2026 Charles Schwab Cup Championship

First-Round Notes
Thursday, November 12, 2026
Phoenix Country Club | Phoenix, Arizona
28th of 28 PGA Tour Champions events in the 2026 Season
3rd of 3 events in the 2026 Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs

- **Course Setup:** Par 71 / 6,771 yards
- **Round 1 Scoring Average:** 68.228
- **Weather:** Sunny. High of 85. Winds E at 5-10 mph.
- **Interviews**: Transcripts | Content Hub
- Leaderboard
- Second-Round Tee Times
- PGATourMedia.com
- Charles Schwab Cup Standings
- Charles Schwab Cup Scenarios

	Player	To Par	Scores	Schwab Cup Standings Start	Schwab Cup Standings Projected
1	Stewart Cink	-8	30-33 – 63	1st	1st
2	Ernie Els	-7	32-32 – 64	8th	4th
3	Steve Allan	-6	31-34 – 65	30th	19th

Things to Know

- Defending champion and reigning Charles Schwab Cup winner **Stewart Cink**, who enters the week atop the season-long standings, played his first seven holes in 6-under en route to an opening 63. He holds a one-stroke lead over World Golf Hall of Fame member **Ernie Els** after the first round of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship.

Recent First-Round Leaders at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship

Year	First-Round Leader	Current Leaderboard Position
2026	Stewart Cink	1st
2025	Stewart Cink	1st
2024	Stewart Cink	1st
2023	Ernie Els	2nd

Stewart Cink, 30-33 – 63 (-8)
Charles Schwab Cup standings – Start: 1st / Projected: 1st

- The 53-year-old seeks his 10th win on PGA Tour Champions (57th start).
- Seeks his sixth win of the 2026 season (21st start).
  - Previous wins in 2026 (chronologically): Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai, Hoag Classic, Senior PGA Championship, Regions Tradition, Boeing Classic
  - Would match Zach Johnson (6) for the most wins by a player this season on PGA Tour Champions.
- This is his ninth time leading/co-leading after the first round on PGA Tour Champions.
  - Is 3-for-8 converting those into victories (2-for-4 in 72-hole events).
- Holds the solo lead after the first round of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship for the third consecutive year.
  - Position by round (chronologically) at this event: 1st-1st-6th-**T6**-1st-2nd-2nd-**Won**-1st
- Entered the week atop the 2026 Charles Schwab Cup standings, controlling his own destiny in the race for the Charles Schwab Cup.
  - Cink won the Charles Schwab Cup in 2025.
- Looks to become the eighth multi-time winner of the Charles Schwab Cup.

    - Would join Bernhard Langer (6), Steven Alker (2), Tom Lehman (2), Loren Roberts (2), Jay Haas (2), Tom Watson (2), Hale Irwin (2)
- Looks to complete the fourth successful defense of the Charles Schwab Cup.
    - Would join Tom Lehman (2012), Bernhard Langer (2015), Bernhard Langer (2016)
- Looks to become the first player to lead the Charles Schwab Cup standings for every week of the season.
    - Has led for all 27 weeks of the 2026 season, and a streak of 28 consecutive weeks at No. 1, dating back to the 2025 Charles Schwab Cup Championship.
    - Fewest weeks trailing in the standings a season by the winner of the Charles Schwab Cup:
        - 2011: Tom Lehman trailed for one week (led 23 of 24 weeks)
        - 2014: Bernhard Langer trailed for one week (led 25 of 26 weeks)
- Seeks his second win at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (third start).
    - Previous finishes: T6 (2024), Won (2025)
- Looks to become the seventh multi-time winner of the Charles Schwab Cup Championship.
    - Would join Jim Thorpe (3), Tom Watson (3), John Cook (2), Raymond Floyd (2), Mike Hill (2), Kevin Sutherland (2)
- Looks to become the fourth player to go back-to-back at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship.
    - Would join Jim Thorpe (2006-07), John Cook (2009-10), Mike Hill (1990-91)
- Looks to achieve the fourth successful title defense of the 2026 season on PGA Tour Champions.
    - Previous instances: Steven Alker (Cologuard Classic), Darren Clarke (American Family Insurance Championship – team event with partner Ben Crane), Padraig Harrington (U.S. Senior Open)

Ernie Els, 32-32 – 64 (-7)
Charles Schwab Cup standings – Start: 8th / Projected: 4th

- The 57-year-old World Golf Hall of Fame member seeks his eighth win on PGA Tour Champions (151st start).
    - Last win: 2025 Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai
- Matched his low 18-hole score of the 2026 season (69th round).
    - Previous instance: 2026 Boeing Classic (Final Round)
- Seeks his first win of the 2026 season (22nd start).
    - Best finish: 2nd/T2 (three times)
        - 2nd (The Insperity)
        - 2nd (SAS Championship)
        - T2 (Hoag Classic)
    - Entered the week ranked No. 8 in the Charles Schwab Cup standings.
- Seeks his first win at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (sixth start).
    - Best finish: T2 (2023)

Other Notes

- Scottsdale resident **Steve Allan** (3rd) opened with 65 to match his 18-hole score of the 2026 season (75th round). The 53-year-old seeks his fourth win on PGA Tour Champions (72nd start).
    - Each of his previous three wins came in 2025 (most recent: Boeing Classic)
    - Best finish of 2026: T3 (Senior PGA Championship)
    - Previous instance of shooting 65: 2026 Rogers Charity Classic (Final Round)
- Charles Schwab No. 2 **Zach Johnson** (T20) carded 2-under 69. After playing his first seven holes in 4-under, Johnson played his final 11 holes in 2-over.
    - Johnson needs a minimum eighth-place finish (and help from Cink) to have a chance to win the Charles Schwab Cup. They are the only two players with a mathematical chance to win the Cup.

Race for the Charles Schwab Cup
The Charles Schwab Cup offers $2.1 million in prize money to the top-5 finishers at season's end. The winner of the season-long Charles Schwab Cup will be awarded $1 million and the 2nd–5th place finishers will receive prize money of $500,000, $300,000, $200,000, and $100,000, respectively.

Projected Charles Schwab Cup Standings After the First Round

	Player	Entered the Week
1	Stewart Cink	1st

2	Zach Johnson	2nd
3	Steven Alker	3rd
4	Ernie Els	8th
5	Padraig Harrington	4th