

## Pre-Tournament Notes – The Panamá Championship

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**Dates:** February 1-4, 2024

**Where:** Panamá City, Panamá

**Course:** Panamá Golf Club (Par 70 / 7,534 yards)

**Course Designer:** Jay Riviere and Charles Schaeffer

**Field:** 144 players

**Defending Champion:** Pierceson Coody

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

**Format:** 72-hole stroke play

### Quick Links

- [Tournament Media Site](#)
- [2024 Korn Ferry Tour Points List](#) (Top 30 earn PGA TOUR cards at end of season)
- [Burning Questions for 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Season](#) (by Kevin Prise, PGATOUR.com)
- [Korn Ferry Tour Players to Watch in 2024](#) (by Adam Stanley for PGATOUR.com)

### Things to Know

- The Panamá Championship, hosted by Panamá Golf Club and being played for the 20th time, is the third tournament of the 26-event 2024 Korn Ferry Tour schedule
- Panamá Golf Club is traditionally one of the most difficult courses on the Korn Ferry Tour, having finished with one of the five highest scoring averages relative to par in 16 of its 19 previous seasons on Tour
  - The course ranked as the No. 1 toughest course on Tour five times (2004, 2008, 2009, 2019, 2023), including last season (+1.766), when it was more than a half stroke tougher than the No. 2 toughest course on Tour, the Ohio State University Golf Club's Scarlet Course (+1.20)
- South African **Aldrich Potgieter** won the season's second event, The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club, at 19 years, 4 months, and 11 days of age to become the youngest winner on either the Korn Ferry Tour or PGA TOUR since 1931
  - Potgieter usurped Jason Day as the youngest winner in Korn Ferry Tour history, as Day previously won the 2007 Legend Financial Group Classic at 19 years, 7 months, 26 days of age
- Germany's **Jeremy Paul** won the season-opening The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay, earning a one-stroke victory over **Kevin Roy** for his first win in what was his 64th career start on Tour
- Three players – **Kyle Westmoreland**, **Noah Goodwin**, **Quade Cummins** – finished in the top-10 of both season-opening events in The Bahamas

### Field Notes (as of 1/30/2024)

- Two past winners of The Panama Championship are in the field: **Ryan Armour** (2016) and **Michael Gligic** (2019)
- Field includes 47 Korn Ferry Tour winners with 66 total victories, led by **Zecheng Dou** and **Tommy Gainey** with three apiece
- Field includes 19 PGA TOUR winners with 37 total victories, led by **Jonathan Byrd** and **Mark Wilson** with five apiece
- Among players with at least 12 rounds played at The Panama Championship, **Chris Baker** leads the field with a 69.81 career scoring average (26 rounds played), narrowly ahead of **Roberto Díaz** (69.85 with 20 rounds played)
  - Baker has two top-10s in seven career starts at The Panama Championship (2nd/2017, T7/2019), and finished T14 at last year's event
  - Díaz has two top-10s in six career starts at The Panama Championship (2nd/2020, T8/2023)

## 2023 The Panamá Championship Recap (February 3-6)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Pierceson Coody*	72	68	71	66	277 (-3)
PT2	Sam Saunders	74	68	68	67	277 (-3)
	Mac Meissner	71	65	73	68	277 (-3)
T4	Will Bateman	71	68	70	69	278 (-2)
	Joe Highsmith	70	71	67	70	278 (-2)

- Pierceson Coody earned his second career Korn Ferry Tour win, overcoming a five-stroke deficit with a final-round 4-under 66 and winning a three-way sudden-death playoff over Sam Saunders and Mac Meissner
- Coody's winning score of 3-under 277 tied the fourth-highest score relative to par by a winner in Korn Ferry Tour history, and the highest since Kyle Thompson's 2-under 286 en route to winning the 2017 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic at Sandals Emerald Bay
- Coody's victory, coupled with another win later in the season at the Price Cutter Charity Championship presented by Dr Pepper, propelled him to a No. 6 finish on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List and his first PGA TOUR card
- Mac Meissner posted a career-high finish and eventually earned his first PGA TOUR card at season's end
- Sam Saunders recorded his fourth career runner-up finish in a PGA TOUR sanctioned event, and his first of three top-10s in 2023; he eventually finished No. 60 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List for fully exempt status this season
- **Will Bateman** posted his second top-five finish of the season; he did not record another top-10 the rest of the year, but finished No. 68 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List for fully exempt status this season
- **Joe Highsmith** recorded his first of four top-10s; he eventually closed the season with back-to-back top-three finishes en route to a No. 18 finish on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List and his first PGA TOUR card
- **Roberto Díaz (T8/E)** recorded the highest finish among players in the field with ties to Latin America; he eventually finished No. 55 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Points List and earned fully exempt status for 2024

## Past Champions

Year	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total	Margin
2023	Pierceson Coody*	72	68	71	66	277 (-3)	Playoff
2022	Carson Young	68	65	71	68	272 (-8)	1
2020	Davis Riley	67	70	64	69	270 (-10)	1
2019	Michael Gligic	70	70	67	65	272 (-8)	1
2018	Scott Langley	71	68	69	65	273 (-7)	2
2017	Andrew Putnam*	64	68	67	68	267 (-13)	Playoff
2016	Ryan Armour	70	69	65	64	268 (-12)	3
2015	Mathew Goggin	67	65	70	67	269 (-11)	4
2014	Carlos Ortiz	70	68	66	64	268 (-12)	4
2013	Kevin Foley	66	69	70	67	272 (-8)	1
2012	Edward Loar	66	68	68	74	276 (-4)	1
2011	Matthew Goggin	68	66	67	68	269 (-11)	2
2010	Fran Quinn	66	66	62	71	265 (-15)	2
2009	Vance Veazey*	67	69	68	69	273 (-7)	Playoff
2008	Scott Dunlap	65	68	73	71	277 (-3)	1
2007	Miguel Angel Carballo	69	67	73	65	274 (-6)	2
2006	Tripp Isenhour	63	67	70	69	269 (-11)	3
2005	Vance Veazey	65	71	66	70	272 (-8)	1
2004	Jimmy Walker	65	69	70	69	273 (-7)	5

\*Playoff Victory

### Course Information – Panamá Golf Club

- Years Hosted: 2004-Present
- Scoring Average (2023): 71.766 / +1.766 (finished as No. 1 toughest course relative to par on Tour in 2023)
- Toughest Hole (2023): No. 7, Par 4, 461 yards – 4.402 / +0.402
- Easiest Hole (2023): No. 12, Par 5, 613 yards – 4.761 / -0.239

### Tournament Scoring Records

- Low 18-Hole Score: 61, Ryan Armour (2011, Round 2)
- Low 36-Hole Score: 130, Tripp Isenhour (2006), **Curtis Thompson** (2016)
- Low 54-Hole Score: 194, Fran Quinn (2010)
- Low 72-Hole Score: 265, Fran Quinn (2010)
- Largest Margin of Victory: 5, Jimmy Walker (2004)
- Playoffs: 3, last in 2023 (Pierceson Coody defeated Mac Meissner, Sam Saunders)

### Last Time on Tour – The Bahamas Great Abaco Classic at The Abaco Club (January 21-24)

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Aldrich Potgieter	72	70	71	65	278 (-10)
T2	Quade Cummins	69	73	73	65	280 (-8)
	Kyle Westmoreland	66	74	68	72	280 (-8)
T4	Austin Smotherman	74	71	70	66	281 (-7)
	Daniel Summerhays	70	73	71	67	281 (-7)

- **Aldrich Potgieter** became the youngest winner Korn Ferry Tour history at 19 years, 4 months and 11 days of age, usurping Jason Day (19 years, 7 months and 26 days at 2007 Legend Financial Group Classic)
- Potgieter entered the final round 3-under par and five strokes off the 54-hole lead; his final-round 7-under 65 tied the low round of the tournament
- **Quade Cummins** matched Potgieter for the low round of the final round and tournament with a 7-under 65 in the final round, rising to a career-high finish and his fifth top-10 in 50 career starts on Tour
- **Kyle Westmoreland**, who carried a two-stroke lead into the final round, logged a career-high finish in his 38th career start on the Korn Ferry Tour (previous: 5th/2024 The Bahamas Great Exuma Classic; 5th/2023 UNC Health Championship presented by STITCH)
- **Daniel Summerhays** posted his third top-10 in his last six Korn Ferry Tour starts; he missed the cut in his only two previous appearances at the event (2019, 2023)
- **Sam Bennett** (T9/-5), winner of the 2022 U.S. Amateur and low amateur at the 2023 Masters Tournament, recorded his first top-10 in PGA TOUR-sanctioned play in his Korn Ferry Tour debut