

PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES 2023 RSM CLASSIC



TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

November 13-19 • Seventh and final FedExCup Fall event St. Simons Island, Georgia Host Sea Island Golf Club (Seaside) • Par 70 • 7,005 yds. Other course Sea Island Golf Club (Plantation) • Par 72 • 7,060 yds. Purse \$8.4 million • Winner \$1,512,000 + 500 FedExCup pts.

156 players • 72-hole stroke play **Defending champion** Adam Svensson

2022-23 PGA TOUR SEASON

FedExCup Fall

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The RSM Classic
Butterfield Bermuda ChampionshipCamilo Villegas
World Wide Technology Champ Erik van Rooyen
ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP Collin Morikawa
Shriners Children's Open Tom Kim (2)
Sanderson Farms Championship Luke List
Fortinet Championship Sahith Theegala
FedExCup Playoffs
TOUR Championship Viktor Hovland (3)
BMW Championship Viktor Hovland (2)
FedEx St. Jude Championship Lucas Glover (2)
FedExCup Regular Season
Wyndham Championship Lucas Glover
3M OpenLee Hodges
Barracuda Championship Akshay Bhatia
The Open ChampionshipBrian Harman
Barbasol ChampionshipVincent Norrman
Genesis Scottish Open Rory McIlroy (2)
John Deere Classic
Rocket Mortgage ClassicRickie Fowler
Travelers Championship
U.S. Open Wyndham Clark (2)
RBC Canadian Open Nick Taylor
the Memorial TournamentViktor Hovland
Charles Schwab Challenge Emiliano Grillo
PGA Championship Brooks Koepka
AT&T Byron Nelson Jason Day
Wells Fargo ChampionshipWyndham Clark
Mexico Open at Vidanta Tony Finau (2)
Zurich Classic of New Orleans Davis Riley/Nick Hardy
RBC Heritage Matt Fitzpatrick
Masters Tournament Jon Rahm (4)
Valero Texas OpenCorey Conners
Corales Puntacana ChampionshipMatt Wallace
WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play Sam Burns
Valspar ChampionshipTaylor Moore
THE PLAYERS ChampionshipScottie Scheffler (2)
Puerto Rico OpenNico Echavarria
Arnold Palmer Invitational Kurt Kitayama
The Honda ClassicChris Kirk
The Genesis Invitational Jon Rahm (3)
WM Phoenix Open Scottie Scheffler
AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-AmJustin Rose
Farmers Insurance OpenMax Homa (2)
The American Express Jon Rahm (2)
Sony Open in HawaiiSi Woo Kim
Sentry Tournament of ChampionsJon Rahm
The RSM ClassicAdam Svensson
Cadence Bank Houston OpenTony Finau
World Wide Technology ChampionshipRussell Henley
Butterfield Bermuda Championship Seamus Power
THE CJ CUP in South Carolina
ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIPKeegan Bradley
Shriners Children's OpenTom Kim
Sanderson Farms Championship Mackenzie Hughes
Fortinet ChampionshipMax Homa <i>Italics</i> First-time PGA TOUR winners

BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

	GOLF	ESPN+	
R1	noon-3 p.m.	9:30 a.m 4 p.m.	
R2	noon-3 p.m.	9:30 a.m 4 p.m.	
R3	1-4 p.m.		
R4	1-4 p.m.		

TOP STORYLINES

Season end: The 2022-23 PGA TOUR Season comes to a conclusion this week at The RSM Classic in St. Simons Island, Georgia, marking the final event of the FedExCup Fall. For the first time, the top 125 for the following PGA TOUR season will be finalized at The RSM Classic, among other competitive consequences set to be determined at week's end – including The Next 10, DP World Tour Top 10, and PGA TOUR Player of the Year and Rookie of the Year nominations.

Winner's benefits: The RSM Classic is the seventh and final official PGA TOUR event of the FedExCup Fall, with all seven featuring winner's benefits – a two-year PGA TOUR exemption, 500 FedExCup points, and invitations to The Sentry, THE PLAYERS Championship, Masters Tournament and PGA Championship in 2024.

Top 125: The RSM Classic is the last opportunity for players to secure top-125 status, which gives players access to all Full-Field Events and THE PLAYERS Championship next season. Nos. 126-150 will earn conditional status, unless otherwise exempt. All 20 players from Nos. 121-140 in the FedExCup Fall standings entering the week are in the field. **Top 125 bubble entering The RSM Classic**

IOP ILO	bubble entering in	
No. 121	Doug Ghim	
No. 122	Nico Echavarria	
No. 123	Troy Merritt	
No. 124	Andrew Novak	
<u>No. 125</u>	Carl Yuan	
No. 126	Henrik Norlander	No. 131
No. 127	Maverick McNealy	No. 132
No. 128	Ryan Moore	No. 133
No. 129	C.T. Pan	No. 134
No. 130	Patton Kizzire	No. 135

No. 131	Ryan Palmer
No. 132	Zecheng Dou
No. 133	Scott Piercy
No. 134	Kramer Hickok
No. 135	Cameron Champ

No. 136Austin SmothermanNo. 137MJ DaffueNo. 138Adam LongNo. 139Jimmy WalkerNo. 140Harrison Endycott

The Next 10: New in 2024, The Next 10 is an eligibility pathway to earn access into Signature Events (outside of The Sentry), recognizing the top 10 players, not otherwise exempt, from the FedExCup standings. Nos. 51-60 in the final FedExCup Fall standings at the conclusion of The RSM Classic will serve as The Next 10 for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational. The current Next 10 includes (**bold** in field):

- No. 51 Beau Hossler No. 52 **Matt Kuchar**
- No. 53 Mackenzie Hughes
- No. 54 Ben Griffin
- No. 55 Taylor Montgomery
- No. 56 Nick Hardy
- No. 57 Alex Smallev
- No. 58 Luke List
- No. 59 J.J. Spaun
- No. 60 Sam Ryder

Seven of the players between Nos. 61-70 are in the field: Mark Hubbard (No. 61), Stephan Jaeger (No. 62), Thomas Detry (No. 63), Alex Noren (No. 64), Brandon Wu (No. 67), Keith Mitchell (No. 69) and Hayden Buckley (No. 70).

Five players in the field qualified for the TOUR Championship: Adam Schenk (No. 9), Russell Henley (No. 14), Si Woo Kim (No. 20), Brian Harman (No. 23) and Corey Conners (No. 26).

Eight additional players in the field qualified for the BMW Championship: Chris Kirk (No. 32), Denny McCarthy (No. 33), Adam Svensson (No. 37), Harris English (No. 38), J.T. Poston (No. 39), Cameron Young (No. 42), Eric Cole (No. 43) and Brendon Todd (No. 47)

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WINNERS

2022	Adam Svensson
2021	Talor Gooch
2020	Robert Streb
2019	Tyler Duncan
2018	Charles Howell III
2017	Austin Cook
2016	. Mackenzie Hughes
2015	Kevin Kisner
2014	Robert Streb
2013	Chris Kirk
2012	Tommy Gainey
2011	Ben Crane
2010	Heath Slocum

bold in field

ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

Six players in the field have competed in all six events so far in the FedExCup Fall: Tyson Alexander, Akshay Bhatia, Nick Hardy, Mark Hubbard, Justin Lower and Kevin Yu. Hubbard is making his 39th start of the season, the most of any player in a single season on record (1983-present); note: the 2022-23 PGA TOUR Season began at the 2022 Fortinet Championship and includes 54 total events.

Rookie of the Year race: The RSM Classic is the final event of consideration for the Jack Nicklaus Award (Player of the Year) and Arnold Palmer Award (Rookie of the Year). Eric Cole will make his 37th start of the season and is the only rookie in the 2022-23 class who qualified for the BMW Championship, finishing No. 43 in the FedExCup standings. St. Simons Island resident Ben Griffin enters the week No. 54 in the FedExCup standings, the next-highest position of any rookie, as he looks to qualify for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational via The Next 10. Following the NCAA Championship in May, rookie Ludvig Åberg turned professional and became the first player to join the TOUR directly out of college by finishing No. 1 in the PGA TOUR University Ranking. In 10 starts since becoming a member, Åberg has recorded three top-10s, including a playoff defeat at the Sanderson Farms Championship, and will finish inside the top 125 of the FedExCup Fall standings, improving his status entering 2024. Nominees for PGA TOUR Player of the Year and PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year will be announced in December.

Major champion returns: St. Simons Island resident Brian Harman is making his 12th start at The RSM Classic and first as a major champion, following his victory at the 2023 Open Championship. Harman finished T2 in 2022, his best result and third top-10 at the event, and is making his first start on the PGA TOUR since the TOUR Championship.

14th start: Zach Johnson and Chris Kirk are the only two players that have competed in The RSM Classic in each year since the tournament's inception in 2010. Johnson has three top-10s at the event, most recently finishing T6 in 2020, and is making his first PGA TOUR start since serving as captain for the United States at the 2023 Ryder Cup. This year's event is the 10-year anniversary of Kirk's victory in 2013. Kirk, an RSM ambassador, also finished in the top five in 2014 (T4) and 2018 (T4).

Coming off a win: With his win at last week's Butterfield Bermuda Championship, Camilo Villegas earned his fifth PGA TOUR title and snapped a winless drought of 9 years, 2 months, 26 days (first win since the 2014 Wyndham Championship). Villegas also finished runner-up the week prior at the World Wide Technology Championship, becoming the first player to finish runner-up one week and win the following week since J.T. Poston in 2022 (T2/ Travelers Championship, Won/John Deere Classic).

Masters qualification: The top 50 players in the Official World Golf Ranking on January 1, 2024 will qualify for the 2024 Masters Tournament. Noteworthy on the bubble entering the last official PGA TOUR event of the year include No. 48 Eric Cole (never competed in the Masters), No. 49 Chris Kirk, No. 52 Matt Kuchar (last competed in 2021), No. 53 Ludvig Åberg (zero career major championship appearances) and No. 54 Billy Horschel.

Twin brothers teeing it up: David Ford, who earned a sponsor exemption by winning the 2023 Jones Cup, is joined in the field by his twin brother Maxwell, who also received a sponsor exemption. Competing as amateurs, David and Maxwell are the third set of twin brothers to compete in the same PGA TOUR event this season, joining Nicolai and Rasmus Hojgaard (PGA Championship, Genesis Scottish Open, The Open Championship) and Parker and Pierceson Coody (The Classic in The Palm Beaches and THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson). David has one previous PGA TOUR start (2023 Barbasol Championship/T58), while Maxwell will make his TOUR debut.

Tournament host: Davis Love III, host of The RSM Classic, is set to make his 790th start on TOUR and first since the 2023 RBC Heritage. Love's 789 starts to date rank third all-time behind Mark Brooks (803) and Jay Haas (799). His 21 career PGA TOUR titles are tied for 32nd most all-time and are the most of any player in the field.

300th career start: Robert Streb, the only two-time winner in The RSM Classic history (2014, 2020), is making his 300th career start. Streb enters the event No. 179 in the FedExCup Fall standings and his exemption for winning the 2020 RSM Classic expires after this week.

2022 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Adam Svensson	73	64	62	64	263 (-19)
T2	Brian Harman	67	69	64	65	265 (-17)
T2	Callum Tarren	64	68	69	64	265 (-17)
T2	Sahith Theegala	68	63	68	66	265 (-17)
T5	Five players					267 (-15)

STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

Top 30 FedExCup	5	Adam Schenk (9)
Top 50 FedExCup	13	
		Brian Harman (9)
Top 50 OWGR	11	
		Davis Love III (21)
Past champions	9	Defending: Adam Svensson
FedExCup Champions.	1	Billy Horschel (2014)
PLAYERS winners	4N	Nost recent: Webb Simpson (2018)
Major winners	9	Padraig Harrington (3)