



FOR RELEASE: March 9, 2020

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## **Featured Groupings announced for THE PLAYERS Championship** *Top three players in the OWGR – McIlroy, Rahm, Koepka – grouped together*

**PONTE VEDRA BEACH, FLORIDA** – The PGA TOUR announced today the four featured groupings for Thursday-Friday at THE PLAYERS Championship, to be contested at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

Full groupings and starting times for the first two rounds of THE PLAYERS Championship will be released officially at approximately noon ET on Tuesday, March 10. To watch the featured groupings on Thursday-Friday, fans in the United States can tune into the Golf Channel telecast (1-7 p.m. ET). Additionally, PGA TOUR LIVE, the PGA TOUR's Over-The-Top subscription service, can be viewed via subscription on NBC Sports Gold ([www.nbcsports.com/pgatour](http://www.nbcsports.com/pgatour)) and Amazon Prime Video Channels ([amazon.com/video/pgatourlive](http://amazon.com/video/pgatourlive)). Audio coverage is also available on SiriusXM PGA TOUR Radio (Sirius 208, XM 92), and streams free via PGATOUR.COM ([pgatour.com/liveaudio](http://pgatour.com/liveaudio)) as well as the TOUR's official iPhone, iPad and Android apps.

### **THE PLAYERS Championship Featured Groupings**

#### **Late Thursday**

#### **Rory McIlroy, Jon Rahm, Brooks Koepka**

**Notable:** McIlroy (1), Rahm (2) and Koepka (3) are the top three players in the Official World Golf Ranking

- In 2019, McIlroy became the first player to win THE PLAYERS Championship and the FedExCup in the same season
- Rahm held the 54-hole lead at THE PLAYERS in 2019, the first of his PGA TOUR career, before closing with a 4-over 76 to finish T12
- In 2018, Koepka shot a course-record-tying 63 in the final round en route to his best finish at the event (T11)

#### **Viktor Hovland, Collin Morikawa, Matthew Wolff**

**Notable:** Each recent first-time winner is making his tournament debut at THE PLAYERS

- Hovland became the first PGA TOUR winner from Norway and the first rookie to win in 2019-20 when he won the 2020 Puerto Rico Open
- Morikawa holds the PGA TOUR's longest active made-cuts streak (21) and has not missed a cut since turning professional
- Wolff, a teammate of Hovland's at Oklahoma State, won the 2019 3M Open in just his fourth career start at age 20 to become the PGA TOUR's youngest winner since Jordan Spieth at the 2013 John Deere Classic

#### **Matt Kuchar, Henrik Stenson, Sergio Garcia**

**Notable:** Each player is a past champion of THE PLAYERS

- Kuchar, a nine-time PGA TOUR winner, won THE PLAYERS in 2012 and won twice during the 2018-19 season
- Stenson, along with Tiger Woods and Rory McIlroy, is one of three players to win THE PLAYERS, the FedExCup, a major championship and a World Golf Championships event
- In addition to his win in 2008, Garcia has runner-up finishes at THE PLAYERS in 2007 and 2015 as well as a third-place result in 2014

**Justin Rose, Adam Scott, Xander Schauffele**

- Rose, the 2017-18 FedExCup champion, earned his second top-10 at TPC Sawgrass in 2019 (T8)
- Scott, winner of THE PLAYERS in 2004, earned his 14<sup>th</sup> PGA TOUR title at this season's The Genesis Invitational
- Runner-up at THE PLAYERS in 2018, Schauffele is currently No. 12 in the FedExCup standings, having lost in playoffs at the WGC-HSBC Champions and Sentry Tournament of Champions

**Late Friday**

**Phil Mickelson, Dustin Johnson, Webb Simpson**

- Mickelson, a 44-time PGA TOUR winner, won THE PLAYERS in 2007
- Johnson, who recorded his first top-10 in the event in 2019 (T5), became the first player since Steve Elkington in 1997 to record all four rounds in the 60s at THE PLAYERS
- Winner of THE PLAYERS in 2018, Simpson enters the event No. 5 in the FedExCup standings with a win at the Waste Management Phoenix Open and a playoff loss at The RSM Classic

**Rickie Fowler, Justin Thomas, Jordan Spieth**

- Fowler, who won THE PLAYERS in 2015, has two top-10s in six starts on the season (T5/Sentry Tournament of Champions, T10/The American Express)
- Thomas enters the week No. 2 in the FedExCup standings and has finished no worse than No. 7 in the last three seasons (1st/2017, 7th/2018, 3rd/2019)
- Spieth's best result in six starts at THE PLAYERS came in 2014 when he finished in a tie for fourth

**Patrick Reed, Hideki Matsuyama, Patrick Cantlay**

- Reed earned his eighth PGA TOUR title at the WGC-Mexico Championship in February
- Matsuyama (No. 10) is the only player in the top 10 of the FedExCup standings without a win on the season; he has recorded three top-fives, highlighted by a solo-second at the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP in his home country of Japan
- Cantlay, a two-time PGA TOUR winner, finished a season-best runner-up at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open and is currently No. 6 in the Official World Golf Ranking

**Bryson DeChambeau, Sungjae Im, Gary Woodland**

- DeChambeau has finished in the top five in three consecutive starts (T5/The Genesis Invitational, 2<sup>nd</sup>/WGC-Mexico Championship, 4<sup>th</sup>/Arnold Palmer Invitational presented by Mastercard)
- Im holds the No. 1 position in the FedExCup standings, becoming the third-youngest player to reach that mark, behind Joaquin Niemann and Jordan Spieth
- Woodland, the reigning U.S. Open champion, has four top-10s on the season, including a T8 at The Honda Classic in his most recent start

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By showcasing golf's greatest players, the PGA TOUR engages, inspires and positively impacts our fans, partners and communities worldwide.

The PGA TOUR, headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, co-sanctions more than 130 tournaments on the PGA TOUR, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry Tour, PGA TOUR Latinoamérica, Mackenzie Tour- PGA TOUR Canada and PGA TOUR Series-China. Members on the PGA TOUR represent the world's best players, hailing from 29 countries and territories (93 members are from outside the United States). Worldwide, PGA TOUR tournaments are broadcast to 226 countries and territories in 23 languages. Virtually all tournaments are organized as non-profit organizations to maximize charitable giving. In 2019, tournaments across all Tours generated a record \$204.3 million for local and national charitable organizations, bringing the all-time total to more than \$3 billion.

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## **About PGA TOUR LIVE**

PGA TOUR LIVE is the PGA TOUR's Over-The-Top subscription service that features more than 1,100 hours of live video from 35 PGA TOUR events. Coverage showcases the TOUR's biggest stars with live Featured Groups coverage each week beginning at A Military Tribute at The Greenbrier and running through the TOUR Championship.

Fans can subscribe to PGA TOUR LIVE via NBC Sports Gold or Amazon Prime Video Channels, offering fans more viewing options and platforms than ever before. In addition to its exclusive live coverage, PGA TOUR LIVE now features Speed Rounds that showcase every shot from a Featured Player in under 10 minutes, as well as integrated statistics, rounds replays and event recaps.