



Pre-Tournament Notes – The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club

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Dates: January 21-24, 2024

Where: Great Abaco, The Bahamas

Course: The Abaco Club on Winding Bay (Par 72 / 7,141 yards)

Course Designer: Donald Steel & Tom Mackenzie

Field: 132 players

Defending Champion: Ben Silverman

Purse: \$1,000,000 (\$180,000/winner)

Format: 72-hole stroke play

Quick Links

- [Tournament Media Site \(for tee times, transcripts, media hub access\)](#)
- [2024 Korn Ferry Tour: 10 players to watch this season](#)
- [Jeremy Paul holds off late rallies, wins The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay](#)

Things to Know

- The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, hosted by The Abaco Club on Winding Bay, is the second tournament of the 26-event 2024 Korn Ferry Tour season
- This is the event's seventh appearance on the Korn Ferry Tour schedule, with 2017 being the inaugural playing, and the sixth time played at The Abaco Club on Winding Bay
 - During the 2020-21 season, the tournament was held at Baha Mar's Royal Blue Golf Club in Nassau as a result of Hurricane Dorian's impact on Great Abaco
- Five of the six past champions of the event earned their PGA TOUR card at season's end via the Korn Ferry Tour Points List – Ben Silverman (2022), **Jared Wolfe** (2020), Rafael Campos (2019), Adam Svensson (2018) and Andrew Landry (2017)
- Reigning champion Ben Silverman won last year's event after a one-hole playoff against Cody Blick and went on to finish the season No. 5 on the Korn Ferry Tour Point List, clinching a return to the PGA TOUR
 - In his 2024 debut on the PGA TOUR last week, Silverman placed T18 at the Sony Open in Hawaii
- Eight players who finished T12 or better in this event last year went on to earn PGA TOUR cards at season's end: Ben Silverman (Winner), Tom Whitney (T3), Ben Kohles (T7), Max Greyserman (T10), Jimmy Stanger (T12), Joe Highsmith (T12), Chandler Phillips (T12) and Rafael Campos (T12)

Field Notes (as of 1/19/24)

- Field includes 51 past Korn Ferry Tour winners with 67 total wins, led by **Tommy Gainey** with three
- Field includes 20 past PGA TOUR winners with 35 total victories, led by **Sean O'Hair** and **Scott Piercy** with four apiece
- **Jared Wolfe** (2020) and **Brandon Harkins** (2022) are the only two past champions returning this week
- Four winners from the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour season are in the field this week:
 - **Ricky Castillo** (Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open Benefitting KU Wichita Pediatrics), **Jorge Valdés Fernández** (UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH), **Rhein Gibson** (astara Golf Championship) and **Spencer Levin** (Veritex Bank Championship)
- **Ryan Gerard** (No. 203) is the highest ranked player in the field
- The youngest player in the field is South African **Aldrich Potgieter** (19 years old), who turned professional last year after appearances as an amateur at the 2023 Masters Tournament, U.S. Open, and the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday; he made his professional debut at the Korn Ferry Tour's 2023 Compliance Solutions Championship, where he finished T35 as a sponsor exemption

- Potgieter won the 2022 Amateur Championship at age 17, making him the second-youngest winner in the event's history

2024 Korn Ferry Tour Season

- 30 PGA TOUR Cards will be awarded to the top finishers on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List at the end of the season
- Korn Ferry Tour Finals
 - Final four events of the season where members will compete for increased purses and points (600 points for winning one of the four Finals events, compared to 500 for winning one of the 22 preceding events) to determine the season-long points race, in addition to a progressive reduction in field sizes
 - Albertsons Boise Open presented by Chevron (August 22-25)
 - Simmons Bank Open for the Snedeker Foundation (September 12-15)
 - Nationwide Children's Hospital Championship (September 19-22)
 - Korn Ferry Tour Championship presented by United Leasing & Finance (October 3-6)

2023 The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club Recap (January 23-26)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Ben Silverman	71	65	67	70	273 (-15)
2	Cody Blick	69	66	72	66	273 (-15)
3	Shad Tuten	69	70	71	66	276 (-12)
	Matt McCarty	73	68	68	67	276 (-12)
	Fabián Gómez	76	66	66	68	276 (-12)
	Tom Whitney	72	65	70	69	276 (-12)

- **Ben Silverman** (Winner/-15) edged out Cody Blick by birdying the first hole of a sudden-death playoff to claim the second Korn Ferry Tour title of his career and first since 2017 (Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper)
 - Silverman held as much as a six-stroke lead in the final round, but a double bogey on the 72nd hole resulted in a two-man playoff
 - Silverman went on to finish No. 5 on the season-long Points List to secure a return to the PGA TOUR
- **Cody Blick** (2nd/-15) recorded his second consecutive runner-up finish to begin the 2023 season
 - Blick went on to finish the season No. 41 on the Points List after tallying four total top-25 finishes
- **Shad Tuten** (T3/-12) tallied his second straight top-5 finish after placing T4 at the previous week's The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay
- **Tom Whitney** (T3/-12) led the field with 24 total birdies for the tournament en route to a T3 finish

Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2023	Ben Silverman	71	65	67	70	273 (-15)	Playoff
2022	Brandon Harkins	69	65	68	68	270 (-18)	Playoff
2020	Jared Wolfe	67	69	65	69	270 (-18)	4
2019	Rafael Campos	70	69	72	70	281 (-7)	1
2018	Adam Svensson	68	67	68	68	271 (-17)	1
2017	Andrew Landry	71	68	66	67	272 (-16)	3

Course Information – The Abaco Club on Winding Bay

- Years Hosted: 2017-19, 2022-present
- Scoring Average (2023): 70.829 / -1.171
- Toughest Hole (2023): No. 9, Par 4, 425 yards – 4.371 / +0.371

- Easiest Hole (2022): No. 1, Par 5, 560 yards – 4.086 / -0.914

Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 63, Greg Yates (2020, Round 3)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 132, Alvaro Ortiz (2022)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 201, **Jared Wolfe** (2020) and Zecheng Dou (2022)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 270, **Jared Wolfe** (2020), **Brandon Harkins** and Zecheng Dou (2022)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 4, **Jared Wolfe** (2020)

Last Time on Tour – The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay (January 14-17)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Jeremy Paul	70	67	67	67	271 (-17)
2	Kevin Roy	67	68	69	68	272 (-16)
3	Ross Steelman	70	68	72	63	273 (-15)
4	Cristobal Del Solar	67	69	70	69	275 (-13)

- Fourth-year Korn Ferry Tour member **Jeremy Paul** logged three consecutive 5-under 67s over the final three rounds en route to a one-stroke victory, marking his first title in a PGA TOUR-sanctioned start
 - Entered the final round with a tie for the 54-hole lead; a birdie-birdie start on the first two holes earned him the solo lead which he did not surrender the remainder of the tournament
 - Played the final 43 holes of the event without a bogey
 - Joined PGA TOUR winners Akshay Bhatia (2022) and Sungjae Im (2018) as the only winners of The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay who carded a bogey-free final round
 - Winning total of 17-under 271 ranked second in tournament history, only behind Zecheng Dou's 18-under 270 in 2019
- Class of 2022 Korn Ferry Tour graduate **Kevin Roy** (2nd/-16) matched his career-high finish in his 80th career start on the Korn Ferry Tour (2nd/2022 Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Kansas Wichita Open)
 - Roy's 16-under 272 ties the lowest 72-hole score by a runner-up at The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay (2019/Ben Kohles and Steve LeBrun)
- **Ross Steelman** (3rd/-15), who made eight starts in 2023 after he earned and accepted Korn Ferry Tour membership with a No. 4 finish in the 2023 PGA TOUR University Ranking, tied the 18-hole tournament scoring record with a final-round 9-under 63 featuring an eagle at the par-5 first, eight birdies, and a bogey at the par-4 10th