



# PRE-TOURNAMENT NOTES THE PLAYERS Championship



## TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

March 11-17 • Week 11 of the FedExCup Regular Season  
 Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida  
 TPC Sawgrass (THE PLAYERS Stadium Course) • Par 72 • 7,275 yds.  
**Purse \$25 million • Winner \$4.5 million + 750 FedExCup pts.**  
 144 players • 72-hole stroke-play  
**Defending champion** Scottie Scheffler

## BROADCAST SCHEDULE (ET)

	ESPN+	GOLF	NBC
<b>R1</b>	7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.	1-7 p.m.	
<b>R2</b>	7:30 a.m.-7 p.m.	1-7 p.m.	
<b>R3</b>	8 a.m.-7 p.m.		2-7 p.m.
<b>R4</b>	7:30 a.m.-6 p.m.		1-6 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..... Brice Garnett  
 Arnold Palmer Invitational..... Scottie Scheffler  
 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

2024 marks the 50th playing of THE PLAYERS Championship (first: 1974) and 42nd at TPC Sawgrass (first: 1982). THE PLAYERS is the first of five events offering 750 FedExCup points to the winner (up from 600 in 2023). Nine past champions are competing, led by defending champion Scottie Scheffler, and 24 countries are represented in the 144-player field.

FedExCup leader and World No. 1 **Scottie Scheffler** won the 2023 PLAYERS Championship by five strokes, earning his sixth career PGA TOUR title, and won his seventh with another five-stroke victory at last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard. All seven of his wins have come since the start of the 2021-22 season, the most of any player in that span (second: 5, Rory McIlroy and Jon Rahm).

Scheffler is the first player to win a tournament the week before defending a title on TOUR since Patrick Cantlay won the 2022 BMW Championship ahead of his title defense at the TOUR Championship the following week. The last player to win a tournament one week and successfully defend a title the next was Tiger Woods, who won the 2007 PGA Championship and successfully defended his title at the WGC-Bridgestone Invitational the following week. No player has ever successfully defended a title at THE PLAYERS Championship.

Scheffler moved to No. 1 in the FedExCup standings following his win at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard. He is the first defending champion in the FedExCup era (est. 2007) to enter THE PLAYERS Championship as the FedExCup leader and the first defending champion to enter THE PLAYERS as World No. 1 since Rory McIlroy in 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19). Scheffler moved to No. 1 in the FedExCup standings after winning the 2022 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard and did not fall out of the lead until missing the cut at the FedEx St. Jude Championship. He has held the No. 1 position in the OWGR since finishing T2 at the 2023 PGA Championship (43 consecutive weeks).

### Players to compete at THE PLAYERS as FedExCup leader and World No. 1

Year	Player	Finish
2024	Scottie Scheffler	TBD
2023	Jon Rahm	WD
2017	Dustin Johnson	T12
2013	Tiger Woods	Won
2007	Tiger Woods	T37

Scheffler and **Brice Garnett** won on TOUR last week, with Garnett winning the Puerto Rico Open last week in a playoff over Erik Barnes. With the win, Garnett became the last player to qualify for THE PLAYERS Championship and will make his sixth career start at the event (best result: T35/2019). Three players have won the week before THE PLAYERS and won THE PLAYERS: Raymond Floyd (1981), Tom Kite (1989) and Tiger Woods (2001).

**Wyndham Clark**, who has a win (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am) and runner-up (Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard) in Signature Events this season, enters the week No. 5 in the Official World Golf Ranking, his first career week inside the top five. Clark entered the 2023 PLAYERS Championship No. 116 in the OWGR and finished T27, his first career made cut at the event. He has since won three times, including the Wells Fargo Championship and U.S. Open in 2023. THE PLAYERS is Clark's 150th career start on the PGA TOUR.

Each of the last four winners of THE PLAYERS Championship entered the week in the top 10 of the Official World Golf Ranking.

Year	Player	OWGR
2023	Scottie Scheffler	2
2022	Cameron Smith	10
2021	Justin Thomas	3
2019	Rory McIlroy	6

## WINNERS

Year	Player
2023	Scottie Scheffler
2022	Cam Smith
2021	Justin Thomas
2020	Canceled
2019	Rory McIlroy
2018	Webb Simpson
2017	Si Woo Kim
2016	Jason Day
2015	Rickie Fowler
2014	Martin Kaymer
2013	Tiger Woods
2012	Matt Kuchar
2011	K.J. Choi
2010	Tim Clark
2009	Henrik Stenson
2008	Sergio Garcia
2007	Phil Mickelson
2006	Stephen Ames
2005	Fred Funk
2004	Adam Scott
2003	Davis Love III
2002	Craig Perks
2001	Tiger Woods
2000	Hal Sutton
1999	David Duval
1998	Justin Leonard
1997	Steve Elkington
1996	Fred Couples
1995	Lee Janzen
1994	Greg Norman
1993	Nick Price
1992	Davis Love III
1991	Steve Elkington
1990	Jodie Mudd
1989	Tom Kite
1988	Mark McCumber
1987	Sandy Lyle
1986	John Mahaffey
1985	Calvin Peete
1984	Fred Couples
1983	Hal Sutton
1982	Jerry Pate
1981	Raymond Floyd
1980	Lee Trevino
1979	Lanny Wadkins
1978	Jack Nicklaus
1977	Mark Hayes
1976	Jack Nicklaus
1975	Al Geiberger
1974	Jack Nicklaus

**bold** in field

## ADDITIONAL STORYLINES

There are 22 players in the field making their tournament debut, highlighted by seven PGA TOUR winners. Two players have won THE PLAYERS Championship in their first start at the event, excluding 1974: Hal Sutton (1983) and Craig Perks (2002).

### First-timers in the field (PGA TOUR winners in bold)

<b>Ludvig Åberg</b>	Nicolai Højgaard	Matti Schmid	Sami Valimaki
<b>Akshay Bhatia</b>	Chan Kim	David Skinns	Carson Young
<b>Nick Dunlap</b>	<b>Jake Knapp</b>	Jimmy Stanger	Kevin Yu
<b>Austin Eckroat</b>	Ben Kohles	Sam Stevens	Carl Yuan
Harry Hall	<b>Vincent Norrman</b>	Ben Silverman	
Ryo Hisatsune	<b>Matthieu Pavon</b>	Ben Taylor	

**Shane Lowry** finished T4 at the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches and third at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard in the last two weeks, recording back-to-back top-fives for the second time in his career and first since 2022 (T3/Masters Tournament, T3/RBC Heritage). Lowry held the 54-hole lead/co-lead in both events, becoming the first to do so in back-to-back weeks since Lucas Glover in 2022-23 (Wyndham Championship, FedEx St. Jude Championship).

**Tom Hoge** carded a 10-under 62 in the third round of the 2023 PLAYERS Championship, setting the course record (nine previous 63s). Hoge opened with a 6-over 78 and went on to finish T3, became the first player to record a first-round score of 78 or higher in a TOUR event and go on to finish in the top five since José María Olazábal at the 2007 PLAYERS Championship (78, T3).

**Min Woo Lee** played in the final pairing with Scottie Scheffler during the final round in 2023 and went on to finish T6, his first career top-10 on the PGA TOUR. Lee went on to earn Special Temporary Membership for the remainder of the 2022-23 season following a T18 at the PGA Championship and secured his 2024 PGA TOUR card through non-member FedExCup points.

There were three holes-in-one at No. 17 in 2023, the first year with multiple aces on that hole.

### Holes-in-one on No. 17 in 2023

Alex Smalley	R4
Aaron Rai	R3
Hayden Buckley	R1

2004 champion **Adam Scott** made two birdies on No. 17 in 2023 to pass Hal Sutton for second-most on that hole in tournament history with 20. Bernhard Langer holds the tournament record with 26.

## 2023 LEADERBOARD

Pos.	Player	R1	R2	R3	R4	Total
1	Scottie Scheffler	68	69	65	69	271 (-17)
2	Tyrrell Hatton	72	71	68	65	276 (-12)
T3	Tom Hoge	78	68	62	70	278 (-10)
T3	Viktor Hovland	69	71	70	68	278 (-10)
5	Hideki Matsuyama	74	70	67	68	279 (-9)
T6	7 players					280 (-8)

## STRENGTH OF FIELD STATISTICS

Top 10 FedExCup	10	Scottie Scheffler (1)
Top 30 FedExCup	30	
Top 10 OWGR	9	Scottie Scheffler (1)
Top 50 OWGR	47	
PGA TOUR winners	89	Most: Rory McIlroy (24)
FedExCup Champions	7	Most recent: Viktor Hovland (2023)
PLAYERS winners	9	Defending: Scottie Scheffler (2023)
Major winners	18	Most: Rory McIlroy (4)

## TOURNAMENT RECORDS

Category	Value	Player	Year
Low 18-hole score	62	Tom Hoge	2023 (R3)
Low 36-hole score	129	2 players; most recent: Webb Simpson	2018
Low 54-hole score	197	2 players; most recent: Webb Simpson	2018
Low 72-hole score	264	Greg Norman	1994
Holes-in-one (1983-present)	38	37 players; most recent: Alex Smalley	2023 (R4)
Largest 18-hole lead	3	2 players; most recent: Roberto Castro	2013
Largest 36-hole lead	5	Webb Simpson	2018
Largest 54-hole lead	7	Webb Simpson	2018
Best come-from-behind win	6	Raymond Floyd	1981
Largest margin of victory	7	Steve Elkington	1997
Playoffs	5	Most recent: Rickie Fowler def. Sergio Garcia, Kevin Kisner	2015
Wire-to-wire winners	5	Most recent: Jason Day	2016