



# PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES

## 2023 ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL PRESENTED BY MASTERCARD



### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

February 27 - March 5 • 18th of 44 FedExCup Regular Season events  
Orlando, Florida  
Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge • Par 72 • 7,466 yds.  
**Purse** \$20 million • **Winner** \$3.6 million + 550 FedExCup pts.  
120 players • 72-hole stroke-play  
**Defending champion** Scottie Scheffler

### BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

	ESPN+	GOLF	NBC
<b>R1</b>	7 a.m.-6 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
<b>R2</b>	7 a.m.-6 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
<b>R3</b>	7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	12:30-2:30 p.m.	2:30-6 p.m.
<b>R4</b>	7:15 a.m.-6 p.m.	12:30-2:30 p.m.	2:30-6 p.m.

### CONTACT

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### 2022-23 PGA TOUR SEASON

#### FedExCup Playoffs

TOUR Championship.....  
BMW Championship.....  
FedEx St. Jude Championship.....

#### FedExCup Regular Season

Wyndham Championship.....  
3M Open.....  
Barracuda Championship.....  
The Open Championship.....  
Barbasol Championship.....  
Genesis Scottish Open.....  
John Deere Classic.....  
Rocket Mortgage Classic.....  
Travelers Championship.....  
U.S. Open.....  
RBC Canadian Open.....  
the Memorial Tournament.....  
Charles Schwab Challenge.....  
PGA Championship.....  
AT&T Byron Nelson.....  
Wells Fargo Championship.....  
Mexico Open at Vidanta.....  
Zurich Classic of New Orleans.....  
RBC Heritage.....  
Masters Tournament.....  
Valero Texas Open.....  
Corales Puntacana Championship.....  
WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play.....  
Valspar Championship.....  
THE PLAYERS Championship.....  
Puerto Rico Open.....  
Arnold Palmer Invitational.....  
The Honda Classic.....Chris Kirk  
The Genesis Invitational.....Jon Rahm (3)  
WM Phoenix Open.....Scottie Scheffler  
AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am.....Justin Rose  
Farmers Insurance Open.....Max Homa (2)  
The American Express.....Jon Rahm (2)  
Sony Open in Hawaii.....Si Woo Kim  
Sentry Tournament of Champions.....Jon Rahm  
The RSM Classic.....Adam Svensson  
Cadence Bank Houston Open.....Tony Finau  
World Wide Technology Championship..Russell Henley  
Butterfield Bermuda Championship..Seamus Power  
THE CJ CUP in South Carolina.....Rory McIlroy  
ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP.....Keegan Bradley  
Shriners Children's Open.....Tom Kim  
Sanderson Farms Championship..Mackenzie Hughes  
Fortinet Championship.....Max Homa

*Italics* First-time PGA TOUR winners

### TOP STORYLINES

The Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard is the fourth designated event of the PGA TOUR season, featuring 43 of the top 50 players in the Official World Golf Ranking, the top 30 players in the FedExCup standings and all 14 players that have won on TOUR this season. The last time 40 or more of the top 50 players in the OWGR competed in a PGA TOUR event was at the 2022 Open Championship (last non-major: 2022 PLAYERS Championship).

FedExCup leader **Jon Rahm** earned his 10th career PGA TOUR victory and third of the season in his most recent start, winning The Genesis Invitational. With the win, Rahm became the first player since Johnny Miller in 1975 to win three times in a calendar year before March 1. The last player to win four times before April 1 was also Miller, in 1974.

Rahm regained the No. 1 position in the Official World Golf Ranking with his win at The Genesis Invitational, the third time this season that the No. 1 spot changed and second in 2023. Both Rory McIlroy and Scottie Scheffler, who have previously held the World No. 1 position this season, have a chance to return to No. 1 (scenarios TBD).

#### Recent World No. 1 timeline

March 27, 2022	Scottie Scheffler wins WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, moves to No. 1
October 23, 2022 (30 weeks later)	Rory McIlroy wins THE CJ CUP in South Carolina, moves to No. 1
February 12, 2023 (16 weeks later)	Scottie Scheffler wins the WM Phoenix Open, moves to No. 1
February 19, 2023 (1 week later)	Jon Rahm wins The Genesis Invitational, moves to No. 1

Rahm has earned 2,000 FedExCup points this season, the most of any player through 17 weeks in the season since the points structure changed in 2009.

#### Most FedExCup points through 17 weeks since 2009

2,000	Jon Rahm	2022-23
1,872	Jimmy Walker	2013-14
1,746	Hideki Matsuyama	2016-17
1,740	Tiger Woods	2013

2022 winner and reigning PGA TOUR Player of the Year **Scottie Scheffler** is making his second of four starts as the defending champion in a nine-week stretch, and successfully defended his title during the first opportunity (WM Phoenix Open). The last player to successfully defend multiple titles in a season was Tiger Woods, who did so four times in 2007 (Farmers Insurance Open, PGA Championship, WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, WGC-CA Championship).

2018 winner and reigning FedExCup Champion **Rory McIlroy** is making his ninth consecutive start at the Arnold Palmer Invitational and has finished worse than T13 just once (T27/2016). McIlroy's Scoring Average of 70.31 at the event is the second-lowest of any player on record (1983-present) with a minimum of 20 rounds played, behind only eight-time champion Tiger Woods (69.97).

McIlroy has been the first-round leader/co-leader each of the last two years at the event. The last player to hold the 18-hole lead/co-lead at the same tournament three years in a row was Tiger Woods at the Deutsche Bank Championship in 2004, 2005 and 2006.

**Chris Kirk** won The Honda Classic Sunday, earning his fifth PGA TOUR title and first since the 2015 Charles Schwab Challenge. Kirk is one of two players with top-10s in each of the last two years at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard (T8/2021, T5/2022), along with Matt Fitzpatrick.

Kirk snapped a winless drought of 7 years, 9 months, 2 days and 178 starts, becoming the first player to go seven years or more between victories on the PGA TOUR since Lucas Glover won the 2021 John Deere Classic (10 years, 2 months, 3 days). In addition to the win, he finished solo-third at the Sony Open in Hawaii and T3 at The American Express, and is one of three players with multiple top-three finishes this season, along with multiple winners Jon Rahm and Max Homa.

## WINNERS

Year	Player
2022	Scottie Scheffler
2021	Bryson DeChambeau
2020	Tyrrell Hatton
2019	Francesco Molinari
2018	Rory McIlroy
2017	Marc Leishman
2016	Jason Day
2015	Matt Every
2014	Matt Every
2013	Tiger Woods
2012	Tiger Woods
2011	Martin Laird
2010	Ernie Els
2009	Tiger Woods
2008	Tiger Woods
2007	Vijay Singh
2006	Rod Pampling
2005	Kenny Perry
2004	Chad Campbell
2003	Tiger Woods
2002	Tiger Woods
2001	Tiger Woods
2000	Tiger Woods
1999	Tim Herron
1998	Ernie Els
1997	Phil Mickelson
1996	Paul Goydos
1995	Loren Roberts
1994	Loren Roberts
1993	Ben Crenshaw
1992	Fred Couples
1991	Andrew Magee
1990	Robert Gamez
1989	Tom Kite
1988	Paul Azinger
1987	Payne Stewart
1986	Dan Forsman
1985	Fuzzy Zoeller
1984	Gary Koch
1983	Mike Nicolette
1982	Tom Kite
1981	Andy Bean
1980	Dave Eichelberger
1979	Bob Byman
1978	Mac McLendon
1977	Gary Koch
1976	Hale Irwin
1975	Lee Trevino
1974	Jerry Heard
1973	Buddy Allin
1972	Jerry Heard
1971	Arnold Palmer
1970	Bob Lunn
1969	Ken Still
1968	Dan Sikes
1967	Julius Boros
1966	Lionel Hebert

bold in field

## ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

World No. 4 **Patrick Cantlay** is making his tournament debut. Cantlay has two top-three finishes, including a runner-up at the Shriners Children's Open and a solo-third at The Genesis Invitational in his most recent start.

Rookie **Eric Cole** finished runner-up at last week's Honda Classic, falling in a playoff to Chris Kirk. Cole moved to No. 33 in the FedExCup standings and will make his tournament debut at THE PLAYERS Championship next week.

DP World Tour member **Min Woo Lee** finished T26 at The Honda Classic to maintain his position in the top 50 of the Official World Golf Ranking (No. 50) and earn a spot in THE PLAYERS Championship.

Competing on a sponsor exemption, Texas Tech senior **Ludvig Aberg** of Sweden currently ranks No. 1 in the PGA TOUR University Velocity Global Ranking, a spot he's held since September 14, 2022. The No. 1 player on the final PGA TOUR University ranking following the conclusion of stroke play at the 2023 NCAA D-I Men's National Championship will earn PGA TOUR membership for the remainder of the 2022-23 season, beginning at the RBC Canadian Open.

The top three players not otherwise exempt will earn spots in The 151st Open Championship via the Open Qualifying Series. **Keith Mitchell**, who is making his first start since moving into the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking for the first time in his career (currently No. 45), has earned a spot in the last three Open Championships via QOS, including 2019 and 2021 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational (2022: RBC Canadian Open). Chris Kirk was one of the two players to qualify in 2022 at Bay Hill.

The Arnold Palmer Award is given annually to the PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year, and defending champion Scottie Scheffler was the recipient of the award in 2020. In 2022, the honor went to **Cameron Young**, who will make his second start in the event after a T13 in his tournament debut in 2022. Young and Will Zalatoris, who attended Palmer's alma mater of Wake Forest, became the first pair from the same college to win the award in back-to-back seasons (est. 1990). Young is one of 11 players to be named Rookie of the Year in this week's field, along with Stewart Cink (1997), Rickie Fowler (2010), Keegan Bradley (2011), Jordan Spieth (2013), Emiliano Grillo (2016), Xander Schauffele (2017), Aaron Wise (2018), Sungjae Im (2019), Scheffler (2020) and Zalatoris (2021).

Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge was the most difficult course on the PGA TOUR during the 2021-22 season among non-majors, playing to an average of 1.886 over par.

**Most difficult courses on the PGA TOUR in 2021-22**

+2.507	The Country Club	U.S. Open
+2.458	Southern Hills Country Club	PGA Championship
+1.951	Augusta National Golf Club	Masters Tournament
+1.886	Bay Hill Club & Lodge	Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard

## 2022 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Scottie Scheffler	70	73	68	72	283 (-5)
T2	Tyrrell Hatton	69	68	78	69	284 (-4)
T2	Billy Horschel	67	71	71	75	284 (-4)
T2	Viktor Hovland	69	66	75	74	284 (-4)
T5	Chris Kirk	69	76	68	72	285 (-3)
T5	Gary Woodland	70	72	70	73	285 (-3)
T7	Talor Gooch	69	68	72	77	286 (-2)
T7	Lucas Herbert	73	71	74	68	286 (-2)

## STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

<b>Top 10 FedExCup</b> .....10.....	Jon Rahm (1)
<b>Top 30 FedExCup</b> .....30.....	
<b>Top 10 OWGR</b> .....9.....	Jon Rahm (1)
<b>Top 50 OWGR</b> .....43.....	
<b>PGA TOUR winners</b> .....73.....	Rory McIlroy (23)
<b>Past champions</b> .....6.....	Defending: Scottie Scheffler
<b>FedExCup Champions</b> .....6.....	Defending: Rory McIlroy
<b>PLAYERS winners</b> .....7.....	Most recent: Justin Thomas (2021)
<b>Major winners</b> .....21.....	Rory McIlroy (4)

## TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Category	Value	Player	Year
<b>Low 18-hole score</b>	62	4 players; most recent: Adam Scott	2014 (R1)
<b>Low 36-hole score</b>	130	3 players; most recent: Adam Scott	2014
<b>Low 54-hole score</b>	197	Andy Bean	1981
<b>Low 72-hole score</b>	264	Payne Stewart	1987
<b>Holes-in-one (1983-present)</b>	22	22 players; most recent: Max Homa	2022 (R3, No. 14)
<b>Largest 18-hole lead</b>	3	3 players; most recent: Adam Scott	2014
<b>Largest 36-hole lead</b>	7	Adam Scott	2014
<b>Largest 54-hole lead</b>	6	3 players; most recent: Ernie Els	1998
<b>Largest margin of victory</b>	11	Tiger Woods	2003
<b>Playoffs</b>	7	Most recent: Tim Herron def. Tom Lehman	1999
<b>Wire-to-wire winners</b>	3	Most recent: Jason Day	2016