



## Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship

Firestone Country Club (South Course) | Akron, Ohio | June 24-27, 2021

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### Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** Firestone Country Club (South Course)
- **Par:** 70; **Yardage:** 7,400
- **Designed by:** Bert Way/Robert Trent Jones Sr.
- **Purse:** \$3,000,000 (Winner: \$450,000)
- **TV Coverage (Golf Channel):**
  - Thursday: 7:00-9:00 p.m. ET (Tape Delay)
  - Friday: 7:00-9:00 p.m. ET (Tape Delay)
  - Saturday: 3:00-6:00 p.m.
  - Sunday: 3:00-6:00 p.m.
- **Quick Links:** [Tournament Field](#) | [Tee Times](#)
- **Social Media:** Twitter ([@BridgestoneSP](#)), Instagram ([@bridgestonesp](#)), Facebook ([@BridgestoneSP](#))

### Field Overview (as of 6/23/21)

PGA TOUR Champions heads to Firestone Country Club in Akron, Ohio this week for the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. The 81-player field, which includes 28 of the top-30 players in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, will compete in the third major of the 2021 calendar year. Defending champion and Charles Schwab Cup leader **Jerry Kelly** joins **Fred Couples**, **Steve Stricker**, **Jim Furyk** and **Ernie Els** on the famed South Course at Firestone.

- 7 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
  - (Fred Couples, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Bernhard Langer, Colin Montgomerie, Jose Maria Olazabal, Vijay Singh)
- 62 PGA TOUR winners with 351 total career victories
- 55 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 264 total career victories
- 24 with a PGA TOUR Champions major title
- 16 with a PGA TOUR major title

### 2020 Recap

**Jerry Kelly** aced the 12th hole in the final round en route to his first major win on PGA TOUR Champions. Kelly, who finished at 3-under, edged runner-up **Scott Parel** by two strokes. **Colin Montgomerie** and **Miguel Angel Jimenez** each finished T3 at even par.

Kelly entered the final round with a one-stroke lead over a trio of players and held them off with a 1-under 69 on Sunday. After birdying two of his first three holes, Kelly parred Nos. 4-10 before bogeying No. 11. After a hole-in-one on the par-3 12th, Kelly made five consecutive pars before double-bogeying the par-4 18th. The Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS was the only PGA TOUR Champions major contested in 2020.

#### **Kelly in Good Form for Title Defense**

Defending champion **Jerry Kelly** comes to Akron also having won the most recent event on PGA TOUR Champions, capturing the American Family Insurance Championship in his home state of Wisconsin two weeks ago. Kelly, who shot 6-under 66 in the final round, came from two strokes back to pick up his second win of the 2020-21 season. With his win, Kelly moved up to No. 1 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings for the first time this season and 10th week since joining PGA TOUR Champions in 2017.

Kelly, who owns eight wins on PGA TOUR Champions, has won at least once each season, including a three-win season in 2019. In 24 starts this season, Kelly has four top-three finishes and 11 top-10s, including five of his last six outings.

#### **Furyk Returns to Firestone**

Twenty years after he lost a seven-hole playoff to Tiger Woods at the 2001 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, **Jim Furyk** is set to make his much-anticipated tournament debut. In 17 starts at Firestone on the PGA TOUR, Furyk posted 10 top-10s, including two runner-up finishes and two third-place finishes but victory eluded him. During the 2020-21 combined season on PGA TOUR Champions, the 51-year-old has two victories and eight top-10s, and he's currently 10th in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.

#### **Couples Looks to Continue Momentum**

Fresh off a T2 finish at the American Family Insurance Championship, **Fred Couples** is set to make his seventh start at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. He has four top-10s at this event, including a victory in 2011. Couples, who has top-six finishes in five of his last six starts on PGA TOUR Champions, is seeking his first win since the 2017 American Family Insurance Championship.

#### **Stricker Seeks Third Major Win**

Making his 11th start of the season, **Steve Stricker** has eight top-10s this season, including a win at the 2021 Chubb Classic. During the 2019 season, Stricker captured two majors (Regions Tradition, U.S. Senior Open) before finishing sixth at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS. He also made nine starts at Firestone Country Club when it hosted the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational on the PGA TOUR and earned four top-10 finishes.

#### **Langer Goes for No. 4**

**Bernhard Langer**, currently No. 2 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, looks to win the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS for the fourth time. Langer, who already holds the tournament record with three consecutive wins (2014, 2015, 2016), has 10 top-10s in 13 starts at this event. With a win this week, it would be the third tournament he has won four times.

#### **Most Wins at One Tournament on PGA TOUR Champions**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Wins</u></b>	<b><u>Tournament</u></b>
Hale Irwin	6	Turtle Bay Championship
Bernhard Langer	4	The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex
Bernhard Langer	4	Insperity Invitational
Hale Irwin	4	Senior PGA Championship
Jack Nicklaus	4	Regions Tradition

**Charles Schwab Cup Update**

With his win at the American Family Insurance Championship two weeks ago, **Jerry Kelly** moved into the top spot of the Charles Schwab Cup standings for the first time this season. Kelly, who previously held the No. 1 position for nine weeks in 2018, passed **Bernhard Langer**, who had held the position for the last five weeks. Kelly becomes the seventh different player to hold the top spot in the Schwab Cup standings this season, joining Langer (14 weeks), **Miguel Angel Jimenez** (2), **Scott Parel** (2), **Ernie Els** (2), **Kevin Sutherland** (2) and **Brett Quigley** (1).

<u>Player</u>	<u>Money</u>	<u>2020-21 Wins</u>
1. Jerry Kelly	\$1,927,667	2020 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS, 2021 American Family Insurance Championship
2. Bernhard Langer	\$1,876,045	2020 Cologuard Classic
3. Ernie Els	\$1,792,179	2020 Hoag Classic, 2020 SAS Championship
4. Kevin Sutherland	\$1,665,507	2020 Charles Schwab Cup Championship, 2021 Cologuard Classic
5. Miguel Angel Jimenez	\$1,613,554	2020 Mitsubishi Electric Championship, 2020 Sanford International

**Winners at Firestone**

In addition to **Jerry Kelly** (2020) and **Retief Goosen** (2019), who won each of the first two Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championships contested at Firestone Country Club, four other players in this week's field have won on this golf course.

**Vijay Singh** (2008) and **Darren Clarke** (2003) each won the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, which was contested at Firestone from 1999-2018 (except for 2002). That event was preceded by the NEC World Series of Golf on the PGA TOUR from 1976-1998. During that span, **Jose Maria Olazabal** (1990, 1994) and **David Frost** (1989) captured victories at Firestone. It also hosted the PGA Championship in 1960, 1966 and 1975.

**From Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS to THE PLAYERS**

Since Bobby Wadkins' victory 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 2021, as this week's champion will earn a spot in The PLAYERS Championship next year (March 8-13, 2022). In all, the exemption has been used 12 times, and Mark O'Meara is the only player of this group that has made the cut.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Player</u>	<u>Scores (Finish)</u>
2021	Jerry Kelly	73-79 (MC)
2020	Retief Goosen	Canceled
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:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Player</u>
2011	K.J. Choi
2006	Stephen Ames
2005	Fred Funk
1996	Fred Couples
1995	Lee Janzen
1984	Fred Couples

#### **Eight Past Champions in the Field**

The winners of 10 of the last 12 Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship titles are in the field this week, including each champion since 2013. Three-time champion **Bernhard Langer** (2014-16) joins defending champion **Jerry Kelly**, along with **Retief Goosen** (2019), **Vijay Singh** (2018), **Scott McCarron** (2017), **Kenny Perry** (2013), **Fred Couples** (2011) and **Jay Haas** (2009) as former champions who will tee it up this week in Akron.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Winner</b>	<b>Golf Course</b>
2020	Jerry Kelly	Firestone CC
2019	Retief Goosen	Firestone CC
2018	Vijay Singh*	Exmoor Country Club
2017	Scott McCarron	Caves Valley Golf Club
2016	Bernhard Langer	Philadelphia Cricket Club
2015	Bernhard Langer	Belmont Country Club
2014	Bernhard Langer	Fox Chapel GC
2013	Kenny Perry	Fox Chapel GC
2012	Joe Daley	Fox Chapel GC
2011	Fred Couples*	Westchester CC - West
2010	Mark O'Meara*	TPC Potomac at Avenel Farm
2009	Jay Haas	Baltimore CC
2008	D.A. Weibring	Baltimore CC
2007	Loren Roberts	Baltimore CC
2006	Bobby Wadkins	TPC Michigan
2005	Peter Jacobsen	TPC Michigan
2004	Mark James	TPC Michigan
2003	Craig Stadler	TPC Michigan
2002	Stewart Ginn	TPC Michigan
2001	Allen Doyle*	TPC Michigan
2000	Raymond Floyd	TPC Michigan
1999	Hale Irwin	TPC Michigan
1998	Gil Morgan	TPC Michigan
1997	Larry Gilbert	TPC Michigan
1996	Raymond Floyd	TPC Michigan
1995	J.C. Snead*	TPC Michigan
1994	Dave Stockton	TPC Michigan

1993	Jim Colbert	TPC Michigan
1992	Dave Stockton	TPC Michigan
1991	Jim Albus	TPC Michigan
1990	Jack Nicklaus	Dearborn CC
1989	Orville Moody	TPC Sawgrass (Valley)
1988	Billy Casper	TPC Sawgrass (Valley)
1987	Gary Player	Sawgrass CC
1986	Chi Chi Rodriguez	Canterbury GC
1985	Arnold Palmer	Canterbury GC
1984	Arnold Palmer	Canterbury GC
1983	Miller Barber	Canterbury GC