



## Sanford International

Minnehaha Country Club | Sioux Falls, South Dakota | September 11-13, 2020

### PGA TOUR Media Contacts

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### Quick Facts

**Golf Course:** Minnehaha Country Club (Par 70 / 6,729 yards)

**Course Designer:** William Langford (1922)

**Purse:** \$1,800,000 (Winner: \$270,000)

**Golf Channel Coverage (all times ET):** Friday through Sunday, 9:30-11:30 p.m. (tape delay)

### Field Overview (as of 9/9/20)

PGA TOUR Champions returns to Minnehaha Country Club in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, for the third-annual Sanford International. **Steve Stricker** (2018) and **Rocco Mediate** (2019) return as past champions of the event, and they're part of an 81-player field that includes 18 of the top-20 players in the Charles Schwab Cup. World Golf Hall of Fame members **Fred Couples** and **Ernie Els** will make their tournament debuts, while major winners **Rich Beem**, **Ángel Cabrera** and **Mike Weir** will also compete in Sioux Falls for the first time.

- 5 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
  - Fred Couples, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie
- 57 PGA TOUR winners with 290 total career victories
- 48 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 233 total career victories
- 21 players with a PGA TOUR Champions major victory; 17 with a PGA TOUR major

### Mediate, Stricker Return as Past Champions

The tournament's first two champions are back in Sioux Falls, as **Rocco Mediate** will look to defend his title and **Steve Stricker** will compete at Minnehaha Country Club for the first time since he won two years ago.

Playing in the fifth-to-last group last year, Mediate birdied the last two holes and shot 6-under 64 to win with a 9-under total. He started the day three shots off the lead and tied for ninth, and the win was his first since the 2016 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship, a span of 71 starts without a victory. This year, Mediate is currently 34th in the standings and is coming off a season-best T5 finish at the Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National.

In 2018, Stricker posted top-five finishes in all seven of his starts and won three times, including a four-stroke victory at the Sanford International. He added two senior major titles last year, the U.S. Senior Open and Regions Tradition, and all five of his Champions Tour wins have been by at least two strokes. Stricker is coming off a T7 and a T5 at the two Charles Schwab Series events, which brings his career total to 21 top-10s in 26 starts on PGA TOUR Champions.

### **Couples, Els Headline Tournament Rookies**

The third-year event will see 20 players make their tournament debut, including World Golf Hall of Fame members **Fred Couples** and **Ernie Els**, as well as three other major champions: **Rich Beem**, **Ángel Cabrera** and **Mike Weir**.

Couples opened the season with five straight top-10 finishes, including runner-up finishes at the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai and the Hoag Classic, and is currently No. 8 in the Charles Schwab Cup. He has 13 career wins on PGA TOUR Champions but is looking for his first since the 2017 American Family Insurance Championship, a span of 30 starts without a victory.

Els is one of five rookies with a win this season, as he won the Hoag Classic in his third start on Tour. Of the 56 players that have played the four tournaments since the season resumed, Els has compiled the best scoring average (68.77) and has posted top-10 finishes in the last three events.

### **Sixty-Three and Still No. 1**

**Bernhard Langer** will compete as a 63-year-old for the first time this week, as the five-time Charles Schwab Cup winner's birthday was August 27. Langer's season includes seven top-10s, tied with Kevin Sutherland for most on Tour, and he captured victory No. 41 at the Cologuard Classic. Langer is the seventh-oldest player in the field and is atop the Charles Schwab Cup standings with \$914,737.

### **Byrum's Homecoming**

Onida's **Tom Byrum** is the only South Dakotan in the field. Byrum's 2019 campaign was one of his best on PGA TOUR Champions, as he advanced to the Charles Schwab Cup Championship for the second time and finished 31st in the final standings, his best since he finished 14th in 2016. He enters this week No. 39 in the standings and his best finish was T5 at the Charles Schwab Series at Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge, where he closed with an 8-under 63.

### **Rookie Winners**

Since 1980, 50-year-olds have won 35.25 percent of PGA TOUR Champions tournaments. In 2020, five out of nine tournaments have been won by a 50-year-old, and the five rookie winners matches the PGA TOUR Champions record for most in a single season (1989, 1999, 2007, 2013, 2014, 2020). Other rookies hoping to add their names to this list include **Robert Karlsson** (10th in the Charles Schwab Cup), **Rod Pampling** (11th), **Mike Weir** (46th), and **Rich Beem** (115th), who made his debut at the Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National.

<b>Rookie Winner</b>	<b>Tournament</b>	<b>Won Start #</b>	<b>Charles Schwab Cup</b>
Brett Quigley	Morocco Champions	2	4th
Ernie Els	Hoag Classic	3	3rd
Jim Furyk	The Ally Challenge	1	22nd
Shane Bertsch	Charles Schwab Series at Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge	2	13th
Phil Mickelson	Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National	1	15th

### **Top Players New to Sioux Falls**

Seven of the top-13 players in the [Charles Schwab Cup standings](#) will make their first starts at the Sanford International: **Ernie Els** (3rd), **Brett Quigley** (4th), **Miguel Angel Jiménez** (5th), **Fred Couples** (8th), **Robert Karlsson** (10th), **Rod Pampling** (11th) and **Shane Bertsch** (13th). A first-place check of \$270,000 will be presented Sunday, which means the lead is within reach of the top-six players in the standings.

Player	Money	Season Summary
1. Bernhard Langer	\$914,737	Won Cologuard Classic, seven top-10s
2. Scott Parel	\$815,198	Won Chubb Classic, three top-three finishes
3. Ernie Els	\$782,916	Won Hoag Classic, five top-10s
4. Brett Quigley	\$688,825	Won Morocco Champions, four top-10s
5. Miguel Angel Jiménez	\$683,785	Won Mitsubishi Electric at Hualalai, three top-10s
6. Kevin Sutherland	\$663,560	Seven top-10s

### **PGA TOUR Champions Combines 2020-21 Seasons**

Due to the circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, 14 PGA TOUR Champions tournaments have been canceled from the original 27-tournament schedule. In an effort to uphold the competitive integrity of the Charles Schwab Cup, PGA TOUR Champions has combined the 2020 and 2021 seasons and formed a singular 2020-21 season.

In addition, other measures were taken to offset some of the impact made by the cancellation of tournaments.

- In 2020, the field size of tournaments will increase from 78 to 81 players.
- In 2020, the three Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs events will be converted into 81-player fields.
- The Charles Schwab Cup Championship will be reduced from 72 to 54 holes.

Players will retain their 2020 eligibility in 2021, except for the five players in the Q-School category, who will play their guaranteed events. Additionally, the 2020 PGA TOUR Champions Qualifying Tournament will not be conducted, and player awards will not be presented at the end of 2020.

### **PGA TOUR Champions Schedule and Tournament Recaps**

1. **Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai:** Miguel Angel Jiménez birdied the second extra hole to win the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai for the second time in his career. Jiménez became the tournament's eighth repeat champion (2015, 2020) and he extended his streak to seven consecutive years with a victory, the Tour's second-longest active streak.
2. **Morocco Champions:** Brett Quigley won the inaugural Morocco Champions in Marrakech in his second PGA TOUR Champions start, saving par on the final two holes on Saturday to hold off Stephen Ames by one stroke. Winless in 408 career starts on the PGA TOUR, Quigley's win was his first in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned event since 2001 on the Korn Ferry Tour.
3. **Chubb Classic:** Scott Parel closed with an 8-under 63 to erase a three-shot deficit and win the Chubb Classic by two with a tournament record-tying 17-under total. It was the third win of his career and he moved to No. 1 in the Charles Schwab Cup for the first time in his career.
4. **Cologuard Classic:** Bernhard Langer came from four strokes back to claim his 41st victory on PGA TOUR Champions, just four wins short of all-time leader Hale Irwin. The victory marked Langer's 14th straight year with at least one win as he became the fifth oldest to claim a title.

5. **Hoag Classic:** Ernie Els birdied two of the last four holes to win the Hoag Classic with a 15-under total. Making his third start on Tour, Els won for the first time since the 2013 BMW International Open on the European Tour and he became the 30th World Golf Hall of Fame member to win on PGA TOUR Champions.
6. **The Ally Challenge:** Jim Furyk won The Ally Challenge in his PGA TOUR Champions debut, closing with a bogey-free 68 to win by two over Retief Goosen and Brett Quigley. With the victory, Furyk became the 19th player to win his Tour debut and he broke a winless streak of 5 years, 3 months, 14 days.
7. **Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship:** Jerry Kelly won his first senior major by closing with a 3-under 69, including an ace on the 12th hole, to win by two strokes over Scott Parel. With the victory, Kelly earned an exemption into the 2021 PLAYERS Championship at TPC Sawgrass.
8. **Charles Schwab Series at Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge:** With a 25-foot eagle putt on the first playoff hole, Shane Bertsch defeated Bernhard Langer, Kenny Perry and Glen Day to secure the first win of his PGA TOUR Champions career at the Charles Schwab Cup Series at Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge.
9. **Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National:** Phil Mickelson posted a Tour record-tying 191 total and became the 20th player to win his PGA TOUR Champions debut at the Charles Schwab Cup Series at Ozarks National. He became the fourth player to win his debut by four shots or more, and the sixth World Golf Hall of Fame member to win his debut.
10. **Sanford International**
11. **PURE Insurance Championship**
12. **SAS Championship**
13. **Dominion Energy Charity Classic**
14. **Boca Raton Championship**
15. **Charles Schwab Cup Championship**