



Sanford International

Minnehaha Country Club | Sioux Falls, South Dakota | September 17-19, 2021

Media Contact

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Quick Facts

- **Golf Course:** Minnehaha Country Club
- **Par:** 70; **Yardage:** 6,729
- **Designed by:** William Langford (1922)
- **Purse:** \$1,800,000 (Winner: \$270,000)
- **TV Coverage (Golf Channel):**
 - Friday: 9:30-11:30 p.m. ET (Tape Delay)
 - Saturday: 9:30-11:30 p.m. ET (Tape Delay)
 - Sunday: 9:30-11:30 p.m. ET (Tape Delay)
- **Quick Links:** [Tournament Field](#) | [Tee Times](#)
- **Social Media:** Twitter ([@SanfordIntl](#)), Instagram ([@sanfordinternational](#)), Facebook ([@SanfordInternational](#))

Field Overview (as of 9/15/21)

PGA TOUR Champions heads to Sioux Falls, South Dakota this week for the Sanford International at Minnehaha Country Club. All three past champions are in the 81-player field: **Miguel Angel Jiménez** (2020), **Rocco Mediate** (2019) and **Steve Stricker** (2018).

The field also includes 26 of the top 30 players in this week's Charles Schwab Cup standings. After this week, there are three tournaments remaining in the regular season before the start of the three-event Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs.

- 8 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame
 - (Fred Couples, Ernie Els, Retief Goosen, Bernhard Langer, Davis Love III, Colin Montgomerie, Jose Maria Olazabal, Vijay Singh)
- 60 PGA TOUR winners with 347 total career victories
- 52 PGA TOUR Champions winners with 239 total career victories
- 25 with a PGA TOUR Champions major title
- 19 with a PGA TOUR major title

2020 Recap

During a final round that saw as many as five players tied for the lead, **Miguel Angel Jiménez** eagled and birdied the par 5s on the back nine to post 5-under 65 and a one-shot victory at the 2020 Sanford International. With the win, he became the 39th player with at least 10 wins on PGA TOUR Champions. **Steve Flesch**, who fired 63 in the final round, took runner-up honors, while **Bernhard Langer** and **Steve Stricker** finished T3.

Straight to the Straits

This week's Sanford International field includes several Ryder Cup connections for the U.S. Team and Team Europe, as next week both teams head to Whistling Straits in Wisconsin for the 43rd playing of the biennial event.

U.S. Team Captain **Steve Stricker** is one of five players who have a role in next week's Ryder Cup. U.S. Vice Captains **Fred Couples**, **Jim Furyk** and **Davis Love III** will tee it up in Sioux Falls this week, along with Europe Vice Captain **Robert Karlsson**.

Eight players have served as captain for either the U.S. Team or Team Europe in a previous Ryder Cup, including the U.S. Captain from five of the last seven Ryder Cups.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Team</u>	<u>Year(s) of Captaincy</u>
Steve Stricker	United States	2021
Jim Furyk	United States	2018
Davis Love III	United States	2016, 2012
Darren Clarke	Europe	2016
Jose Maria Olazabal	Europe	2012
Corey Pavin	United States	2010
Colin Montgomerie	Europe	2010
Tom Lehman	United States	2006
Bernhard Langer	Europe	2004

O Captain! My Captain!

The week before serving as captain for the U.S. Ryder Cup Team, 2018 Sanford International champion **Steve Stricker** will make his first start since late June on PGA TOUR Champions. He won that tournament, posting a six-shot triumph over **Jerry Kelly** at the Bridgestone SENIOR PLAYERS Championship. Stricker, who also won the Chubb Classic in April, has nine top-10s in 11 starts on PGA TOUR Champions this season. He has finished in the top five on seven occasions during the 2020-21 Champions Tour season.

Stricker, making his third start at the Sanford International, finished T3 last year after winning the event in 2018. In six rounds at Minnehaha Country Club, he has a 65.83 stroke average and has shot 67 or better every time.

Jimenez Set to Defend Title

Reigning Sanford International champion **Miguel Angel Jimenez** will make his first start since The Senior Open Championship presented by Rolex in July, when he finished runner-up. He enters the week with three consecutive top-10 finishes on PGA TOUR Champions and has 12 top-10s in 26 starts this season. Jimenez has at least one win in each of his seven seasons on PGA TOUR Champions, including an active streak of three consecutive two-win seasons.

Furyk Goes for Win No. 4

Fresh off three consecutive top-10 finishes, **Jim Furyk** looks to pick up the fourth win of his rookie season on PGA TOUR Champions when he tees it up this week. Furyk is the only player with three wins this season, capturing The 2020 Ally Challenge, 2020 PURE Insurance Championship and 2021 U.S. Senior Open. Furyk, currently No. 3 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings, has 13 top-10s in 20 starts.

Langer Looks for Another 'W'

Bernhard Langer enters the week with back-to-back top-10 finishes and sits atop the Charles Schwab Cup standings. During the 2020-21 season, Langer has 20 top-10s in 32 starts, including a victory at the 2020 Cologuard Classic. In all,

Langer owns 41 wins on PGA TOUR Champions, second-most all-time behind Hale Irwin (45). Making his third start at the Sanford International this week, Langer's best finish is T3 (2020).

Couples Back in Action

Fred Couples, a 13-time winner on PGA TOUR Champions, aims for his first victory since 2017. This season, Couples has three runner-ups and has finished in the top 10 in five of his last six events. He has 12 top-10s in 17 starts during the 2020-21 season.

Local Connections

Two players in this week's field have ties to South Dakota. **Tom Byrum**, who was born in Onida, South Dakota, is making his fourth start at the Sanford International. His best finish was T7 in 2019. Byrum, who joined PGA TOUR Champions in 2010, owns three runner-up finishes on Tour. **Rich Beem**, who won the 2002 PGA Championship, is making his 12th start on PGA TOUR Champions this week. He was an assistant professional at The Country Club of Sioux Falls before joining the PGA TOUR.

Tournament Debuts

A total of 17 players are making their Sanford International debut this week: **Steven Alker, Robert Allenby, Brad Bryant, Alex Cejka, K.J. Choi, Stephen Dodd, Jim Furyk, Matt Gogel, Mark Hensby, Thongchai Jaidee, Jay Jurecic, Jose Maria Olazabal, Jerry Pate, John Senden, Paul Stankowski, Mario Tiziani and Willie Wood.**

Tournament History

<u>Year</u>	<u>Champion</u>	<u>Score</u>
2020	Miguel Angel Jimenez	-14
2019	Rocco Mediate	-9
2018	Steve Stricker	-13

Rookie Winners

The 2020-21 season has produced 10 rookie winners who have combined to win 15 tournaments.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Wins</u>
Brett Quigley	2020 Morocco Champions
Ernie Els	2020 Hoag Classic 2020 SAS Championship
Jim Furyk	2020 The Ally Challenge 2020 PURE Insurance Championship 2021 U.S. Senior Open
Shane Bertsch	2020 Charles Schwab Series at Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge
Phil Mickelson	2020 Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National 2020 Dominion Energy Charity Classic
Mike Weir	2021 Insperity Invitational
Alex Cejka	2021 Regions Tradition 2021 KitchenAid Senior PGA Championship
Dicky Pride	2021 Mitsubishi Electric Classic
Cameron Beckman	2021 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
Rod Pampling	2021 Boeing Classic

Trend of First-Time Winners Continues

The 2020-21 season has produced 12 first-time winners, the most in a single season in PGA TOUR Champions history. The previous record of 11 was set in 1999.

<u>Player</u>	<u>Tournament</u>
Cameron Beckman	2021 DICK'S Sporting Goods Open
Shane Bertsch	2020 Charles Schwab Series at Bass Pro Shops Big Cedar Lodge
Alex Cejka	2021 Regions Tradition
Darren Clarke	2020 TimberTech Championship
Stephen Dodd	2021 The Senior Open Presented by Rolex
Ernie Els	2020 Hoag Classic
Jim Furyk	2020 The Ally Challenge
Phil Mickelson	2020 Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National
Brett Quigley	2020 Morocco Champions
Rod Pampling	2021 Boeing Classic
Dicky Pride	2021 Mitsubishi Electric Classic
Mike Weir	2021 Insperity Invitational

Charles Schwab Cup Race Tightens

The top three players in the Charles Schwab Cup standings are separated by less than \$9,000 with two months to go before the champion is crowned. **Bernhard Langer** holds the top spot, while **Jerry Kelly** and **Jim Furyk** round out the top three. **Ernie Els** and **Miguel Angel Jimenez** represent Nos. 4 and 5, respectively.

After this week's event, three tournaments remain in the regular season: PURE Insurance Championship (September 24-26), Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS (October 8-10) and SAS Championship (October 15-17). After the regular season concludes, the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs will begin, consisting of the Dominion Energy Charity Classic (October 22-24), TimberTech Championship (November 5-7) and the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (November 11-14).

<u>Player</u>	<u>Money</u>	<u>2020-21 Notes</u>
1. Bernhard Langer	\$2,521,752	One win, 20 top-10s
2. Jerry Kelly	\$2,519,161	Two wins, 15 top-10s
3. Jim Furyk	\$2,513,530	Three wins, 13 top-10s
4. Ernie Els	\$2,318,763	Two wins, 15 top-10s
5. Miguel Angel Jimenez	\$2,091,798	Two wins, 12 top-10s