



2026 Open Championship
(30th of 34 events in the FedExCup Regular Season)

Southport, England
Royal Birkdale Golf Club

July 16-19, 2026
Par/Yards: 34-36—70/7,223

FedExCup points: 750 (winner)
Purse: 17,750,000

First-Round Notes – Thursday, July 16, 2026

Weather: Mostly sunny. High of 78. Wind WNW 8-12 mph, gusts up to 14 mph.

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1
1	Jackson Suber	65 (-5)
T2	Sungjae Im	66 (-4)
T2	Dan Brown	66 (-4)
T4	Nine players	67 (-3)

Jackson Suber (1st/-5)

- Making his Open Championship debut, opens with a 5-under 65, highlighted by an eagle on No. 17
- Open Champions that have opened with a 65 and won: Louis Oosthuizen/2010/St Andrews, Jordan Spieth/2017/Royal Birkdale
- One of 44 players in the field making their Open Championship debut
- 10 players have won the event in their debut (most recent: Collin Morikawa/2021/Royal St. George's)
- Holds first 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (previous best 18-hole position: T3/2026 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches)
- Becomes the first player to hold the 18-hole lead/co-lead in his Open Championship debut since Dan Brown in 2024
- Making third major championship appearance (73rd/2024 U.S. Open, MC/2026 U.S. Open)
- Second-year TOUR member has three top-10 finishes in 15 starts this season
- Career-best finishes on TOUR in 45 starts: 4th/2026 THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson, T4/2026 RBC Canadian Open
- Last player to earn first PGA TOUR win at a major was Matt Fitzpatrick (2022 U.S. Open)
- Qualified this week via the Open Qualifying Series following a T4 finish at the 2026 RBC Canadian Open
- Enters the week No. 81 in the FedExCup standings and No. 115 in the Official World Golf Ranking

Miscellaneous Notes

- **Sungjae Im** (T2/-4) records his first sub-70 opening round at the event and matches his best score in 19 rounds at The Open Championship (66/R3/2024); two-time PGA TOUR winner is making his sixth start at The Open Championship, with a T7 at Royal Troon in 2024 his best finish
- PGA TOUR rookie **Dan Brown** (T2/-4) finished T10 in his debut Open Championship start in 2024, his second-best finish in 20 TOUR starts (best: T7/2023 ISCO Championship)
- Nine players are tied at 3-under, two shots off the lead, including three players seeking their first PGA TOUR title: **Alex Smalley** (146 career starts), **MJ Daffue** (60 career starts), **Pierceson Coody** (73 career starts)
- World No. 4 **Cameron Young** (T4/-3) finished solo-second in his debut Open Championship start in 2022, his best finish in four prior starts at the event
- World No. 1 **Scottie Scheffler** (T13/-2) cards an opening-round 68 in bid to become the first player to successfully defend at The Open since Pádraig Harrington (2008)
- 2021 winner **Collin Morikawa** (T13/-2) records a 68 and seeks to become the 28th multiple winner of The Open Championship and first since Ernie Els in 2012; opened with a 67 in 2021
- Making his 12th Open Championship appearance, Southport, England native **Tommy Fleetwood** (T24/-1) records a 69; reigning FedExCup champion is seeking to become the first English winner of The Open Championship since Sir Nick Faldo in 1992
- Winner of last week's Genesis Scottish Open, **Tom Kim** (T39/E) sits five-back and seeks to become the first player since Rory McIlroy to win on TOUR and win a major the following week (2014 WGC-Bridgestone Invitational, 2014 PGA Championship)
- 30-time PGA TOUR winner and six-time major champion **Rory McIlroy** (T85/+2) posts a 72 in his 257th major championship round; World No. 2 holds the most wins (6), top-three (13) and top-10 finishes (33) in majors since 2010