



**2026 Valspar Championship**  
*(11<sup>th</sup> of 34 FedExCup Regular Season events)*

**Palm Harbor, Florida**  
**Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead Course)**

**March 19-22, 2026**  
**Par/Yards: 36-35—71/7,352**

**FedExCup Points: 500 (winner)**  
**Purse: \$9.14 million/\$1,638,000 (winner)**

**Pre-Tournament Information – 2026 Valspar Championship**

**Player Interviews**

**Tuesday, March 17 (all times local)**

9 a.m. - Viktor Hovland  
TBD - Xander Schauffele

**Wednesday, March 18**

After 9:42 a.m. (9-hole) Pro-Am – Justin Thomas  
TBD - Akshay Bhatia

\* Visit [pgatourmedia.com](https://pgatourmedia.com) for the latest interview schedule

**Viktor Hovland**

- Defending champion will make his fourth appearance at the Valspar Championship; has one top-10 finish (T3/2021) in addition to his victory last season
- Posted a final-round 67 in 2025 to edge Justin Thomas by one stroke; the last three winners of the Valspar Championship all shot 67 in the final round (Taylor Moore/2023, Peter Malnati/2024, Viktor Hovland/2025)
- Norwegian has made five starts on TOUR this season, highlighted by three top-25 finishes (T10/WM Phoenix Open, T13/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, T13/THE PLAYERS Championship)
- Owns seven TOUR titles in 137 career starts; 2025 Valspar Championship title was his first since claiming the 2023 TOUR Championship and the FedExCup
- World No. 18 finished No. 12 in the 2025 FedExCup

**Akshay Bhatia**

- FedExCup No. 3 will make his fourth tournament appearance (best: T17/2024); made his PGA TOUR debut as an amateur in 2019; marked his only TOUR start as an amateur before turning professional in September of that year
- Enters the week with five consecutive top-25 finishes on TOUR (T3/WM Phoenix Open, T6/AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am, T16/The Genesis Invitational, Won/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, T13/THE PLAYERS Championship)
- Enters the week inside the top 10 in Strokes Gained: Approach the Green (9<sup>th</sup>) and Strokes Gained: Putting (10<sup>th</sup>)
- Youngest winner on TOUR this season after his victory at the Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard at 24 years, 1 month, 8 days
- All three of his PGA TOUR titles have come in a playoff where he won on the first playoff hole:
  - 2026 Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard (def. Daniel Berger)
  - 2024 Valero Texas Open (def. Denny McCarthy)
  - 2023 Barracuda Championship (def. Patrick Rodgers)

**Xander Schauffele**

- 10-time TOUR winner is making his seventh start on TOUR this season, having posted two top-10 finishes (T7/The Genesis Invitational, 3<sup>rd</sup>/THE PLAYERS Championship)
- Making his fourth appearance at the Valspar Championship, with all three finishes at T12 or better (T12/2022, T5/2024, T12/2025)
- No. 7 in the Official World Golf Ranking, the highest ranked player in the field
- Most recent TOUR victory: 2025 Baycurrent Classic

**Justin Thomas**

- 2025 Valspar Championship runner-up was 7-under through 15 holes in the final round before playing the Snake Pit in 2-over with bogeys on Nos. 16 and 18 to finish one shot behind winner Viktor Hovland
- Set the low final 36-hole score in tournament history in 2025 after posting 65-66 –131, (previous: 132; six occasions)
- Making third start on TOUR this season after undergoing microdiscectomy surgery in November (MC/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard, T8/THE PLAYERS Championship)
- Most recent of his 16 PGA TOUR victories came at the 2025 RBC Heritage
- Making ninth appearance at the Valspar Championship, highlighted by four top-10 finishes (T10/2015, T3/2022, T10/2023, 2<sup>nd</sup>/2025)
- Enters the week No. 14 in the Official World Golf Ranking

## Miscellaneous Notes

- The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of the Valspar Championship will be contested at Innisbrook Resort (Copperhead Course), the host course since the tournament's inception in 2000
- The field features:
  - 18 of the top 50 players in the Official World Golf Ranking, highlighted by six in the top 20: No. 7 **Xander Schauffele**, No. 12 **J.J. Spaun**, No. 14 **Justin Thomas**, No. 15 **Matt Fitzpatrick**, No. 16 **Ben Griffin**, No. 18 **Viktor Hovland**
  - Seven past champions: **Viktor Hovland** (2025), **Peter Malnati** (2024), **Taylor Moore** (2023), **Adam Hadwin** (2017), **Jordan Spieth** (2015), **Kevin Streelman** (2013), **Gary Woodland** (2011)
  - Four players who finished inside the top 10 at last week's PLAYERS Championship: **Matt Fitzpatrick** (2<sup>nd</sup>), **Xander Schauffele** (3<sup>rd</sup>), **Jacob Bridgeman** (T5), **Justin Thomas** (T8)
- 18-year-old **Blades Brown** will make his fourth start on TOUR this season (T18/The American Express, CUT/Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, 3<sup>rd</sup>/Puerto Rico Open); his top-10 finish at the Puerto Rico Open marks his best finish on TOUR and earned him a spot in the Valspar Championship
- **Brooks Koepka** will make his fifth start since making his return to the TOUR via the Returning Member Program following a T13 at last week's PLAYERS Championship; was added to the field (133) so not to take a spot from a current TOUR member. To round out threesomes, the field was officially expanded to 135 as of Monday at noon ET, with the first two alternates at that time – Seamus Power and Matt Kuchar – being added to the field.
- Six-time TOUR winner **Lucas Glover** will make his 21<sup>st</sup> tournament appearance, the most of any player in the field; owns two career top-10 finishes: T4/2007, T8/2025
- Sponsor Exemptions: **Adam Hadwin**, **Henrik Norlander**, **Brandt Snedeker**, **Jackson Suber**
- Players in their 20s have won eight of the 10 tournaments on TOUR this season, including last week's PLAYERS Championship winner Cameron Young; four of the last five winners of the Valspar Championship were in their 20s (Sam Burns/2021-22, Taylor Moore/2023, Viktor Hovland/2025)

## Aon Swing 5 and Aon Next 10

- The Valspar Championship is the second of a four-tournament stretch for players to earn FedExCup points towards the Aon Swing 5 with entry into the next Signature Event at the RBC Heritage
- The top five players, not otherwise exempt, who earn the most FedExCup points during the Puerto Rico Open, Valspar Championship, Texas Children's Houston Open and Valero Texas Open will qualify for the RBC Heritage

### Aon Swing 5 standings thru THE PLAYERS Championship (bold = in the field):

Rank	Player	Points
1	<b>Chandler Blanchet</b>	<b>165.000</b>
2	<b>Davis Thompson</b>	<b>80.000</b>
3	<b>Luke Clanton</b>	<b>60.000</b>
4	<b>Paul Peterson</b>	<b>60.000</b>
5	<b>Matti Schmid</b>	<b>60.000</b>

- **Aon Next 10:** The Aon Next 10 for the RBC Heritage will be determined by top 10 FedExCup points earners, not already exempt, through the Masters Tournament:

### Aon Next 10 standings thru THE PLAYERS Championship (bold = in the field):

Rank	Player	Points
1	Jake Knapp	680.000
2	Nico Echavarria	671.000
3	<b>Ryo Hisatsune</b>	<b>556.606</b>
4	<b>Sahith Theegala</b>	<b>539.641</b>
5	Adam Scott	531.375
6	<b>Pierceson Coody</b>	<b>458.563</b>
7	<b>Ricky Castillo</b>	<b>457.125</b>
8	<b>Patrick Rodgers</b>	<b>452.492</b>
9	Sudarshan Yellamaraju	397.095
10	<b>Austin Smotherman</b>	<b>363.889</b>