



2026 Zurich Classic of New Orleans
(16th of 34 FedExCup Regular Season events)

Avondale, Louisiana
TPC Louisiana

April 23-26, 2026
Par/Yards: 36-36—72/7,425

FedExCup Points: 400 to each winner
Purse: \$9.5 million/\$1,372,750 to each winner

Pre-Tournament Information – 2026 Zurich Classic of New Orleans

Player Interviews (all times local)

All team pre-tournament media will take place outside in the **Flash Interview Area unless otherwise noted*

Tuesday, April 21

11:30 a.m. – Johnny Keefer and Michael Brennan
12:15 p.m. – Ben Griffin and Andrew Novak
2:50 p.m. – Geoff Ogilvy and Cam Davis

Wednesday, April 22

10:30 a.m. – Brandt Snedeker and Keith Mitchell
After 6:45 a.m. (18-hole) pro-am – Shane Lowry and Brooks Koepka
After 8:57 a.m. (18-hole) pro-am – Matt and Alex Fitzpatrick

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Andrew Novak and Ben Griffin

- Defending Zurich Classic of New Orleans champions finished one stroke ahead of Nicolai and Rasmus Højgaard to earn their first TOUR titles; held the 54-hole lead before going on to win
- Griffin went on to win two more times in 2025 (Charles Schwab Challenge, World Wide Technology Championship) and was a Player of the Year nominee, while Novak later claimed the Grant Thornton Invitational (unofficial TOUR victory) with the LPGA's Lauren Coughlin
- The 2025 victory propelled Novak to his first appearance in the TOUR Championship and a career-high T25 finish in the FedExCup
- No team has successfully defended their title at the Zurich Classic of New Orleans since the team format was introduced in 2017
- Griffin and Novak are both making their 12th start of the season; Griffin owns two top-25 finishes (T19/Sony Open in Hawaii, T24/The American Express), while Novak has a top-10 finish (T7/Farmers Insurance Open)
- World No. 16 Griffin is one of two players in the field ranked inside the top 20 in the Official World Golf Ranking (Matt Fitzpatrick/No. 3)

Shane Lowry and Brooks Koepka

- 2024 Zurich Classic of New Orleans champion Shane Lowry (with Rory McIlroy), will partner with nine-time TOUR winner Brooks Koepka for the first time
- Lowry is making his seventh tournament start, highlighted by a victory with Rory McIlroy in 2024, marking his first victory on TOUR since the 2019 Open Championship
- Lowry will make his ninth start this season, while Koepka will make his eighth, with their best finishes coming from the Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches (T2/Lowry, T9/Koepka)
- Koepka is making his fifth tournament appearance (best: T5/2017 with brother Chase Koepka)

Matt and Alex Fitzpatrick

- Brothers will make their fourth consecutive tournament appearance as a team (T19/2023, T11/2024, MC/2025)
- Matt is making his 10th start on TOUR this season, highlighted by two victories with one coming last week at the RBC Heritage (other: Valspar Championship)
- Matt, the four-time PGA TOUR winner, is one of two players with multiple wins on TOUR this season (Chris Gotterup)
- Alex secured his first win on the DP World Tour at the Hero Indian Open just one week after Matt's victory at the Valspar Championship
- Matt is the highest ranked player in the field at No. 3 in the Official World Golf Ranking

Johnny Keefer and Michael Brennan

- Tournament debut and first-time pairing for both Keefer and Brennan
- Each is a former No. 1 finisher on the PGA TOUR Americas Points List (Keefer/2024, Brennan/2025)
- Keefer and Brennan are both making their 12th starts on TOUR this season
 - Keefer owns one top-10 finish on TOUR this season (T3/Texas Children's Houston Open)
 - Brennan owns one top-25 finish on TOUR this season (T24/Masters Tournament)

- Keefer seeks his first PGA TOUR title; Brennan secured his first TOUR victory at the 2025 Bank of Utah Championship
- Brennan is one of 10 players in the field inside the top 50 of the Official World Golf Ranking (No. 49)

Miscellaneous Notes

- An annual TOUR stop since 1958, the Zurich Classic of New Orleans moved to the team format in 2017 and is the only official FedExCup event to feature a two-player team format, with 148 players (74 teams) who play Four-Ball in the first and third rounds, and Foursomes (alternate shot) in the second and final rounds
- Each player on the winning team will receive 400 FedExCup points, \$1,372,750 and a two-year exemption on the PGA TOUR (through 2028)
- The field is highlighted by 10 players in the top 50 players in the Official World Golf Ranking, including two in the top 20: No. 3 **Matt Fitzpatrick**, No. 16 **Ben Griffin**
- Other field notes:
 - Teams in the field that have won: **Andrew Novak** and **Ben Griffin** (2025), **Nick Hardy** and **Davis Riley** (2023)
 - Players who won with different partners: **Shane Lowry** (2024 with Rory McIlroy), **Ryan Palmer** (2019 with Jon Rahm), **Billy Horschel** (2018 with Scott Piercy) and **Scott Piercy** (2018 with Billy Horschel)
 - Players who won in the individual format: **Billy Horschel** (2013), **Jason Dufner** (2012), **Nick Watney** (2007)
 - Four teams that finished inside the top 10 in 2025 are paired together in 2026: **Andrew Novak** and **Ben Griffin** (Won), **Karl Vilips** and **Michael Thorbjornsen** (T4), **Luke List** and **Henrik Norlander** (T4), **Chad Ramey** and **Justin Lower** (T8)
- 2026 Presidents Cup captains are set to play this week, with U.S. Team Captain **Brandt Snedeker** pairing with **Keith Mitchell** and International Team Captain **Geoff Ogilvy** with **Cam Davis**
 - **Ben Griffin** is the only U.S. player (No. 5) and **Haotong Li** is the only international player (No. 15) in the field currently in the top 15 of their respective 2026 Presidents Cup standings
- Zurich ambassador **Billy Horschel**, who is the only player to win the Zurich Classic of New Orleans in both the individual and team format (2013, 2018), will tee it up with **Tom Hoge** for the first time. The two partnered in 2025 before Horschel was forced to withdraw on Wednesday due to injury
- Partnering with **Luke Clanton**, Korn Ferry Tour member and 18-year-old **Blades Brown** will make his fifth start on TOUR this season as a sponsor exemption (T18/The American Express, MC/Cognizant Classic in The Palm Beaches, 3rd/Puerto Rico Open, T40/Valspar Championship); Brown has earned 163 non-member FedExCup points this season and is 91.028 points short of the threshold for Special Temporary Membership, which would allow him to accept unlimited sponsor exemptions for the remainder of the season; he can become eligible for STM this week with a two-way T3 finish or better
- Sponsor Exemptions: **Blades Brown**, **Martin Couvra**, **Alex Fitzpatrick**, **Jacob Skov Olesen**

Aon Swing 5 and Aon Next 10

- The Zurich Classic of New Orleans is the last of a five-tournament stretch for players to earn FedExCup points towards the Aon Swing 5 with entry into the next Signature Event at the Cadillac Championship
- 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, Valero Texas Open and Zurich Classic of New Orleans will qualify for the Cadillac Championship:

Aon Swing 5 standings thru RBC Heritage (bold = in the field):

Rank	Player	Points
1	Ricky Castillo	319.375
2	David Lipsky	310.578
3	Matt Wallace	228.833
4	Chandler Blanchet	207.063
5	Jordan Smith	200.875

- **Aon Next 10:** The Aon Next 10 for the Cadillac Championship will be determined by top 10 FedExCup points earners, not already exempt, through the Zurich Classic of New Orleans:

Aon Next 10 standings thru RBC Heritage (bold = in the field):

Rank	Player	Points
1	Min Woo Lee	951.683
2	Jake Knapp	928.250
3	Gary Woodland	752.250
4	Nico Echavarria	674.000
5	Ryo Hisatsune	668.856
6	Sahith Theegala	647.516
7	Nicolai Højgaard	644.000
8	Adam Scott	612.804
9	Sudarshan Yellamaraju	548.345
10	Patrick Rodgers	523.548

PGA TOUR Season Notes

- **First-time winners:** Through 15 events of the 2026 PGA TOUR Season, there have only been two first-time TOUR winners (Jacob Bridgeman/The Genesis Invitational, Ricky Castillo/Puerto Rico Open); the last players to win the Zurich Classic of New Orleans for their first career PGA TOUR victory: Ben Griffin and Andrew Novak (2025)

- **Close calls:** With Matt Fitzpatrick's playoff victory at RBC Heritage, 10 of the last 12 events on TOUR have been decided by one stroke or in a playoff
- **54-hole leaders:** Through 15 events of the 2026 PGA TOUR Season, six players have successfully converted the 54-hole lead/co-lead into victory, including the last two winners on TOUR: Justin Rose/Farmers Insurance Open, Jacob Bridgeman/The Genesis Invitational, Ricky Castillo/Puerto Rico Open, Gary Woodland/Texas Children's Houston Open, Rory McIlroy/Masters Tournament, Matt Fitzpatrick/RBC Heritage