2026 VidantaWorld Mexico Open
(Fifth of Eight FedExCup Fall Events)

Vallarta, Mexico | **October 29 – November 1, 2026** | **FedExCup points: 500 (winner)**
Vidanta Vallarta Course | **Par/Yards: 36-35—71/7,337** | **Purse: $6,000,000/$1,108,000**

First-Round Notes – Thursday, October 29, 2026

Weather: Mostly sunny. High of 89. Variable wind 4-10 mph. Preferred lies were in effect for the first round.

First-Round Leaderboard

Pos.	Player	R1
1	Karl Vilips	62 (-9)
2	Kensei Hirata	63 (-8)
T3	Ben Griffin	64 (-7)
T3	Marco Penge	64 (-7)
T3	Garrick Higgo	64 (-7)
T3	Jeffrey Kang	64 (-7)
T3	Adrien Dumont de Chassart	64 (-7)

Karl Vilips (1st/-9) ["VILL-ips"]
- Second-year member earns his first 18-hole lead/co-lead on Tour in his 43rd career start
- 9-under 62 marks a new career low, topping his previous best of 64 (two times, most recent: 2026 Genesis Scottish Open/R2)
- Records his most birdies in a single round on the PGA Tour with 10 in his 131st round on Tour (previous best: 7 birdies, 11 times)
- Made five consecutive birdies on Nos. 11-15 and closed the round with four consecutive birdies on Nos. 6-9
- Leads the field SG: Off the Tee (14.760)
- Making his second appearance in the VidantaWorld Mexico Open after finishing T72 last year
- Sits No. 141 in the FedExCup Fall standings after recording four top-25 finishes and 11 made cuts in 20 starts this season
- Best finish this season is T13 at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans (with teammate Michael Thorbjornsen)
- Lone PGA Tour title came at the 2025 Puerto Rico Open where he set the 72-hole tournament scoring record of 262 (28-under par)
- Exempt on the PGA Tour through the 2027 season via his win last year in Puerto Rico

Kensei Hirata (2nd/-8) ["KEN-seh HEE-rah-tah"]
- PGA Tour rookie ties his career low with a bogey-free 63 in his 83rd round on Tour (63/2025 Sony Open in Hawaii/R2)
- No. 170 in the FedExCup Fall standings; owns nine made cuts and two top-25s in 23 starts (best: T19/THE CJ CUP Byron Nelson)
- 25-year-old native of Suita, Japan won six times on the Japan Golf Tour from 2023-24

First-Round Notes
- **Ben Griffin** (T3/-7), the second-highest ranked player in the field, opens with a 64 after playing his final seven holes in 4-under via one eagle, four birdies and two bogeys; leads the field in SG: Putting (4.210); in his third appearance in the VidantaWorld Mexico Open (T4/2025, MC/2022), recorded scores of 67 or better in six of seven rounds at Vidanta Vallarta
- Eight total players played bogey free Thursday**,** including **Marco Penge** (T3/-7) and **Jeffrey Kang** (T3/-7)
- Guadalajara, Mexico native **Alvaro Ortiz** (T8/-6) records a bogey-free 65, one stroke shy of tying his career low (64, 2024 VidantaWorld Mexico Open/R2); playing as a sponsor exemption this week, Ortiz secured 2027 PGA Tour membership by finishing No. 5 on the 2026 Korn Ferry Tour Points List; making his fifth consecutive start in the VidantaWorld Mexico Open, highlighted by a T13 finish in 2024, his best finish in 12 career PGA Tour starts
- In his attempt to become the first back-to-back winner in event history, **Brian Campbell** sits T22 after opening with a 4-under 67
- World No. 5 **Wyndham Clark** (T54/-2), the highest-ranked player in the field, birdies all four par-5s at Vidanta Vallarta and cards a first-round 69; making third start at the VidantaWorld Mexico Open (T67/2022, T24/2023)
- **David Skinns** (T68/-1) aces the 134-yard par-3 seventh, his first career hole-in-one on the PGA Tour (1,186th par-3 played); marks the fourth ace in tournament history and first since Rafael Campos in 2024 (R2/No. 17)
- **Taylor Moore** withdrew prior to the first round and was replaced by **Nick Hardy** (T68); **Billy Horschel** (illness) WD during the round
- First-round scores from the additional five players from Mexico in the field:
  - **Santiago de la Fuente** (T77/E)
  - **Omar Morales** (T77/E)
  - **Alejandro Fierro** (T105/+2)
  - **Gerardo Gomez** (T105/+2)
  - **Mauricio Figueroa Ramirez** (T109/+3)