



## Pre-Tournament Notes – The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay

**On-Site PGA TOUR Media Contact:** Zach Dirlam, 517-262-5109, [ZachDirlam@pgatourhq.com](mailto:ZachDirlam@pgatourhq.com)

**Dates:** January 16-19, 2022

**Where:** Great Exuma, The Bahamas

**Course:** Sandals Emerald Bay Golf Course (Par 72 / 7,001 yards)

**Course Designer:** Greg Norman

**Field:** 132 players

**Defending Champion:** Tommy Gainey (2020)

**Purse:** \$750,000 (\$135,000/winner)

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

### Quick Links

- [Tournament Media Site](#)
- [Inside the Field](#)
- [Tee Times](#)

### Things to Know

- Following the Korn Ferry Tour's unprecedented 46-event combined 2020-21 season, The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay opens the 26-event 2022 Korn Ferry Tour schedule, in addition to hosting the Tour's first international event since the 2020 El Bosque Mexico Championship by INNOVA, which concluded on March 1, 2020
  - Twenty-five PGA TOUR cards will be awarded to the top-25 players in the Korn Ferry Tour standings following the conclusion of the 23-event regular season at the Pinnacle Bank Championship presented by Aetna (August 11-14)
  - Another 25 PGA TOUR cards will be awarded through the three-event Korn Ferry Tour Finals at the conclusion of the Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance (September 1-4)
- This week's season-opening The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay is making its fifth appearance on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule, with 2017 being the inaugural playing
- Four of the top 10 finishers from the 2020 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay went on to earn PGA TOUR cards via the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings
  - Those four were: Dylan Wu (T2), Will Zalatoris (T4), Davis Riley (eighth), and Adam Svensson (T9)
- Three of the four past champions are in the field, including defending champion **Tommy Gainey**, who will attempt to become the first player in the Korn Ferry Tour's 33-year history to successfully defend his title
- Other past champions in the field are **Zecheng Dou** (2019) and **Kyle Thompson** (2017)
- Thompson is making his final guaranteed start from his 2017 victory, which granted him an exemption into the 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2022 fields of The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay
- There are 32 players in the field who finished in the top 75 of the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, including 10 players who finished 40th or higher
  - The contingent includes **Taylor Montgomery**, who finished 26th in both the Regular Season and Korn Ferry Tour Finals Points Standings, along with **Paul Haley II**, who was 27th in the Regular Season Points Standings
- **Brandon Matthews**, the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Order of Merit winner, makes his return to the Korn Ferry Tour with fully exempt status; he previously played the 2018 and 2019 seasons on Tour
- **Trevor Werbylo**, who finished No. 9 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021 and earned Forme Tour status, then won its 2021 Order of Merit for fully exempt status for the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season, will be making his Korn Ferry Tour debut
  - Werbylo's aunt, Cindy Rarick, won five times on the LPGA Tour

- Werbylo also made his PGA TOUR debut last September at the 2021 Fortinet Championship

#### Field Notes (as of 1/14/22)

- Field includes 39 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 56 total wins, led by **Kyle Thompson** with five
- Field includes 12 past PGA TOUR winners with 22 total victories, led by **Aaron Baddeley** and **Sean O’Hair** with four apiece
- Field includes eight winners from the 2020-21 season: **Tyson Alexander, Roberto Díaz, Tommy Gainey, Harry Hall, Evan Harmeling, David Kocher, Curtis Luck, and Tag Ridings**

#### 2020 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay Recap (January 12-15)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Tommy Gainey	66	75	67	69	277 (-11)
T2	John Oda	69	71	70	71	281 (-7)
	Dylan Wu	67	66	76	72	281 (-7)
T4	George Cunningham	71	69	69	73	282 (-6)
	Sean O’Hair	70	71	69	72	282 (-6)
	José de Jesús Rodríguez	69	72	68	73	282 (-6)
	Will Zalatoris	70	74	65	73	282 (-6)

- **Tommy Gainey** entered the weekend eight strokes behind 36-hole leader Dylan Wu, but took the 54-hole lead following a 5-under 67, and earned his first Korn Ferry Tour win since July 2010 with a final-round 3-under 69
- Gainey went on to finish 45th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings
- Wu’s T2 was the first of his six top-10s last season, which earned him 17th place in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings and his first PGA TOUR card
- George Cunningham’s T4 was, at the time, a career-high finish in his 23 Korn Ferry Tour starts; he later logged two T3s and finished 58th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, thus retaining fully exempt status for the 2022 season
- José de Jesús Rodríguez’s T4 marked his second top-five in as many starts at this event; he was previously T3 at the 2018 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay
- Rodríguez eventually finished 78th in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, sending him to Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, where he earned guaranteed starts for the first eight events of the 2022 season with a T39 (the top 40 and ties earned guaranteed starts for this season’s first eight events)
- Will Zalatoris collected the first of his 10 top-10s and eventually finished No. 9 in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, officially securing PGA TOUR membership after playing all of 2021 on TOUR as a Special Temporary Member
- John Oda, who failed to advance past First Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament, had two of his three career top-fives on the Korn Ferry Tour come at this event in 2019 (T4) and 2020 (T2), and the third came at the 2019 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club (T4)

#### Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2020	Tommy Gainey	66	75	67	69	277 (-11)	4
2019	Zecheng Dou	67	66	67	70	270 (-18)	2
2018	Sungjae Im	69	69	72	65	275 (-13)	4
2017	Kyle Thompson	76	70	70	70	286 (-2)	2

#### Course Information – Sandals Emerald Bay Golf Course

- Years Hosted: 2017-present
- Scoring Average (2020): 74.322 / +2.322

- Toughest Hole (2020): No. 12, Par 4, 418 yards – 4.504 / +0.504
- Easiest Hole (2020): No. 1, Par 5, 532 yards – 4.698 / -0.302

#### Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 63, John Oda (2019, Round 1)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 131, John Oda (2019)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 200, Zecheng Dou (2019)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 270, Zecheng Dou (2019)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 4, Sungjae Im (2018) and Tommy Gainey (2020)

#### Players to Watch in 2022

1. [Taylor Montgomery](#) – Finished 26th in both the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season and Korn Ferry Tour Finals Points Standings, missing a PGA TOUR card by one spot on both occasions; he recorded three runner-ups and a solo third across 38 starts in the 2020-21 regular season
2. [John Pak](#) – Swept the three NCAA Division I national player of the year awards (Jack Nicklaus Award, Ben Hogan Award, Fred Haskins Award) in 2021 and finished No. 1 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021; he earned guaranteed starts for the first eight events of 2022 with a T39 at the Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
3. [Brandon Matthews](#) – Won the 2020-21 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Order of Merit, earning fully exempt status for the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season
4. [Trevor Werbylo](#) – 23-year-old who won the 2021 Forme Tour Order of Merit, earning fully exempt status for the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour season
5. [Zack Fischer](#) – 32-year-old who earned medalist honors at Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
6. [Erik Barnes](#) – Finished 31st in the 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings; he also worked as a shelf stocker at his local grocery store while the COVID-19 pandemic halted play on the Korn Ferry Tour
7. [Davis Thompson](#) – 2021 Southeastern Conference Player of the Year at University of Georgia who finished No. 2 in the inaugural PGA TOUR University Class of 2021
8. [John Augenstein](#) – Entering rookie season after decorated amateur career highlighted by a runner-up finish at the 2019 U.S. Amateur; he also reached as high as No. 4 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking
9. [Ben Griffin](#) – Quit professional golf after a rocky 2020 and worked a desk job in the mortgage industry; earned guaranteed starts for the first eight events of 2022 with a T29 at the Final Stage of the 2021 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament
10. [Paul Haley II](#) – Finished 27th in 2020-21 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season Points Standings, previously earned PGA TOUR membership for 2013 via the Korn Ferry Tour

#### About Korn Ferry Tour

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour identifies and develops golf's next stars, preparing them to compete and win on the game's biggest stage. The Korn Ferry Tour, which has served as a path to the PGA TOUR since its inception, began providing 50 PGA TOUR cards annually in 2013. Each season, the top 25 players secure PGA TOUR cards via the Korn Ferry Tour's regular season, and an additional 25 players secure promotion through the Korn Ferry Tour Finals. With more than 595 PGA TOUR titles, 25 major championships and six FedExCup champions, Korn Ferry Tour alumni make up over 80 percent of the PGA TOUR's current membership. To learn more about the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit PGATOUR.COM or follow the Korn Ferry Tour on social media.

Six Korn Ferry Tour events are televised annually on GOLF Channel in the United States, with tournament programming also available via 22 linear TV partners in 170-plus countries and territories. Over 70 hours of live coverage is available in 130-plus countries and territories. Programming is also available via the OTT platform GOLFTV powered by PGA TOUR in every market outside of the United States (240-plus countries and territories), excluding China, Korea and Russia, with live coverage distributed in 130-plus countries and territories.