



2026 PLAYERS Championship
(10th of 34 FedExCup Regular Season events)

Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida
TPC Sawgrass (THE PLAYERS Stadium Course)

March 12-15, 2026
Par/Yards: 36-36 – 72/7,352

FedExCup points: 750 (winner)
Purse: \$25 million/\$4.5 million

COMPLETED First-Round Notes – Friday, March 13, 2026

Weather: Thursday: Mostly cloudy. High of 79. Winds SW at 12-18 mph with gusts to 24 mph. **Friday:** Partly cloudy and breezy. High of 71. Wind NE at 10-15 mph with gusts to 20 mph.

Suspension Summary: The first round was suspended due to inclement weather on Thursday at 12:09 p.m. ET and resumed at 12:30 p.m., a delay of 21 minutes with players staying in position. The first round was suspended due to darkness on Thursday at 7:37 p.m. with four players left to complete their round. The first round resumed on Friday at 8:47 a.m. and was completed at 9 a.m.

COMPLETED First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1
T1	Maverick McNealy	67 (-5)
	Lee Hodges	67 (-5)
	Sepp Straka	67 (-5)
	Sahith Theegala	67 (-5)
	Austin Smotherman	67 (-5)

Maverick McNealy (T1/-5)

- 30-year-old seeks his second win on TOUR in his 175th career start (2024 RSM Classic)
- Cards 67 or better for the fifth time in seven opening rounds in 2026; entered the week ranked No. 2 on TOUR in first-round scoring average in 2026 at 67.33 (Chris Gotterup/66.33)
- Second career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (1-for-1); won the 2024 RSM Classic
- Making his seventh start of the 2026 season; has one top-10 finish (10th/Farmers Insurance Open)
- Making his sixth appearance at THE PLAYERS Championship (best: T9/2024)
- Matches his low 18-hole score in 17 career rounds at THE PLAYERS Championship (previous instance: 2024/R1)
- Hit only 5-of-14 fairways (ranks T110 in the field)

Lee Hodges (T1/-5)

- 30-year-old seeks his second win on TOUR in his 129th career start (2023 3M Open)
- Third career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (1-for-2); won the 2023 3M Open
- Making his fifth start of the 2026 season; has one top-10 finish (T6/Sony Open in Hawaii)
- Making his fourth appearance at THE PLAYERS Championship (best: T35/2024)
- Cards his low 18-hole score in 11 career rounds at THE PLAYERS Championship (previous: 69/2024/R1)
- Finished T6 at the Sony Open in Hawaii to reach the Top 100 threshold and satisfy his Major Medical Extension, earning him a spot in the field at THE PLAYERS Championship
- Led the field in Strokes Gained: Putting (3.964) in round one

Sepp Straka (T1/-5)

- 32-year-old seeks his fifth win on TOUR in his 194th career start (previous wins: 2022 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, 2023 John Deere Classic, 2025 American Express, 2025 Truist Championship)
- One of three players who carded a bogey-free opening round (Ludvig Åberg, Viktor Hovland)
- Fifth career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (0-for-4); most recent: 2025 Genesis Scottish Open/finished 7th
- Making his sixth start of the 2026 season; has one top-10 finish (T2/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am)
- Making his sixth appearance at THE PLAYERS Championship; has one top-10 finish (T9/2022)
- Matches his low 18-hole score in 19 career rounds at THE PLAYERS Championship (previous instance: 2022/R4)

Sahith Theegala (T1/-5)

- 28-year-old seeks his second win on TOUR in his 133rd start (2023 Fortinet Championship)
- Third career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (0-for-2); most recent: 2024 Sentry/finished 2nd

- Making his fifth appearance at THE PLAYERS Championship, he has one top-10 finish (T9/2024)
- Making his eighth start of the 2026 season; has three top-10 finishes (T8/The American Express, T7/Farmers Insurance Open, T6/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard)
- Matches his low 18-hole score in 15 career rounds at THE PLAYERS Championship (three previous instances; 2024/R2, 2024/R3, 2025/R2)

Austin Smotherman (T1/-5)

- 31-year-old seeks his first win on TOUR in his 84th start; best finish: T2/2026 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches
- Looks to become the third player to make THE PLAYERS Championship his first victory on TOUR (Craig Perks/2002, Tim Clark/2010)
- Fourth career 18-hole lead/co-lead on TOUR (0-for-3); most recent: 2026 Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches/finished T2
- Making his seventh start of the 2026 season; has two top-10 finishes (T8/The American Express, T2/Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches); withdrew from last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard with a back injury prior to his third round
- Making his second appearance at THE PLAYERS Championship (T35/2023)
- Cards his low 18-hole score in five career rounds at THE PLAYERS Championship (previous low: 69/2023/R3)

Miscellaneous Notes

- Making his second start of the 2026 season since returning from back surgery in November, 2021 PLAYERS Champion **Justin Thomas** (T6) opens with 4-under 68, his first time breaking 70 in the first round of THE PLAYERS (11th appearance)
- Two-time PLAYERS Champion (2023, 2024) and World No. 1 **Scottie Scheffler** (T40/E) entered the week with the longest active cuts made streak on TOUR (69)
- Making his 24th consecutive start at THE PLAYERS, the longest active streak, 2004 champion **Adam Scott** (T40/E) recorded his 23rd birdie all-time on No. 17, the second-most in PLAYERS history (26/Bernhard Langer)
- Two-time PLAYERS Championship winner (2019, 2025) and World No. 2 **Rory McIlroy** (T69/+2) cards his first over-par round on TOUR since the 2025 TOUR Championship (R3/71); withdrew from last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard with a back injury prior to his third round
- FedExCup leader **Collin Morikawa** (back) withdrew during the first round
- **Ryan Fox** (illness) withdrew prior to the start of the first round and was replaced by **David Ford** (T82/+3)