

# PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES SONY OPEN IN HAWAII



#### TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

January 8-14, 2024 • 2nd of 36 FedExCup Regular Season events Honolulu, Hawaii

Waialae Country Club - Par 70 - 7,044 yds.

**Purse** \$8.3 million • **Winner** \$1,494,000 + 500 FedExCup pts.

144 players • 72-hole stroke play **Defending champion** Si Woo Kim

# **BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)**

	ESPN+	NBC	GOLF
R1	12-10:30 p.m.		7-10:30 p.m.
R2	12-10:30 p.m.		7-10:30 p.m.
R3	3:30-10:30 p.m.		7-10:30 p.m.
R4	1-8 p.m.	4-6 p.m.	6-8 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.....

Masters Tournament.....

Valero Texas Open .....

Texas Children's Houston Open...

Valspar Championship...

THE PLAYERS Championship.

Puerto Rico Open...

Arnold Palmer Invitational...

Cognizant Classic

Mexico Open at Vidanta.....

Italics First-time PGA TOUR winners

Sony Open in Hawaii.....

TOP STORYLINES

The Sony Open in Hawaii, the second event of the 2024 PGA TOUR Season and first Full-Field Event, marks the first opportunity for players to earn FedExCup points towards the Aon Swing 5.

**Aon Swing 5:** The Aon Next 10 and Aon Swing 5 are eligibility pathways for players, not already qualified, to play their way into Signature Events via the FedExCup standings. The top five players not otherwise exempt who earn the most FedExCup points during the Sony Open in Hawaii, The American Express and Farmers Insurance Open will qualify for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, while the top five players not otherwise exempt who earn the most FedExCup points during those three events and the WM Phoenix Open, will qualify for The Genesis Invitational. The Aon Next 10 for the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and The Genesis Invitational was determined through the FedExCup Fall standings.

Hawaii swing: 38 of the 59 players in the Sentry field will make the trip from Kapalua to Honolulu for the Sony Open in Hawaii:

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Åberg, Ludvig	An, Byeong Hun	Bhatia, Akshay	Bradley, Keegan	Cole, Eric
Conners, Corey	Davis, Cam	Echavarria, Nico	English, Harris	Fitzpatrick, Matt
Glover, Lucas	Grillo, Emiliano	Hadwin, Adam	Hardy, Nick	Harman, Brian
Hatton, Tyrrell	Henley, Russell	Hoge, Tom	Kim, Si Woo	Kirk, Chris
Kitayama, Kurt	List, Luke	Matsuyama, Hideki	McCarthy, Denny	Norrman, Vincent
Poston, J.T.	Power, Seamus	Putnam, Andrew	Riley, Davis	Rodgers, Patrick
Rose, Justin	Svensson, Adam	Taylor, Nick	Theegala, Sahith	Todd, Brendon
van Rooyen, Erik	Villegas, Camilo	Wallace, Matt		

**Island kings:** Six players have won both Hawaii events during their careers: Jim Furyk (1996 Sony, 2001 Sentry), Ernie Els (2003 Sentry, 2003 and 2004 Sony), Vijay Singh (2005 Sony, 2007 Sentry), Zach Johnson (2009 Sony, 2014 Sentry), Justin Thomas (2017 Sentry, 2017 and 2020 Sony) and Cameron Smith (2020 Sony, 2022 Sentry). Past The Sentry champions in the field at the Sony Open in Hawaii include, Harris English (2021) and Chris Kirk (2024).

Week 1 winner: Chris Kirk won The Sentry, earning his sixth career PGA TOUR victory and leads the FedExCup standings after Week 1. The last player to win the first two events of the season was Ernie Els in 2003 at The Sentry and Sony Open in Hawaii. Kirk will be making his 14th start at the Sony Open in Hawaii, where he has five top-10 finishes, including a T2 in 2021 where he played on his final start on his Major Medical Extension to retain his status for the remainder of the season.

**Highest-ranked player:** At No. 8 in the Official World Golf Ranking, **Matt Fitzpatrick** is the highest-ranked player in the field. The 2022 U.S. Open champion is one of 10 major winners at the Sony Open in Hawaii and finished the 2022-23 season with six top-10s, highlighted by his victory at the RBC Heritage. Fitzpatrick finished T14 at last week's The Sentry and will be making his tournament debut this week.

**300th start:** Four-time PGA TOUR winner **Kevin Kisner** is making his 300th start on the PGA TOUR. The four-time PGA TOUR winner seeks his first top-10 since the 2022 Travelers Championship (T6). Kisner has four top-fives in 11 starts at the Sony Sony Open in Hawaii (T5/2016, T4/2017, T4/2020, T3/2022).

**100th start: Adam Svensson** is making his 100th start on the PGA TOUR. With his win at the 2022 RSM Classic, Svensson was one of four different players from Canada that won on TOUR last season, the most in a single season on record (1983-present). This week will mark Svensson's third start at Waialae Country Club. In his tournament debut at the Sony Open in Hawaii in 2019, Svensson held the first-round lead with a career-low round 61 and finished the week at T43.

#### **WINNERS**

Year Player
<u>Year Player</u> 2023Si Woo Kim
2022Hideki Matsuyama
2021Kevin Na
2020
2019Matt Kuchar
2018 Patton Kizzire
2017Justin Thomas
2016Fabián Gómez
2015Jimmy Walker
2014Jimmy Walker
2013Russell Henley
2012Johnson Wagner
2011
2010Ryan Palmer
2009 Zach Johnson
2008 K. J. Choi
2007
2006
2005
2004 Ernie Els
2003 Ernie Els
2002Jerry Kelly
2001Brad Faxon
2000
1999Jeff Sluman
1998
1997 Paul Stankowski 1996. Jim Furyk
1995
1993 Howard Twitty
1992John Cook   1991Lanny Wadkins
1990
1989
1988Lanny Wadkins
1987Corey Pavin
1986
1985
1984Jack Renner
1983
1982
1981
1980Andy Bean
1979Hubert Green 1978Hubert Green
1977
1976Ben Crenshaw
1975
1973John Schlee
1972
1971
1968Lee Trevino
1967
1966Ted Makalena 1965Gay Brewer
1300 uay Brewer
<b>bold</b> in field

### ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

**Back on TOUR: Will Zalatoris** was limited to seven starts during the 2022-23 season after undergoing a microdiscectomy on his back. Zalatoris is set to make his first start on the PGA TOUR since going 0-3-0 at the 2023 WGC-Dell Technologies Match Play, where he was ranked No. 8 in the Official World Golf Ranking and has since fallen to No. 43. Since surgery, he played at the 2023 Hero World Challenge and finished 20th with rounds of 81-68-79-71/299. Zalatoris is making his Sony Open in Hawaii debut.

**Return to action: Garry Woodland** will be making his first start on TOUR since the 2023 Wyndham Championship (T27) after undergoing surgery to extract a brain lesion. Woodland finished No. 94 in the 2022-23 FedExCup standings and will be making his ninth start Waialae Country Club (best: T3/2015). The four-time PGA TOUR winner's last victory came at the 2019 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach Golf Links.

**First start back since 2022:** Playing out of the Major Medical Extension category, **Tyler McCumber** will be making his first start on TOUR since the 2022 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches (MC). His most recent top-10 on TOUR came at the 2021 RSM Classic (T4).

**DP World Tour Top 10:** For the first time, 10 PGA TOUR cards were awarded to the top finishers in the DP World Tour's Race to Dubai, not already exempt, with five of the 10 set to make their debut as TOUR members this week.

Player	Age	Career PGA TOUR starts	Best result on PGA TOUR
Alexander Björk	33	12	T28/WGC-HSBC Champions
Ryo Hisatsune	21	5	T6/2023 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP
Robert MacIntyre	27	29	2nd/2023 Genesis Scottish Open
Matthieu Pavon	31	8	T25/2018 U.S. Open
Sami Valimaki	25	6	T24/2022 Genesis Scottish Open

**Rookie season:** 15 of the 28 rookies in the 2024 PGA TOUR class are scheduled to compete in the Sony Open in Hawaii:

Björk, Alexander	Bridgeman, Jacob	Coody, Parker	Coody, Pierceson	Dumont de Chassart, Adrien
Greyserman, Max	Hisatsune, Ryo	Hoey, Rico	Knapp, Jake	Pavon, Matthieu
Phillips, Chandler	Stanger, Jimmy	Tosti, Alejandro	Valimaki, Sami	Xiong, Norman

**Local ties:** First-year member **Chan Kim** earned his PGA TOUR card for the 2024 season by finishing No. 2 on the 2023 Korn Ferry Tour Regular Season points list. Kim will be making his 24th TOUR start (best: T11/2017 Open Championship) and second at the Sony Open in Hawaii after playing on a sponsor exemption in 2022 (MC). Kim was born in Korea, but moved to Honolulu, Hawaii at the age of two and spent around 15 years in Hawaii.

# **2023 LEADERBOARD**

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Si Woo Kim	67	67	64	64	262 (-18)
2	Hayden Buckley	67	64	64	68	263 (-17)
3	Chris Kirk	64	65	68	68	265 (-15)
T4	Andrew Putnam	70	66	62	68	266 (-14)
T4	David Lipsky	65	66	66	69	266 (-14)
T4	Ben Taylor	66	66	65	69	266 (-14)
T7	Five players					267 (-13)
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# STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

Top 10 FedExCup	5	Chris Kirk (1)
Top 50 FedExCup	18	
Top 10 OWGR	2	Matt Fitzpatrick (8)
Top 50 OWGR	22	
PGA TOUR winners	71	Zach Johnson (12)
Past champions	7	Defending: Si Woo Kim (2023)
FedExCup Champions	<b>s</b> 3	Most recent: Justin Rose (2018)
PLAYERS winners	3	Most recent: Webb Simpson (2018)
Major winners	10	Most: Zach Johnson (2)

## **TOURNAMENT RECORDS**

Category	Value	Player	Year
Low 18-hole score	59	Justin Thomas	2017 (R1)
Low 36-hole score	123	Justin Thomas	2017
Low 54-hole score	188	Justin Thomas	2017
Low 72-hole score	253	Justin Thomas	2017
Holes-in-one (1983-present)	19	Most recent: Adam Svensson	2023 (R2, No. 7)
Largest 18-hole lead	4	Jack Nicklaus	1969
Largest 36-hole lead	5	3 players; most recent: Justin Thomas	2017
Largest 54-hole lead	7	Justin Thomas	2017
Wire-to-wire winners	4	Most recent: Justin Thomas	2017
Largest margin of victory	9	Jimmy Walker	2015
Playoffs	14	Most recent: Hideki Matsuyama def. Russell Henley	2022