



**THE PLAYERS Championship 2020 Pre-Tournament Notes**

**PGA TOUR Media contacts:** Chris Reimer (904) 806 6614 [chrisreimer@pgatourhq.com](mailto:chrisreimer@pgatourhq.com)  
Tracey Veal (904) 412 6132 [traceyveal@pgatourhq.com](mailto:traceyveal@pgatourhq.com) (credentials)

**Dates:** March 9-15, 2020  
**Where:** Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida  
**Course:** THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass  
**Defending champion:** Rory McIlroy  
**Purse:** \$15,000,000 (\$2,700,000/winner)  
**FedExCup:** 600 points to the winner  
**Field size:** 144  
**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

**Things to Know**

- World No. 1 Rory McIlroy seeks his first successful title defense on the PGA TOUR; no defending champion has ever won THE PLAYERS
- McIlroy is on an active streak of seven consecutive top-fives, becoming only the second player to reach that mark since 2000
- 110 players in the field have won on the PGA TOUR, the most of any tournament in the FedExCup era
- Notable first-timers include the last three players to win in their first 20 career starts: Collin Morikawa, Matthew Wolff, Viktor Hovland

**Notes on the Field**

- 110 PGA TOUR winners, is the most of any tournament in the FedExCup era (previous: 109, 2017 THE PLAYERS)
- 122 players that qualified for the previous season’s FedExCup Playoffs, the most of any tournament in the FedExCup era; Tiger Woods, Kelly Kraft, and Jonas Blixt are all missing the event due to injury
- All of the top 10 in the Official World Golf Ranking, the first such field since the 2019 BMW Championship, and 47 of the top 50
- 10 past PLAYERS winners: Adam Scott (2004), Phil Mickelson (2007), Sergio Garcia (2008), Henrik Stenson (2009), Matt Kuchar (2012), Rickie Fowler (2015), Jason Day (2016), Si Woo Kim (2017), Webb Simpson (2018) and Rory McIlroy (2019)
- Eight of 11 FedExCup champions: Jim Furyk (2010), Brandt Snedeker (2012), Henrik Stenson (2013), Billy Horschel (2014), Jordan Spieth (2015), Rory McIlroy (2016, 2019), Justin Thomas (2017), Justin Rose (2018)

**A look back at THE PLAYERS Championship 2019**

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Rory McIlroy	67	65	70	70	272 (-16)
2	Jim Furyk	71	64	71	67	273 (-15)
T3	Eddie Pepperell	72	68	68	66	274 (-14)
T3	Jhonattan Vegas	72	69	67	66	274 (-14)

- Rory McIlroy won his first of three titles during the 2018-19 season en route to winning the FedExCup and PGA TOUR Player of the Year honors
- Became the first player to win THE PLAYERS and the FedExCup in the same season
- Became the third player to win THE PLAYERS, a major championship, a World Golf Championships event and the FedExCup in his career (joining Tiger Woods and Henrik Stenson)
- Marked his third victory at a Pete Dye-designed course, including The Ocean Course at Kiawah Island (2012 PGA Championship) and Crooked Stick Golf Club (2012 BMW Championship)
- Dustin Johnson, who recorded his first top-10 in the event (T5), became the first player since Steve Elkington in 1997 to record all four rounds in the 60s at THE PLAYERS

**THE PLAYERS Championship and the FedExCup**

- 23<sup>rd</sup> official FedExCup event in the 2019-20 season
- 11 of the 13 winners of the event have advanced to the season-ending TOUR Championship in the FedExCup era (Henrik Stenson/2009, Si Woo Kim/2017 did not)

- In 2019, Rory McIlroy became the first player to win THE PLAYERS and go on to win the FedExCup in the same season

#### 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
- With the winner of THE PLAYERS receiving 600 FedExCup points, each player currently in the top 10 is within reach of the No. 1 position this week
- Sungjae Im holds the lead for the first time, becoming the third-youngest player to take over the FedExCup lead (21 years, 344 days)

Pos.	Player	Points	Wins	Top-10s	Pts. Behind	Starts	Projected Bonus
1	Sungjae Im	1,458	1	5	-	14	\$2 million
2	Justin Thomas	1,403	2	5	55	8	\$1.5 million
3	Rory McIlroy	1,179	1	6	279	6	\$1.2 million
4	Brendon Todd	1,110	2	3	348	14	\$1.1 million
5	Webb Simpson	1,083	1	4	375	5	\$1 million
6	Patrick Reed	1,077	1	4	381	8	\$850,000
7	Marc Leishman	1,059	1	3	399	9	\$700,000
8	Lanto Griffin	1,026	1	3	432	16	\$600,000
9	Sebastián Muñoz	1,006	1	3	452	15	\$550,000
10	Hideki Matsuyama	869	0	4	589	11	\$500,000

#### Defending champion and World No. 1 Rory McIlroy

##### Back-to-Back

- No player has ever won THE PLAYERS back-to-back
- Never successfully defended a PGA TOUR title (0-for-11; did not defend three of 14 titles won prior to 2019 THE PLAYERS Championship)

Tournament	Result
2020 THE PLAYERS Championship	TBD
2019 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard	T6
2017 TOUR Championship	<i>Did not qualify</i>
2017 Dell Technologies Championship	MC
2016 Wells Fargo Championship	T4
2016 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play	4th
2015 PGA Championship	17th
2015 WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational	DNP
2015 The Open Championship	DNP
2013 BMW Championship	T59
2013 Deutsche Bank Championship	T47
2013 PGA Championship	T8
2013 The Honda Classic	WD
2012 U.S. Open	MC
2011 Wells Fargo Championship	MC

- Multiple wins at four different PGA TOUR events

Tournament	Years
TOUR Championship	2016, 2019
Deutsche Bank Championship	2012, 2016
Wells Fargo Championship	2010, 2015
PGA Championship	2012, 2014

##### World No. 1

- Holds the No. 1 position in the Official World Golf Ranking for the 100<sup>th</sup> week, becoming the third player in history (est. 1986) to reach that mark (Tiger Woods/683, Greg Norman/331)
- Five wins when entering the week No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking: 2012 Deutsche Bank Championship, 2012 BMW Championship, 2014 PGA Championship, 2015 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, 2015 Wells Fargo Championship

- Last World No. 1 to win THE PLAYERS: Jason Day (2016)
- Last World No. 1 to win on TOUR: Brooks Koepka (2019 WGC-FedEx St. Jude Invitational)

### Strong Play in 2019-20

- No. 3 in the FedExCup standings with one win (WGC-HSBC Champions) and five top-10s in six starts
- Leads the PGA TOUR in the following statistical categories:

Statistic	Value
Scoring Average	68.437
Par-5 Scoring Average	4.40
Scrambling	70.40%
Top-10s	6

- With a T5 at last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, became the second player since 2000 with top-fives in seven or more consecutive starts on TOUR (Tiger Woods holds the longest streak in that span at 14)

Tournament	Finish
2020 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard	T5
2020 WGC-Mexico Championship	5th
2020 The Genesis Invitational	T5
2020 Farmers Insurance Open	T3
2019 WGC-HSBC Champions	Win
2019 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP	T3
2019 TOUR Championship	Win

#### Jon Rahm (FedExCup No. 21, World No. 2)

- Making fourth start at THE PLAYERS (T72/2017, T63/2018, T12/2019)
- Held the 54-hole lead in 2019, the first of his PGA TOUR career, before closing with a 4-over 76
- Three-time PGA TOUR winner (2017 Farmers Insurance Open, 2018 The American Express, 2019 Zurich Classic of New Orleans with Ryan Palmer)
- Four top-10s in five starts during the 2019-20 season, highlighted by a runner-up at the Farmers Insurance Open and T3 at the WGC-Mexico Championship

#### Brooks Koepka (FedExCup No. 213, World No. 3)

- Limited to five starts to date during the 2019-20 season due to knee injury (withdrew from THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES on October 18 and did not return until The Genesis Invitational in February)
- Seven-time PGA TOUR winner and four-time major champion (2017 U.S. Open, 2018 U.S. Open, 2018 PGA Championship, 2019 PGA Championship)
- Tied the course record at TPC Sawgrass with a final-round 63 in 2018
- Best finish in five starts at the event: T11/2018

#### Justin Thomas (FedExCup No. 2, World No. 4)

- One of two players with multiple wins during the 2019-20 season (THE CJ CUP @ NINE BRIDGES, Sentry Tournament of Champions), along with Brendon Todd
- One top-10 in five starts at the event (T3/2016)
- Can become the fourth player to win THE PLAYERS, the FedExCup, a major championship and a World Golf Championships event (Tiger Woods, Henrik Stenson, Rory McIlroy); Justin Rose can as well
- 49 career top-10s on the PGA TOUR

#### Dustin Johnson (FedExCup No. 111, World No. 5)

- Two top-10s in four starts during the 2019-20 season (T7/Sentry Tournament of Champions, T10/The Genesis Invitational)
- In 2019, became the first player since Steve Elkington in 1997 to record all four rounds in the 60s at THE PLAYERS (69-68-69-69)
- T5 in 2019 marked his first top-10 in 11 starts at the event
- 20-time PGA TOUR winner (tied for 34<sup>th</sup> all-time)
- In search of first victory of the season; active streak of wins in 12 straight seasons to start his career is the fourth-longest of all-time (17/Jack Nicklaus, 17/Arnold Palmer, 14/Tiger Woods)

### FedExCup leader Sungjae Im (World No. 23)

- Took over the FedExCup lead after a third-place result at last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
- At age 21 years, 344 days, is the third player to hold the FedExCup lead before turning 22 and the second this season (youngest: Joaquin Niemann/after 2019 A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier; second-youngest: Jordan Spieth/after 2015 Masters Tournament)
- Won his first PGA TOUR title at The Honda Classic two weeks ago
- Top-three results on TOUR this season (4): Won/The Honda Classic, P2/Sanderson Farms Championship, 3<sup>rd</sup>/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, T3/ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP
- Missed the cut in his debut at THE PLAYERS in 2019; made a hole-in-one at the par-3 13<sup>th</sup> (R2)

### Notable players making first start at THE PLAYERS

- Collin Morikawa, who has not missed a cut in 20 starts as a professional, holds the TOUR's longest active made-cuts streak (21) and second-longest made-cuts streak to start a professional career since 1990 (longest: Tiger Woods/25)
- Viktor Hovland became the first PGA TOUR winner from Norway and the first rookie to win in 2019-20 when he won the 2020 Puerto Rico Open
- Matthew Wolff, a teammate of Hovland's at Oklahoma State, won the 2019 3M Open in just his fourth career start at age 20 to become the PGA TOUR's youngest winner since Jordan Spieth at the 2013 John Deere Classic

### Balls in the water at No. 17 (since 2003)

Year	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
2019	14	6	8	17	45
2018	24	21	6	3	54
2017	19	29	10	11	69
2016	6	9	17	4	36
2015	21	16	3	5	45
2014	12	12	1	3	28
2013	15	9	7	13	44
2012	18	11	4	6	39
2011	12	14	8	6	40
2010	7	8	5	9	29
2009	16	6	4	6	32
2008	20	18	10	16	64
2007	50	21	10	12	93
2006	19	17	12	9	57
2005	7	8	25	28	68
2004	9	10	4	7	30
2003	6	10	3	10	29
<b>Average</b>	<b>16.18</b>	<b>13.24</b>	<b>8.06</b>	<b>9.71</b>	<b>47.18</b>

### Tournament records

- Lowest 18-hole score: 63 (eight times; most recent: Brooks Koepka/R4, 2018)
- Lowest 36-hole score: 129 (Jason Day/2016, Webb Simpson/2018)
- Lowest 54-hole score: 197 (Greg Norman/1994, Webb Simpson/2018)
- Lowest 72-hole score: 264 (Greg Norman/1994)
- Largest margin of victory: 7 strokes (Steve Elkington/1997)
- Playoffs: 5 (most recent: Rickie Fowler def. Sergio Garcia and Kevin Kisner, 2015)
- Best come-from-behind win: 6 strokes (Raymond Floyd/1981)
- Youngest winner: Si Woo Kim, 2017 (21 years, 10 months, 16 days)
- Oldest winner: Fred Funk, 2005 (48 years, 9 months, 13 days)