



PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES 2023 PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP



TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

March 6-12 • 20th of 44 FedExCup Regular Season events
Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
TPC Sawgrass • Par 72 • 7,275 yds.
Purse \$25 million • Winner \$4.5 million + 600 FedExCup pts.
144 players • 72-hole stroke-play
2022 champion Cameron Smith

BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

	ESPN+	GOLF	NBC
R1	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	12-6 p.m.	
R2	6:45 a.m.-6 p.m.	12-6 p.m.	
R3	7:45 a.m.-6 p.m.		1-6 p.m.
R4	7:45 a.m.-6 p.m.		1-6 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..... *Nico Echavarria*
Arnold Palmer Invitational..... *Kurt Kitayama*
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 PLAYERS Championship is the first of five events during the 2022-23 season offering 600 FedExCup points to the winner, along with the four major championships. The field includes 44 of the top 50 players in the Official World Golf Ranking and 29 of the top 30 players in the FedExCup standings.

This is the 49th playing of THE PLAYERS Championship and 41st since the tournament moved to TPC Sawgrass in 1982. The purse is \$25 million and the winner's share of \$4.5 million are the largest in PGA TOUR history.

Jon Rahm

With three wins this season (Sentry Tournament of Champions, The American Express, The Genesis Invitational), Jon Rahm currently holds the No. 1 position in both the FedExCup standings and the Official World Golf Ranking. He is the third player (fourth instance) to enter THE PLAYERS as the FedExCup leader and World No. 1 (second consecutive year competing at THE PLAYERS as World No. 1). Rahm has one top-10 (T9/2021) and has not missed the cut in five previous starts at THE PLAYERS.

Players to compete at THE PLAYERS as FedExCup leader and World No. 1

Year	Player	Finish
2023	Jon Rahm	TBD
2017	Dustin Johnson	T12
2013	Tiger Woods	Won
2007	Tiger Woods	T37

Rahm is 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 opened the season with six consecutive top-10s and snapped the streak with a T39 at last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational, his worst finish on TOUR since the 2022 Genesis Scottish Open (T55). He leads the PGA TOUR in several statistical categories, including Scoring Average (68.855), Birdie Average (5.32), Par-3 Scoring Average (2.82) and top-10 finishes (6).

Scottie Scheffler

Reigning PGA TOUR Player of the Year Scottie Scheffler is making his third start at THE PLAYERS Championship (MC/2021, T55/2022). Scheffler successfully defended his title at the WM Phoenix Open in February and finished T4 in his second attempt to do so at last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational. Scheffler will also be the defending champion at two tournaments in the four weeks following THE PLAYERS (WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, Masters Tournament). Scheffler leads the PGA TOUR in Greens in Regulation Percentage (73.61%), which he led for the 2021-22 season (72.29%).

Rory McIlroy

2019 winner and reigning FedExCup Champion Rory McIlroy finished runner-up at last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational, his second top-two result in four starts this season (Won/THE CJ CUP in South Carolina). McIlroy made his tournament debut in 2009 (MC), which was his eighth career start on the PGA TOUR, and has four top-10s in 12 starts at the event.

World No. 1

For the fourth time in the last five weeks, the No. 2 and No. 3 players are contending for the No. 1 position in the Official World Golf Ranking. Both Scheffler and McIlroy, 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

WINNERS

Year	Player
2022	Cameron Smith
2021	Justin Thomas
2020	Canceled
2019	Rory McIlroy
2018	Webb Simpson
2017	Si Woo Kim
2016	Jason Day
2015	Rickie Fowler
2014	Martin Kaymer
2013	Tiger Woods
2012	Matt Kuchar
2011	K.J. Choi
2010	Tim Clark
2009	Henrik Stenson
2008	Sergio Garcia
2007	Phil Mickelson
2006	Stephen Ames
2005	Fred Funk
2004	Adam Scott
2003	Davis Love III
2002	Craig Perks
2001	Tiger Woods
2000	Hal Sutton
1999	David Duval
1998	Justin Leonard
1997	Steve Elkington
1996	Fred Couples
1995	Lee Janzen
1994	Greg Norman
1993	Nick Price
1992	Davis Love III
1991	Steve Elkington
1990	Jodie Mudd
1989	Tom Kite
1988	Mark McCumber
1987	Sandy Lyle
1986	John Mahaffey
1985	Calvin Peete
1984	Fred Couples
1983	Hal Sutton
1982	Jerry Pate
1981	Raymond Floyd
1980	Lee Trevino
1979	Lanny Wadkins
1978	Jack Nicklaus
1977	Mark Hayes
1976	Jack Nicklaus
1975	Al Geiberger
1974	Jack Nicklaus

bold in field

ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

2021 FedExCup Champion **Patrick Cantlay** has finished in the top five in each of his last two starts and is the only player to do so at the last two designated events (The Genesis Invitational, Arnold Palmer Invitational). Cantlay has missed the cut in each of the last three PLAYERS Championships and has not finished better than T22 (2017).

World No. 6 **Xander Schauffele**, who won three times on TOUR during the 2021-22 season, finished T2 at the 2018 PLAYERS Championship but has missed the cut in each of his three appearances since.

Max Homa, one of two players with multiple titles on TOUR this season (along with Jon Rahm), is making his third start at THE PLAYERS and is coming off a T13 in 2022.

2021 PLAYERS Championship winner **Justin Thomas** holds a scoring average of 70.48 at THE PLAYERS, the lowest of any player with a minimum of 15 rounds played on record (1983-present). With a win, Thomas would become the seventh player to win multiple titles at THE PLAYERS and first to accomplish the feat since Tiger Woods in 2013. Thomas is the only player that won on the PGA TOUR in each season from 2015-16 through 2021-22 and can extend his streak to eight seasons with a win at THE PLAYERS.

Most PLAYERS Championship victories (*not held at TPC Sawgrass)

3	Jack Nicklaus	1974*, 1976*, 1978*
2	Tiger Woods	2001, 2013
2	Davis Love III	1992, 2003
2	Hal Sutton	1983, 2000
2	Steve Elkington	1991, 1997
2	Fred Couples	1984, 1996

Both players who won on the PGA TOUR last week are making their PLAYERS Championship debut: **Kurt Kitayama** (Arnold Palmer Invitational) and **Nico Echavarria** (Puerto Rico Open). Three players have won the week before THE PLAYERS and won THE PLAYERS: Raymond Floyd (1981), Tom Kite (1989) and Tiger Woods (2001). Including Kitayama (No. 19), there are four players in the top 50 in the Official World Golf Ranking making their tournament debut at THE PLAYERS Championship (others: No. 17 Tom Kim, No. 32 Ryan Fox, No. 50 Min Woo Lee).

Harris English finished runner-up at last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational and is making his first start at THE PLAYERS since 2019. English has missed the cut in his last six appearances at TPC Sawgrass and most recently made the cut in 2013 (T33).

Doug Ghim has been T3 or better through 54 holes three times in his PGA TOUR career, including the last two years at THE PLAYERS Championship (T3/2021, T2/2022). He went on to finish T6 in 2022 (T29/2021).

2022 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Cameron Smith	69	71	69	66	275 (-13)
2	Anirban Lahiri	67	73	67	69	276 (-12)
3	Paul Casey	70	69	69	69	277 (-11)
4	Kevin Kisner	68	74	68	68	278 (-10)
5	Keegan Bradley	72	71	68	68	279 (-9)
T6	Doug Ghim	70	70	68	72	280 (-8)
T6	Russell Knox	71	71	68	70	280 (-8)
T6	Harold Varner III	69	69	72	70	280 (-8)

STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

Top 10 FedExCup	10	Jon Rahm (1)
Top 30 FedExCup	29	
Top 10 OWGR	9	Jon Rahm (1)
Top 50 OWGR	44	
PGA TOUR winners	90	Rory McIlroy (23)
Past champions	8	Most recent: Justin Thomas (2021)
FedExCup Champions	6	Most recent: Rory McIlroy (2021)
PLAYERS winners	8	Most recent: Justin Thomas (2021)
Major winners	19	Rory McIlroy (4)

TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Category	Value	Player	Year
Low 18-hole score	63	9 players; most recent: Dustin Johnson	2022 (R4)
Low 36-hole score	129	2 players; most recent: Webb Simpson	2018
Low 54-hole score	197	2 players; most recent: Webb Simpson	2018
Low 72-hole score	264	Greg Norman	1994
Holes-in-one (1983-present)	35	Most recent: Shane Lowry, Viktor Hovland	2022 (R3)
Largest 18-hole lead	3	2 players; most recent: Roberto Castro	2013
Largest 36-hole lead	5	Webb Simpson	2018
Largest 54-hole lead	7	Webb Simpson	2018
Best come-from-behind win	6	Raymond Floyd	1981
Largest margin of victory	7	Steve Elkington	1997
Playoffs	5	Most recent: Rickie Fowler def. Sergio Garcia, Kevin Kisner	2015
Wire-to-wire winners	5	Most recent: Jason Day	2016

SHOTLINK STATISTICS: PAR-3 17th AT TPC SAWGRASS

CLOSEST TO THE HOLE

Year	Player	Distance
2022	Cameron Smith	1 foot
2021	Adam Scott	1 foot, 7 inches
2019	Ryan Moore	Ace
2018	Ryan Palmer	1 foot, 2 inches
2017	Sergio Garcia	Ace
2016	Willy Wilcox	Ace
2015	Hunter Mahan	2 feet, 2 inches
	Boo Weekley	2 feet, 2 inches
2014	Luke Donald	1 foot, 5 inches
2013	Ben Crane	9 inches
2012	Stewart Cink	10 inches
2011	Hunter Mahan	6 inches
2010	Paul Casey	1 foot, 6 inches
2009	Nicholas Thompson	4 inches
2008	Tommy Armour III	1 foot, 5 inches
2007	John Rollins	1 foot, 8 inches
2006	Chad Campbell	5 inches
2005	Jonathan Kaye	1 foot, 4 inches
2004	Luke Donald	1 foot, 10 inches
2003	Chris Riley	11 inches

Notes:

- ShotLink era (2003-present)
- Two players have hit it closest to the hole in multiple years: Hunter Mahan (2011, 2015) and Luke Donald (2004, 2014)
- Adam Scott is the only player to hit the two closest shots to the hole in the same year (17" R1, 18" R2, 2021)
- There has been only one year where no player hit the ball within 2 feet at No. 17 (2015)

100% CAREER GIR, MIN. 8 ATT.

Player	Number of rounds
Chez Reavie	22
Graham DeLaet	18
Bryson DeChambeau	12
Ross Fisher	12
Len Mattiace	10
John Huston	9
Glen Day	8
Dylan Frittelli	8

100% CAREER GIR, MIN. 8 ATT.

Player	Balls in the water
Aaron Baddeley	13
Phil Mickelson	9
Bob Tway	9
Paul Casey	9
Jim Furyk	8
Brooks Koepka	8
Heath Slocum	8
Brian Davis	8
Bob Estes	8
Sergio Garcia	8

HOLES-IN-ONE

Player	Year	Round
Shane Lowry	2022	R3
Ryan Moore	2019	R1
Sergio Garcia	2017	R1
Willy Wilcox	2016	R2
Miguel Angel Jimenez	2002	R1
Paul Azinger	2000	R3
Joey Sindelar	1999	R1
Fred Couples	1997	R4
Brian Claar	1991	R3
Brad Fabel	1986	R1

HIGHEST SCORES

Score	Player	Year	Round
12	Bob Tway	2005	R3
11	Robert Gamez	1990	R3
10	Phil Blackmar	1990	R2
9	Zac Blair	2017	R2
9	Russell Knox	2016	R3
9	Ángel Cabrera	2012	R1
9	Roger Maltbie	1990	R2
9	Rex Caldwell	1983	R2

MOST BIRDIES

On record (1983-present)	ShotLink era (2003-present)
Bernhard Langer 26	Adam Scott 18
Hal Sutton 19	Sergio Garcia 17
David Frost 18	Martin Kaymer 13
Tom Lehman 18	Justin Rose 13
Davis Love III 18	Ian Poulter 13
Phil Mickelson 18	Three players 12
Adam Scott 18	

LOWEST SCORING AVERAGE

On record (1983-present)	ShotLink era (2003-present)
Min. 50 rounds	Min. 20 rounds
Scott Hoch 2.81	Johnson Wagner 2.71
Tom Lehman 2.82	Chez Reavie 2.77
Robert Allenby 2.87	Kevin Sutherland 2.81
David Edwards 2.88	Martin Kaymer 2.83
Jose Maria Olazabal 2.88	Adam Hadwin 2.83

BALLS IN THE WATER AT No. 17

Year	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
2022	13	27	7	10	57
2021	35	13	8	10	66
2019	14	6	8	17	45
2018	24	21	6	3	54
2017	19	29	10	11	69
2016	6	9	17	4	36
2015	21	16	3	5	45
2014	12	12	1	3	28
2013	15	9	7	13	44
2012	18	11	4	6	39
2011	12	14	8	6	40
2010	7	8	5	9	29
2009	16	6	4	6	32
2008	20	18	10	16	64
2007	50	21	10	12	93
2006	19	17	12	9	57
2005	7	8	25	28	68
2004	9	10	4	7	30
2003	6	10	3	10	29
Average	17.00	13.95	8.00	9.74	48.68