



## 2022 RSM Classic

(9<sup>th</sup> of 47 events in the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Season)

St. Simons Island, Georgia  
Sea Island Golf Club (Seaside)  
Sea Island Golf Club (Plantation)

November 17-20, 2022  
Par/Yards: 35-35—70/7,005  
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,060

FedExCup points: 500 (winner)  
Purse: \$8.1 million (\$1,458,000 winner)

### First-Round Notes – Thursday, November 17, 2022

Weather: Mostly cloudy. High of 55. Wind NW 8-14 mph.

#### First-Round Leaderboard

Cole Hammer	PL	64 (-8)
Ben Griffin	PL	65 (-7)
Beau Hossler	SS	64 (-6)
Callum Tarren	SS	64 (-6)
Justin Suh	PL	66 (-6)

#### Things to Know

- Competing on a sponsor exemption, non-member Cole Hammer holds first career PGA TOUR lead after any round in 15<sup>th</sup> career TOUR start
- PGA TOUR rookie Ben Griffin (2<sup>nd</sup>) leads contingent of 16 active PGA TOUR members who reside in the Sea Island area
- Brian Harman, the highest-ranked player in the field, sits T6 after opening 5-under 67 (PL); five of the eight winners on TOUR this season entered the week as one of the five highest-ranked players in the field
- Two-time RSM Classic runner-up Webb Simpson cards 34<sup>th</sup> round in the 60s in 39<sup>th</sup> career round in the event
- Justin Suh, who was named 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Player of the Year earlier this week, sits T3 in tournament debut
- Four of the 16 players at 5-under or better played the Seaside Course in round one: Beau Hossler (-6), Callum Tarren (-6), Chris Gotterup (-5), Andrew Putnam (-5)

#### First-Round Lead Notes

- First-round leaders/co-leaders to win The RSM Classic (Kevin Kisner/2015, Mackenzie Hughes/2016)
- First-round leaders/co-leaders to win on TOUR in 2022-23 (Tony Finau/Cadence Bank Houston Open)

#### Cole Hammer (1<sup>st</sup>/-8) – PL

Category	Entering the week
Age	23 (8/28/1999)
FedExCup	N/A
OWGR	No. 914
Starts – wins – top-10s in PGA TOUR career	14-0-0
Starts – wins – top-10s on TOUR in 2022-23	3-0-0
Starts – wins – top-10s at The RSM Classic	0-0-0

- Playing on a sponsor exemption, non-member Cole Hammer opens with career-low 64 in tournament debut
- Last sponsor exemption to win on TOUR: Martin Laird (2020 Shriners Children's Open)
- Last non-member to win on a sponsor exemption: Matthew Wolff (2019 3M Open)
- Marks first career lead/co-lead after any round on the PGA TOUR
- Has two made cuts in 14 previous TOUR starts, both coming at the Cadence Bank Houston Open (T27/2022/Memorial Park, T61/2019/Golf Club of Houston/amateur)
- Finished No. 5 in the PGA TOUR University Class of 2022 to earn access to remaining open-field events on the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour and the Final Stage of the 2022 Korn Ferry Tour Qualifying Tournament; finished T59 at Final Stage of Q-School to earn conditional status on the Korn Ferry Tour in 2023
- From Houston, Texas, played collegiately at the University of Texas from 2018-22, winning the team title at the 2022 NCAA Men's Golf Championships and four individual tournaments during his career
- Recipient of 2019 McCormack Medal as the No. 1 player in the World Amateur Golf Ranking

### **Ben Griffin (2<sup>nd</sup>/-7) – PL**

- PGA TOUR rookie Ben Griffin posts bogey-free 7-under 65 on the Plantation Course in 11<sup>th</sup> career PGA TOUR start and second at The RSM Classic (MC/2018)
- Held share of the 54-hole lead at the 2022 Butterfield Bermuda Championship en route to career-best T3 finish
- Has two top-fives in last seven PGA TOUR starts (T3/Butterfield Bermuda Championship, 4<sup>th</sup>/Wyndham Championship)

### **Miscellaneous Notes**

- First-year Member **Justin Suh** (T3) opens with a 6-under 66 in tournament debut
- **Brian Harman** (T6), one of 16 active PGA TOUR members that live in the Sea Island area, is the highest-ranked player in the field at No. 24 in the Official World Golf Ranking; has two top-10s in 10 starts in The RSM Classic (T4/2017, T10/2013); has 25 top-10s on the PGA TOUR since the start of the 2017-18 season, the most of any player without a win in that span (second: Adam Hadwin, 22)
- Two-time RSM Classic runner-up **Webb Simpson** (T6) makes a hole-in-one at No. 3 on the Plantation Course (4-hybrid; scorecard yardage: 219 yards), his fourth career ace on TOUR and first since the 2020 WM Phoenix Open, which he went on to win (the last player to accomplish the feat); has five top-10s in 10 starts at the event, including two playoff losses (2011, 2019); his 5-under 67 on the Plantation Course marks his 34<sup>th</sup> round in the 60s in 39 rounds in the event
- **Davis Love III** (wrist) and **Anders Albertson** (back) withdrew before the start of the round; **David Lipsky**, **Trey Mullinax** (ankle), **Danny Willett** (shoulder) withdrew after the round

### **RSM Birdies Fore Love**

The annual RSM Birdies Fore Love competition concludes this week at The RSM Classic, with the player making the most birdies (or better) throughout the fall portion of the schedule will receive \$300,000 to donate to a children- or family-focused charitable organization of his choice (\$150,000 for second, \$50,000 for third). With this being the final week of the competition, each birdie (or better) will count for two.

### **Most birdies or better through the Cadence Bank Houston Open**

**116** Patrick Rodgers

**115** Taylor Montgomery

**107** Will Gordon, Justin Lower

**106** Emiliano Grillo, Ben Griffin, Andrew Putnam

### **Most birdies or better through round one of The RSM Classic**

**124** Patrick Rodgers

**123** Taylor Montgomery

**120** Ben Griffin