



# PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES

## 2024 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard



### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

March 4-10 • Week 10 of the FedExCup Regular Season  
 Orlando, Florida  
 Arnold Palmer's Bay Hill Club & Lodge • Par 72 • 7,466 yds.  
**Purse** \$20 million • **Winner** \$4 million + 700 FedExCup pts.  
 69 players • 72-hole stroke-play  
**Defending champion** Kurt Kitayama

### BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

	ESPN+	GOLF	NBC
<b>R1</b>	9:15 a.m.-7 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
<b>R2</b>	9:15 a.m.-7 p.m.	2-6 p.m.	
<b>R3</b>	8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	12:30-2:30 p.m.	2:30-6 p.m.
<b>R4</b>	8:30 a.m.-6 p.m.	12:30-2:30 p.m.	2:30-6 p.m.

### CONTACT

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### 2024 PGA TOUR SEASON

#### FedExCup Playoffs

TOUR Championship.....  
 BMW Championship.....  
 FedEx St. Jude Championship.....

#### FedExCup Regular Season

Wyndham Championship.....  
*Olympic Men's Golf Competition*.....  
 3M Open.....  
 Barracuda Championship.....  
 The Open Championship.....  
 Genesis Scottish Open.....  
 John Deere Classic.....  
 Rocket Mortgage Classic.....  
 Travelers Championship.....  
 U.S. Open.....  
 the Memorial Tournament.....  
 RBC Canadian Open.....  
 Charles Schwab Challenge.....  
 PGA Championship.....  
 Myrtle Beach Classic.....  
 Wells Fargo Championship.....  
 THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson.....  
 Zurich Classic of New Orleans.....  
 Corales Puntacana Championship.....  
 RBC Heritage.....  
 Masters Tournament.....  
 Valero Texas Open.....  
 Texas Children's Houston Open.....  
 Valspar Championship.....  
 THE PLAYERS Championship.....  
 Puerto Rico Open.....  
 Arnold Palmer Invitational.....  
 Cognizant Classic..... *Austin Eckroat*  
 Mexico Open at Vidanta..... *Jake Knapp*  
 The Genesis Invitational..... *Hideki Matsuyama*  
 WM Phoenix Open..... *Nick Taylor*  
 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am..... *Wyndham Clark*  
 Farmers Insurance Open..... *Matthieu Pavon*  
 The American Express..... *Nick Dunlap*  
 Sony Open in Hawaii..... *Grayson Murray*  
 The Sentry..... *Chris Kirk*

*Italics* First-time PGA TOUR winners

### TOP STORYLINES

**The field:** The Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard is the fourth of eight Signature Events during the 2024 PGA TOUR season. There are 69 players in the field, exempt via the following categories:

- Top 50 in the 2022-23 FedExCup Playoffs and Eligibility Points List** (48 of the 50 players are in the field)\*
- Aon Next 10** (Matthieu Pavon, Jake Knapp, Ludvig Åberg, Austin Eckroat, Luke List, Erik van Rooyen, Grayson Murray, Christiaan Bezuidenhou, Will Zalatoris, Justin Thomas)
- Aon Swing 5** (Sami Valimaki, Min Woo Lee, C.T. Pan, Stephan Jaeger, Justin Lower)
- Current season tournament winners not exempt from a higher category** (Nick Dunlap)
- Sponsor exemptions** (Nicolai Højgaard, Shane Lowry, Adam Scott, Webb Simpson)
- Tournament host exemption - Palmer Cup participant** (David Ford)

\*Tony Finau is the only eligible player who is not competing.

**36-hole cut:** The only Signature Events to feature a cut are the three player-hosted invitationals (The Genesis Invitational, Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday). Cut rule: low 50 players (and ties) and any additional players within 10 strokes of the 36-hole lead.

2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational winner and World No. 1 **Scottie Scheffler** is making fourth start at the event (T15/2020, Won/2022, 2023/T4). Since the start of the 2021-22 season, Scheffler has 19 top-three finishes on TOUR, eight more than any other player in that span (second: 11/Rory McIlroy).

2018 winner and 24-time PGA TOUR winner **Rory McIlroy** is making his 10th consecutive start at the Arnold Palmer Invitational. The World No. 2 leads the field with six top-10s at the event and has finished worse than T13 just once (T27/2016).

#### PGA TOUR events Rory McIlroy has most top-10 finishes since 2015

6	Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard
6	Masters Tournament
6	TOUR Championship
6	U.S. Open
6	WGC-Mexico Championship

**Austin Eckroat** won last week's Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, earning his first PGA TOUR title in his 50th career start. With the victory, Eckroat moved from No. 94 to No. 17 in the FedExCup and qualified for the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard via the Aon Next 10. He is also eligible for each of the four remaining Signature Events after the Arnold Palmer Invitational.

Three rookies have won on TOUR through nine events this season, tying the total number of rookie winners on TOUR in 54 events during the 2022-23 season. The last time there were four or more rookie winners in a season was in 2018-19 (5). There are four rookies in the field, including all three rookie winners on TOUR this season, as they continue to compete for the Arnold Palmer Award as Rookie of the Year.

#### Rookies in the field at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard

Player	Best finish in 2024
Nick Dunlap	Won/The American Express
Jake Knapp	Won/Mexico Open at Vidanta
Matthieu Pavon	Won/Farmers Insurance Open
Sami Valimaki	2nd/Mexico Open at Vidanta

34 players in the field at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard competed last week at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, with six finishing T4 or better, including **Cameron Young** (T4). Since joining the PGA TOUR at the start of the 2021-22 season, Young is tied with **Tommy Fleetwood** with nine top-five finishes, the most of any player without a win in that span.

## WINNERS

Year	Player
2023	Kurt Kitayama
2022	Scottie Scheffler
2021	Bryson DeChambeau
2020	Tyrrell Hatton
2019	Francesco Molinari
2018	Rory McIlroy
2017	Marc Leishman
2016	Jason Day
2015	Matt Every
2014	Matt Every
2013	Tiger Woods
2012	Tiger Woods
2011	Martin Laird
2010	Ernie Els
2009	Tiger Woods
2008	Tiger Woods
2007	Vijay Singh
2006	Rod Pampling
2005	Kenny Perry
2004	Chad Campbell
2003	Tiger Woods
2002	Tiger Woods
2001	Tiger Woods
2000	Tiger Woods
1999	Tim Herron
1998	Ernie Els
1997	Phil Mickelson
1996	Paul Goydos
1995	Loren Roberts
1994	Loren Roberts
1993	Ben Crenshaw
1992	Fred Couples
1991	Andrew Magee
1990	Robert Gamez
1989	Tom Kite
1988	Paul Azinger
1987	Payne Stewart
1986	Dan Forsman
1985	Fuzzy Zoeller
1984	Gary Koch
1983	Mike Nicolette
1982	Tom Kite
1981	Andy Bean
1980	Dave Eichelberger
1979	Bob Byman
1978	Mac McLendon
1977	Gary Koch
1976	Hale Irwin
1975	Lee Trevino
1974	Jerry Heard
1973	Buddy Allin
1972	Jerry Heard
1971	Arnold Palmer
1970	Bob Lunn
1969	Ken Still
1968	Dan Sikes
1967	Julius Boros
1966	Lionel Hebert

bold in field

## ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

The Arnold Palmer Award is given annually to the PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year and **Eric Cole** is the reigning recipient, who will make his second start in the event (MC/2023). Cole is one of 10 players to be named Rookie of the Year in this week's field.

Rickie Fowler (2010)	Keegan Bradley (2011)	Jordan Spieth (2013)
Emiliano Grillo (2016)	Xander Schauffele (2017)	Sungjae Im (2019)
Scottie Scheffler (2020)	Will Zalatoris (2021)	Cameron Young (2022)
Eric Cole (2023)		

**Kurt Kitayama** won the 2023 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, earning his first career PGA TOUR victory in his 50th career start on TOUR. With a win this week, the defending champion would join Loren Roberts (1994-95), Tiger Woods (2000-03, 2008-09, 2012-13), Matt Every (2014-15) as back-to-back winners of the Arnold Palmer Invitational and become the eighth multiple winner of the event, joining Tiger Woods (8), Jerry Heard (2), Gary Koch (2), Tom Kite (2), Loren Roberts (2), Ernie Els (2) and Matt Every (2).

Kitayama became the first player since Robert Gamez in 1990 to win in his Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard debut.

### Six players will be making their tournament debut this week:

Nick Dunlap	Austin Eckroat	David Ford
Jake Knapp	Matthieu Pavon	Sami Valimaki

**Xander Schauffele** has made 40 consecutive cuts, the longest active streak on the PGA TOUR, with his last missed cut coming at the 2022 Masters Tournament.

**David Ford**, a junior at the University of North Carolina earned a sponsor exemption by winning the vote of his peers at the 2023 Palmer Cup. Since 2017, the winning team has voted for one individual to receive an exemption into the Arnold Palmer Invitational. Ford will be making his third PGA TOUR start and first of the season (T58/2023 Barbasol Championship, MC/2023 RSM Classic).

The Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard is the first of three PGA TOUR events that is part of The Open Qualifying Series (OQS) in 2024 where one spot will be available into the 152nd Open at Royal Troon. The top player, not otherwise exempt, that makes the cut at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard will earn an exemption. In the event of a tie for a qualifying place, the player with the higher ranking in the OWGR at the beginning of the week will earn the spot. The other two PGA TOUR events that are part of the OQS in 2024 are the RBC Canadian Open (three spots) at the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday (one spot).

## 2023 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Kurt Kitayama	67	68	72	72	279 (-9)
T2	Harris English	69	72	69	70	280 (-8)
T2	Rory McIlroy	73	69	68	70	280 (-8)
T4	Patrick Cantlay	68	71	74	68	281 (-7)
T4	Tyrrell Hatton	71	72	66	72	281 (-7)
T4	Scottie Scheffler	68	72	68	73	281 (-7)
T4	Jordan Spieth	68	69	74	70	281 (-7)
T8	2 players					282 (-6)

## STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

Top 10 FedExCup	10	Matthieu Pavon (1)
Top 30 FedExCup	29	
Top 10 OWGR	9	Scottie Scheffler (1)
Top 50 OWGR	44	
PGA TOUR winners	55	Most: Rory McIlroy (24)
Past champions	4	Defending: Kurt Kitayama (2023)
FedExCup Champions	6	Most recent: Viktor Hovland (2023)
PLAYERS winners	8	Most recent: Scottie Scheffler (2023)
Major winners	16	Most: Rory McIlroy (4)

## TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Category	Value	Player	Year
Low 18-hole score	62	4 players; most recent: Adam Scott	2014 (R1)
Low 36-hole score	130	3 players; most recent: Adam Scott	2014
Low 54-hole score	197	Andy Bean	1981
Low 72-hole score	264	Payne Stewart	1987
Holes-in-one (1983-present)	23	23 players; most recent: Viktor Hovland	2023 (R2, No. 7)
Largest 18-hole lead	3	3 players; most recent: Adam Scott	2014
Largest 36-hole lead	7	Adam Scott	2014
Largest 54-hole lead	6	3 players; most recent: Ernie Els	1998
Largest margin of victory	11	Tiger Woods	2003
Playoffs	7	Most recent: Tim Herron def. Tom Lehman	1999
Wire-to-wire winners	3	Most recent: Jason Day	2016

### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

March 4-10 - 11th of 36 FedExCup Regular Season events  
 Rio Grande, Puerto Rico  
 Grand Reserve Golf Club - Par 72 - 7,506 yds.  
**Purse \$4 million - Winner \$720,000 + 300 FedExCup pts.**  
 132 players - 72-hole stroke-play  
**Defending champion** Nico Echavarria

### BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

**GOLF**  
**R1** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
**R2** 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
**R3** 2:30-5 p.m.  
**R4** 2:30-5 p.m.

### CONTACT

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### WINNERS

Year	Player
2023	<b>Nico Echavarria</b>
2022	<b>Ryan Brehm</b>
2021	Branden Grace
2020	Viktor Hovland
2019	<b>Martin Trainer</b>
2018	Canceled
2017	<b>D. A. Points</b>
2016	Tony Finau
2015	Alex Cejka
2014	Chesson Hadley
2013	<b>Scott Brown</b>
2012	<b>George McNeill</b>
2011	Michael Bradley
2010	<b>Derek Lamely</b>
2009	Michael Bradley
2008	Greg Kraft

**bold** in field

### TOP STORYLINES

The Puerto Rico Open winner will receive 300 FedExCup points, a two-year exemption on the PGA TOUR and an invitation to next week's PLAYERS Championship (if not previously eligible) and other select events.

Four players have earned their first PGA TOUR victory this season. There have been 10 first-time winners in tournament history, including 2023 winner **Nico Echavarria**, who will be the first defending champion to compete in the event since Martin Trainer in 2020.

At No. 68 in the Official World Golf Ranking, Scotland's **Robert MacIntyre** is the highest-ranked player in the field and will be making his tournament debut. MacIntyre, a first-year member, earned his TOUR card through the DP World Tour Top 10, and will be making his 36th start on TOUR (best: 2nd/2023 Genesis Scottish Open) and seventh of the season (best: T6/Mexico Open at Vidanta).

2019 runner-up **Daniel Berger** will make his second start at the Puerto Rico Open. Since returning from a back injury at the 2024 American Express, the four-time PGA TOUR winner has made two cuts in four starts (best: T28/WM Phoenix Open). Berger is exempt through 2024 via the tournament winners category.

Colombia's **Camilo Villegas** is making his third consecutive start and fifth total at the event. Villegas, who earned his fifth career PGA TOUR victory at the 2023 Butterfield Bermuda Championship, is the most recent TOUR winner of any player in the field.

Puerto Rico native and 2021 Olympian **Rafael Campos** will make his 15th appearance at the Puerto Rico Open, the most tournament starts of any player in the field. Campos returns to the PGA TOUR this season for the first time since 2020-21 after finishing No. 30 on the Korn Ferry Tour Points List. In 58 TOUR starts, Campos owns five career top-10s, with three at the Puerto Rico Open (T8/2016, T10/2017, T3/2021).

### 2023 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Nico Echavarria	67	67	65	68	267 (-21)
2	Akshay Bhatia	66	71	67	65	269 (-19)
T3	Nate Lashley	71	65	67	69	272 (-16)
T3	Carson Young	63	67	71	71	272 (-16)
5	Michael Kim	70	66	71	66	273 (-15)
6	Wesley Bryan	69	69	67	69	274 (-14)
T7	Four players					275 (-13)

### STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

<b>PGA TOUR winners</b> . . . . . 58 . . . . .	Brandt Snedeker (9)
<b>Past champions</b> . . . . . 7 . . . . .	Defending: Nico Echavarria (2023)
<b>FedExCup Champions</b> . . . . . 2 . . . . .	Most recent: Brandt Snedeker (2012)
<b>PLAYERS winners</b> . . . . . 0 . . . . .	
<b>Major winners</b> . . . . . 2 . . . . .	Dufner/Ogilvy (1)

### TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Category	Value	Player	Year
<b>Low 18-hole score</b>	62	Jhonattan Vegas	2020 (R4)
<b>Low 36-hole score</b>	130	2 players; most recent: Carson Young	2023
<b>Low 54-hole score</b>	198	3 players; most recent: Viktor Hovland	2020
<b>Low 72-hole score</b>	267	2 players; most recent: Nico Echavarria	2023
<b>Holes-in-one</b>	12	10 players; most recent: Greg Chalmers	2021 (R1, No. 8)
<b>Largest 18-hole lead</b>	3	Carson Young	2023
<b>Largest 36-hole lead</b>	4	Carson Young	2023
<b>Largest 54-hole lead</b>	3	3 players; most recent: Ryan Brehm	2022
<b>Largest margin of victory</b>	6	Ryan Brehm	2022
<b>Best come from behind win</b>	4	2 players; most recent: Michael Bradley	2011
<b>Playoffs</b>	3	Most recent: Tony Finau def. Steve Marino	2016