



# 2025 PLAYERS Championship (12<sup>th</sup> of 36 FedExCup Regular Season events)

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida March 13-16, 2025 FedExCup points: 750 (winner) TPC Sawgrass Par/Yards: 36-36 – 72/7,352 Purse: \$25 million/\$4.5 million

# Pre-Tournament Information - 2025 PLAYERS Championship

# Interview Schedule (all times local)

# Tuesday, March 11

9 a.m. – Justin Thomas

9:15 a.m. – Collin Morikawa

11 a.m. – PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan

2:30 p.m. – Scottie Scheffler

2:45 p.m. - Xander Schauffele

3 p.m. – Adam Scott

3:40 p.m. - Ludvig Åberg

#### Wednesday, March 12

7:45 a.m. – Rory McIlroy (Flash Interview Area)

8 a.m. - First-Timers Press Conference - Wave 1 (Clubhouse Back Lawn)

9 a.m. – First-Timers Press Conference – Wave 2 (Clubhouse Back Lawn)

10:10 a.m. – Wyndham Clark

#### **Justin Thomas**

- 2021 PLAYERS Champion finished with 64-68 (132) en route to his title, tied for the lowest final 36-hole total in tournament history
- Coming off his first missed cut (2024) in nine career appearances at THE PLAYERS; of his 18 scores in the first two rounds at TPC Sawgrass, has only broken 70 twice (68/R2/2016, 69/R2/2022)
- Seeks his first TOUR victory since the 2022 PGA Championship (55 starts)
- Three top-10s in six starts entering the week, including a runner-up at The American Express

#### Collin Morikawa

- Claimed his 11<sup>th</sup> career runner-up finish at last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercaerd after holding a one-stroke lead through 54 holes; TOUR-high four runner-up finishes since 2024 and second in four starts this season (other: The Sentry)
- Six-time TOUR winner has 10 top-10s in 26 starts since his last win at the 2023 Baycurrent Classic
- Enters the week at No. 5 in the FedExCup, the highest-ranked player without a win this season
- Fifth PLAYERS appearance (best: T13/2023)
- Finished career-high second in the 2024 FedExCup, his second consecutive top-10 finish (6<sup>th</sup>/2023)

# Scottie Scheffler

- Two-time defending champion seeks to join Jack Nicklaus (1974, 1976, 1978) as the only three-time winners of THE PLAYERS; would be the first with three victories at TPC Sawgrass (moved in 1982); others: 2/Fred Couples, Steve Elkington, Davis Love III, Hal Sutton, Tiger Woods
- Seeks to become the first player since Steve Stricker to win the same PGA TOUR event in three consecutive years (John Deere Classic/2009-11)
- Became the first PLAYERS champion to successfully defend his title in 2024
- Became the seventh multiple winner of THE PLAYERS and first since Tiger Woods in 2013
- Final-round 64 in 2024 tied the lowest final-round score by a winner in tournament history (Fred Couples/1996, Davis Love III/2003)
- Fourth player to win THE PLAYERS after entering the final round trailing by five or more strokes (Henrik Stenson/5/2009, Justin Leonard/5/1998, Raymond Floyd/6/1981)

<sup>\*</sup>Visit pgatourmedia.com for the latest interview schedule

• Two top-10s in four starts this season (T9/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, T3/The Genesis Invitational)

#### Xander Schauffele

- Earned his second runner-up finish at THE PLAYERS in 2024 (other: 2018), the only player with multiple runner-up finishes at THE PLAYERS since 2015
- World No. 3 is making his seventh career PLAYERS appearance
- Finished T40 at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard in his first start since The Sentry (T3) after a rib injury
- Most recent of nine PGA TOUR victories came at the 2024 Open Championship
- Holds the TOUR's current longest streak of consecutive made cuts at 58

## Ludvig Åberg

- World No. 5 and Ponte Vedra Beach resident finished solo eighth in his tournament debut in 2024
- Seeks to join Henrik Stenson (2009) as the only PLAYERS champions from Sweden
- Three players have won THE PLAYERS at TPC Sawgrass in two or less starts (Craig Perks/1/2002, Hal Sutton/1/1983, Si Woo Kim/2/2017)
- One win (The Genesis Invitational) and a top-five finish (T5/The Sentry) in five starts this season

#### Rory McIlroy

- 2019 PLAYERS Champion is making his 15<sup>th</sup> career appearance; owns four top-10s at TPC Sawgrass, but none since his victory
- Posted career-low opening round score at THE PLAYERS in 2024 (65) en route to a T19 finish; 64 marks his career-low score at TPC Sawgrass (R2/2016)
- One of four players with a 29 on the back nine at TPC Sawgrass (2016/R2)
- World No. 2 won the 2025 AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, the third time he won in his PGA TOUR season debut (others: 2021 THE CJ CUP, 2022 THE CJ CUP)
- Makes fourth start of the season (1st/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, T17/The Genesis Invitational, T15/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard

## THE PLAYERS Championship notes:

 The last five winners of THE PLAYERS Championship all entered the week inside the top 10 in the Official World Golf Ranking:

| Year | Player            | <b>OWGR</b> |
|------|-------------------|-------------|
| 2024 | Scottie Scheffler | 1           |
| 2023 | Scottie Scheffler | 2           |
| 2022 | Cameron Smith     | 10          |
| 2021 | Justin Thomas     | 3           |
| 2019 | Rory McIlroy      | 6           |

- 2012 champion Matt Kuchar and Justin Rose will each make their 20<sup>th</sup> appearance at THE PLAYERS Championship; 2004 champion Adam Scott will make his 23<sup>rd</sup> tournament appearance, the most of any player in the field
- Brian Harman and Hideki Matsuyama each have four top-10s at THE PLAYERS since 2015, the most of any player in that time span
- PGA TOUR rookie Karl Vilips won last week's Puerto Rico Open for his first career PGA TOUR title to qualify for his PLAYERS Championship debut. Vilips, the 2024 Korn Ferry Tour Rookie of the Year, is the first PGA TOUR rookie to win this season
- There has not been a playoff at THE PLAYERS Championship since 2015 (Rickie Fowler def. Kevin Kisner and Sergio Garcia)
- Additional field features:
  - 48 of the top 50 players in the Official World Golf Ranking, including all of the top 10
  - Eight past champions (nine wins): Scottie Scheffler (2023, 2024), Justin Thomas (2021), Rory McIlroy (2019), Si Woo Kim (2017), Jason Day (2016), Rickie Fowler (2015), Matt Kuchar (2012), Adam Scott (2004)
  - Eight past FedExCup champions (10 wins): Scottie Scheffler (2024), Viktor Hovland (2023), Rory McIlroy (2016/2019/2022), Patrick Cantlay (2021), Justin Rose (2018), Justin Thomas (2017), Jordan Spieth (2015), Billy Horschel (2014)
  - 25 players in the field are making their tournament debut, highlighted by six PGA TOUR winners (in **bold**):
     Jacob Bridgeman, Brian Campbell, Rafael Campos, Laurie Canter, Frankie Capan III, Will Chandler, Patrick

- Fishburn, Ryan Gerard, **Chris Gotterup**, Max Greyserman, **Joe Highsmith**, Rico Hoey, Rasmus Højgaard, Mac Meissner, **Matt McCarty**, Chandler Phillips, Aldrich Potgieter, Kevin Roy, Isaiah Salinda, Hayden Springer, Jackson Suber, Jesper Svensson, Alejandro Tosti, **Karl Vilips**, Vince Whaley.
- Among the 25 first-timers in the field, there are eight PGA TOUR rookies making their PLAYERS debut:
   Frankie Capan III, Will Chandler, Rasmus Højgaard, Aldrich Potgieter, Isaiah Salinda, Jackson Suber, Jesper
   Svensson and Karl Vilips. The PGA TOUR rookie with the highest finish at THE PLAYERS is David Lingmerth
   (T2/2013); Fulton Allem (T3/1998) and Camilo Villegas (T3/2006) are the only others to finish inside the
   top five.

#### **PGA TOUR season notes**

- THE PLAYERS Championship is the first of five events this season that offer 750 FedExCup points to the winner
- THE PLAYERS is the third event in the Florida Swing, which began with the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches
  (won by Joe Highsmith) and continued with the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard in Orlando
  (won by Russell Henley). The TOUR will make its way to Palm Harbor for the Valspar Championship next week,
  where Peter Malnati will defend his 2024 title.
- Arnold Palmer Invitational winner Russell Henley captured his fifth TOUR title and leads the TOUR in top-10s (4) entering THE PLAYERS Championship (T10/Sony Open in Hawaii, T5/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, T6/Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, Won/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard).
- Henley's win elevated him to No. 2 in the FedExCup standings, his highest position since the 2013 American
  Express, one week after he claimed his maiden PGA TOUR title at the Sony Open in Hawaii in his first start as a
  TOUR member
- Sepp Straka sits atop the FedExCup standings for the second time this season following his T5 finish the Arnold Palmer Invitational; previously held the No. 1 spot for two weeks (AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, WM Phoenix Open)
- International players have won seven of the first 11 events this season: Hideki Matsuyama/Japan, Nick
  Taylor/Canada, Sepp Straka/Austria, Rory McIlroy/Northern Ireland, Thomas Detry/Belgium, Ludvig Åberg/Sweden,
  Karl Vilips/Australia