

## 2025 Hoag Classic

### First-Round Notes

Friday, March 21, 2025

Newport Beach Country Club | Newport Beach, California  
5th of 28 PGA TOUR Champions events in the 2025 Season



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- **Course Setup:** Par 71 / 6,704 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average:** 70.012
- **Weather:** Mostly sunny. High of 72. Winds SSW at 5-10 mph.
- **Interviews:** [Transcripts](#) | [Content Hub](#)
- [Leaderboard](#)
- [Second-Round Tee Times](#)
- [PGATOURMedia.com](#)

	Player	To Par	Scores
1	Brendan Jones	-7	33-31 – 64
T2	Freddie Jacobson	-6	33-32 – 65
T2	Michael Allen	-6	32-33 – 65
T4	Three players tied	-5	

### Things to Know

- Starting on No. 10, Australian rookie **Brendan Jones** birdied five of his six holes en route to 7-under 64 and the first-round lead at the Hoag Classic.

### Brendan Jones, 33-31 – 64 (-7)

- The 50-year-old seeks his first win on PGA TOUR Champions (second start)
  - Previous finish: T60 (2025 Cologuard Classic)
  - Turned 50 on March 3, 2025
- This is his low 18-hole score on PGA TOUR Champions (fourth round)
  - Previous low: 72 (2025 Cologuard Classic, 1st Round)
- This is his first time leading/co-leading after any round on PGA TOUR Champions
  - Previous best position after any round: T51 (2025 Cologuard Classic, 1st Round)
- Earned 2025 PGA TOUR Champions status by finishing T3 at Q-School (Final Stage) in December 2024
- Made 54 starts on the PGA TOUR, including 28 during the 2005 season
  - Best finish on the PGA TOUR: T2 (2005 B.C. Open)
- Won one event on the Korn Ferry Tour in 15 starts (2004 LaSalle Bank Open)
- Won 15 times on the Japan Golf Tour (T17 on that Tour's all-time wins list)
  - Ranks 11th in career earnings on the Japan Golf Tour
  - Named Japan Golf Tour Rookie of the Year in 2002
- Most recent international win: 2023 New Zealand Open presented by Sky Sport (PGA TOUR of Australasia)

### Other Notes

- Rookie **Freddie Jacobson** opened with bogey-free 6-under 65 and sits T2. The 50-year-old, who earned 2025 PGA TOUR Champions status by finishing 2nd at Q-School (Final Stage) in December 2024, seeks his first win on the Champions Tour (fourth start).
  - Best finish: T10 (2024 Constellation FURYK & FRIENDS)
- 66-year-old **Michael Allen** bettered his age with bogey-free 6-under 65 and sits T2. He seeks his ninth win on PGA TOUR Champions (275th start).
  - Last win: 2016 Bass Pro Shops Legends of Golf at Big Cedar Lodge (with partner Woody Austin)

- Two-time Hoag Classic champion (2020, 2023) **Ernie Els**, the Charles Schwab Cup leader, is one of three players T4 at 5-under along with **Alex Cejka** and **Steve Allan**.
- Two-time Hoag Classic champion (2010, 2014) **Fred Couples** (T7) opened with 4-under 67.
- Defending champion **Padraig Harrington** sits T24 after shooting 2-under 69.
- Two-time Hoag Classic champion (2007, 2016) **Jay Haas** (T36) carded 1-under 70. The 71-year-old shot his age or better for the 27th time on PGA TOUR Champions.