shinhan Donghae Open/T45, 2019 Genesis Championship/T6)
- Making sixth start at The American Express, having made two of five cuts (2012/MC, 2013/MC, 2014/T38, 2016/T17, 2017/MC)
- Winner of 2014 Zurich Classic of New Orleans

Aon Risk Reward Challenge (par-5 16th hole)

The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a unique, season-long competition on the PGA TOUR and LPGA Tour that highlights golf's best strategic decision makers. The top player, from each Tour, at the end of the season will receive an equal \$1 million prize. Brooks Koepka and Carlota Ciganda won the Aon Risk Reward Challenge in 2019. For more information: <https://www.pgatour.com/aon-risk-reward-challenge.html>

Tournament records and history

- 18-hole score: 59 (**David Duval**/R5/1999, **Adam Hadwin**/R3/2017); one of two tournaments with multiple sub-60 scores (other: A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier)
- 72-hole score: 255 (**Steve Stricker**/2009)
- Largest margin of victory: 6 (**Rik Massengale**/1977, **Tom Kite**/1993)
- Best come-from-behind win: 7 (**David Duval**/1999)
- Playoffs: 21 (most recent: 2018/**Jon Rahm** def. **Andrew Landry**)
- Holes-in-one since 1983: 51 (most recent: **Steve Marino**/R2/2019)