



Ruitoque Golf Country Club | Bucaramanga, Colombia | May 25-28, 2023

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Race for the Totalplay Cup heats up in Bucaramanga

BUCARAMANGA, Colombia—With only four tournaments remaining on the 2022-23 schedule, set over a six-week span, the race for the Totalplay Cup heats up as PGA TOUR Latinoamérica makes its return to Colombia for back-to-back tournaments. Played for the third consecutive year, the 2023 Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers leads the way bringing the Tour back to Ruitoque Golf Country Club in the northeastern part of the country.

“I love it. It’s beautiful here. I can’t believe it’s this hilly, I had no idea,” said U.S. player Brent Ito of Ruitoque’s spectacular surroundings located on a mountain plateau overlooking the city.

Ranked 23rd in the Totalplay Cup standings, Ito turned around his season rather quickly. After missing the cut in his first five PGA TOUR Latinoamérica starts, he has recorded two top-10s in his last three outings, including a tie for third at the Kia Open in Ecuador.

“I was hitting it pretty well the first five events but didn’t seem to make a putt, so (I’ve been) dialed in since, and making some putts has definitely contributed to good scores,” added Ito. “It’s the first year that I’ve done a full PGA TOUR Latinoamérica schedule, so just getting used to the time zones, elevation, all of these different factors that I didn’t have to deal with before.”

With only three full-field events left to play before the season-ending Bupa Tour Championship, the finish line is moving closer. Earning Totalplay Cup points is critical for players all across the standings in order to get the different performance rewards available.

2022-23 PGA TOUR Latinoamérica Player Benefits

2022-23 Final Totalplay Cup Position	Reward
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No. 1	Will receive exempt status on the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour
Nos. 2-5	Will receive conditional status on the 2024 Korn Ferry
Nos. 1-5	Exempt into Final Stage of the 2023 PGA TOUR Qualifying Tournament
Nos. 6-25	Exempt into the second stage of the 2023 PGA TOUR Qualifying Tournament
Nos. 1-60	Exempt through Latin America swing of the 2024 PGA TOUR Americas

Ranked third in the Totalplay Cup standings, with a victory under his belt at the JHSF Brazil Open, Charlie Hillier is playing here for the second consecutive year. Off to a slow start with an opening 71, the Kiwi fought back with rounds of 61-65-66 to finish in a tie for 12th last year.

“I’m really excited to be back,” said the 26-year-old from Te Puke, New Zealand. “I have some great memories here. There are a lot of birdies if the weather plays its part, but you still have to be very patient out there and kind of limit your mistakes.”

Demanding low scores to have a chance, the 6,592-yard par-70 course reminds Hillier of Fazenda Boa Vista, another short course on Tour (6,830 yards, par-71), where he won at the beginning of April. “Hopefully it’s similar to Brazil and a similar result,” he said with a grin.

A University of Kansas alum who resides in Kansas City, Hillier was invited to play the Korn Ferry Tour’s AdventHealth Championship last week. Although he missed the cut with rounds of 73-72, he left home energized by the surprise visit of his parents, who traveled all the way from New Zealand to see him play.

“My brother (Harry, who is also a PGA TOUR Latinoamérica member) actually organized that, so it was the nicest thing he has ever done for me. We had a great time together, and I feel really good entering this week,” said the elder Hillier who is feeling even better after making a hole-in-one during his Tuesday afternoon practice round.

With Conner Godsey holding a 134-point lead atop the standings, the following are the players entering this week’s event inside the Totalplay Cup top 10.

Updated Totalplay Cup Points List

Pos.	Player	Total Points	Points Behind
1	Conner Godsey (U.S.)	856	--
2	Chandler Blanchet (U.S.)	722	134
3	Charlie Hillier (New Zealand)	715	141
4	Cristóbal Del Solar (Chile)	711	145
5	Toni Hakula (Finland)	677	179
6	Linus Lilliedahl (Sweden)	669	187
7	Marcos Montenegro (Argentina)	622	234
8	Matt Ryan (U.S.)	617	239

9	Jake McCrory (U.S.)	567	289
10	Leandro Marelli (Argentina)	562	294

The Colombia Classic's 144-player field features 21 Colombians, including LPGA Tour member Mariajo Uribe. A native of Bucaramanga who has been the face of Colombian women's golf since her victory at the 2007 U.S. Women's Amateur Championship, Uribe accepted a sponsor exemption to compete in a men's professional tournament for the first time.

"If I have a chance it's at this event, given that it's my home course," said the 33-year old who played at the Olympics in Rio De Janeiro (2016) and Tokyo (2021). "It's a short course that I always play from the black tees when I practice, so distance-wise, it's going to be similar to what I'm used to. However, there are par-5s that [the men] play as par-4s, but women, we do have our thing, we hit it straighter, so we'll see how it goes."

Uribe will become the second female to make a PGA TOUR Latinoamérica start this season and the third in history. For more on her start check out this [feature story](#).

Tournament Fast Facts

Official Name: Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers

Hashtag: #ColombiaClassic

Dates: May 25-28, 2023

Host venue: Ruitoque Golf Country Club, Par-70 (36-34) 6,592 yards

Field: 144 players from 19 countries

Countries and territories represented in the field: Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, England, Finland, France, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Puerto Rico, Scotland, South Korea, Sweden, United States and Venezuela

Defending champion: Tommy Cocha

Purse: U.S. \$175,000 – Winner's share U.S. \$31,500

Totalplay Cup points: Awarded to the top-55 and ties, with 500 going to the winner

Cut: Top 55 and ties

PGA TOUR Latinoamérica tournaments left to play this season

Dates	Tournament	Venue	City, Country
May 25-28	Colombia Classic presented by Rocha Brothers	Ruitoque Golf Country Club	Bucaramanga, Colombia
June 1-4	Inter Rapidísimo Golf Championship presented by Volvo	El Rincón de Cajicá	Bogota, Colombia
June 22-25	Jalisco Open Guadalajara	Atlas Country Club	Guadalajara, Mexico
June 29-July 2	Bupa Tour Championship*	PGA Riviera Maya	Tulum, Mexico

* Limited-field tournament