



JHSF 68th Aberto do Brasil | Porto Feliz, Brazil | March 30 – April 2, 2023

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**Tournament photos available at:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/pgatourla>

**Tournament highlights at:** <https://bit.ly/3LHu41K>

**Tournament tee times:** <https://bit.ly/3nwSjfl-TeeTimes>

## **Players ready for beautiful, challenging Fazenda Boa Vista**

PORTO FELIZ, Brazil—Once the JHSF Brazil Open concludes Sunday, PGA TOUR Latinoamérica will have hit the halfway point in its season: six tournaments (almost) done, six still to play. Yet even as the Tour closes in on the midway mark of the 2022-23 campaign, storylines are still a bit muddled.

With the Korn Ferry Tour idle in December, numerous members from that Tour, also eligible to play on PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, traveled to Argentina and Chile to play in the first three events of the season. Consequently, Cristóbal del Solar, winner of the Neuquén Argentina Classic, continues to lead the Totalplay Cup despite having not played any tournaments in the 2023 portion of the calendar. Also near the top is Zack Fischer, winner of the Visa Argentine Open presented by Macro. He, too, plans to compete on the Korn Ferry Tour for the remainder of the year.

That leaves PGA TOUR Latinoamérica regulars poised to move to the top of the standings, and that could likely happen this week at Fazenda Boa Vista, home to the JHSF Brazil Open, the third of four national opens on the Tour's schedule. Linus Lilliedahl is No. 2 on the points list, 64 points behind Del Solar, while Chandler Blanchet, winner of the Roberto De Vincenzo Memorial 100 Years, is only 15 points behind Lilliedahl.

Blanchet is the hottest player coming into the week. The Florida native was in a tight battle with Argentina's Leandro Marelli coming down the stretch last week at Ranelagh Golf Club in suburban Buenos Aires. Clinging to a one-shot lead through 72 holes, all Blanchet did was dunk his second-shot approach on the par-4 finishing hole for an eagle and an eventual three-shot victory over Marelli.

"I played this course twice. One in 2019 and then last year, so I feel comfortable around this track. I have a good game plan and I have 'Big Tony' on the bag as well. He was my caddie when I won in Sao Paulo four years ago, so I get good vibes here," said the 28-year old.

Blanchet, a two-year Korn Ferry Tour member and now a two-time PGA TOUR Latinoamérica champion, knows Brazil brings back good memories. Blanchet's previous Tour title came at the 2019 São Paulo Golf Club Championship, about an hour's drive from here. Blanchet is also looking to become the first PGA TOUR Latinoamérica player to win back-to-back tournaments since Brady Schnell won the Visa Argentine Open and the Shell Championship at the end of the 2017 season.

One of the 21 Brazilians playing in his national open this week is Rafael Becker. He's happy to return to his home country.

"I'm always very proud to be able to show Brazil to so many friends that I have on Tour. For me personally, it's great to be here, with friends and family, the Brazilian caddies as well. It's always a big, festive environment when everybody comes here. Everyone around here loves golf, and it's very enjoyable to have this championship here," said Becker, No. 43 in the Totalplay Cup standings but coming off a missed cut last week in Argentina in what was his 100th career start. "It's always a pleasure to be here at Fazenda Boa Vista. I have been lucky to be able to practice here often when I'm in Brazil, and to play a tournament here it's incredible. It's a course that I know well, a course that I like."

Jaime Lopez Rivarola found Fazenda Boa Vista to his liking a year ago as he won his first PGA TOUR Latinoamérica title, defeating Rowin Caron by a shot.

"You have to stay patient out there. It's true that on many occasions this course invites you to be aggressive, to be a bit more defiant, but on most of those it can bite you," observed Lopez Rivarola, 62nd in the Totalplay Cup standings. "What I did last year was stay patient and stick to my game plan for the week regardless of how confident I felt about a certain club. I hit the club that I originally planned for, so I hope to do the same this week."

Another player looking to jumpstart his season is Connor Black. He has yet to play on the weekend this season, missing the cut on the number at both the Termas de Rio Hondo Invitational (3-under) and the Roberto De Vincenzo Memorial 100 Years.

Black is both impressed and in awe of Fazenda Boa Vista.

"The first time I saw it I felt like I was walking through Avatar because the trees are so big and everything is so beautiful," he said of the course that opened in 2016. "For me, it's my fourth event this season, and I think it's my favorite golf course. It's a massive property, but it's not a very long course, which is very interesting. You have to feel like you are on your toes a little bit because it wants to invite you to just hit driver everywhere, and I'm not sure that's the best strategy.

“The last two weeks I was close. I think I’m playing good enough, as long as I make some putts. I’m striking it well, my stats are good, so I feel like if you put too much into the week, it’s going to be really hard to do well, so (I’m) trying to stay in that little bubble of my process and then realize that in the fall I’m going to be going to Q-School, no matter what, so it’s just a part of the process.

### **Tournament Fast Facts**

**Official Name:** JHSF Brazil Open

**Hashtag:** #BrazilOpen

**Dates:** March 30-April 2, 2023

**Host venue:** Fazenda Boa Vista, Par 71 (35-36) 6,830 yards

**Field:** 144 players from 18 countries

**Countries and territories represented in the field:** Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, Finland, France, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Puerto Rico, Scotland, South Korea, Sweden and United States

**Defending champion:** Jaime Lopez Rivarola

**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