



**2020 Workday Charity Open Message Document**

**Things to Know about the 2020 Workday Charity Open**

* **Dublin Double:** Following the cancellation of the John Deere Classic, which will return in 2021 for its 50th playing, the Workday Charity Open was created as a one-year, full-field open tournament, continuing the PGA TOUR’s Return to Golf efforts. Played at Muirfield Village Golf Club the week immediately preceding the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide, the tournament features 157\* players and will see variety in the golf course through its two-week stint. The Workday Charity Open was made possible thanks to its title sponsor, Workday, as well as the Muirfield Village Golf Club and the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide tournament host, Jack Nicklaus.
  + *The Workday Charity Open field was expanded to 157 with the addition of Chase Koepka. Koepka successfully Monday qualified for the Travelers Championship, but subsequently withdrew after coming into close contact with two caddies who tested positive for COVID-19. Despite testing negative for COVID-19 himself, Koepka withdrew for precautionary measures. PGA TOUR Chief of Operations Tyler Dennis said, “Given the extraordinary circumstances that led to his withdrawal after Monday qualifying, a start in the Workday Charity Open as a result of his selfless act was the right thing to do.”*
* **Field:** The Workday Charity Open boasts another strong field with five of the top 10 in the Official World Golf Ranking competing – Jon Rahm (2), Justin Thomas (5), Brooks Koepka (6), Patrick Reed (8) and Patrick Cantlay (9) – and 105 TOUR winners led by 44-time winner Phil Mickelson. Koepka returns to competition after withdrawing prior to the start of the Travelers Championship out of an abundance of caution following his caddie Ricky Elliott testing positive for COVID-19.
* **Opportunity:** Only six weeks and seven events remain until the start of the 2020 FedExCup Playoffs. Past FedExCup champions Justin Thomas (2) and Rory McIlroy (4) lurk at the top of the standings as the top 10 look to maintain their position in the Wyndham Rewards Top 10, a prize bonus pool which will reward the top-10 performers of the FedExCup Regular Season through the end of the Wyndham Championship. Brooks Koepka, who is No. 155 in the FedExCup standings after a limited season due to injury, won the inaugural Wyndham Rewards Top 10 in 2019.
* **Golf Course:** With Muirfield Village Golf Club hosting back-to-back PGA TOUR tournaments, there will be variation in the golf course set-up between the two weeks. In the words of Jack Nicklaus, it “gives us a chance to have some fun with the setup” at the Workday Charity Open.
  + For the Workday Charity Open, anticipate slightly shorter roughs to start the week in the 3.5-inch range, and green speeds in the 11s for the tournament, enabling more hole locations on the greens at Muirfield Village.
  + A greater-than-normal variety of tees will be used for the Workday Charity Open in order to preserve teeing areas typically used for the Memorial Tournament. As the Memorial Tournament typically only moves off the back tee at No. 16 (par-3) one day when the hole is tucked in front of the water hazard, there are potential plans to play Nos. 4 and 8 (par-3) on multiple tees, No. 7 and 15 (par-5s) on multiple tees, and play No. 14 (par-4) as a drivable par-4 at least one day as was done at the 2013 Presidents Cup.
  + The Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide will feature its traditional championship set-up, with the roughs being topped at 4 inches prior to the Memorial and green speeds increased to the 13’ -13.5’ range.
* **Health and Safety Plan Updates:** When the PGA TOUR launched its Return to Golf, it put into action a thorough health and safety plan, developed with input from PGA TOUR medical adviser Dr. Tom Hospel, an expert in infectious diseases from the Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health and the Federal Coronavirus Task Force as well as other specialists and laboratory directors and in consultation with the other professional sports leagues. Now in the fifth week of Return to Golf, the TOUR has been committed to learning from an operational standpoint and adjusting protocols in place in order to mitigate risk and promote the health and safety of all involved, including players, caddies, staff and volunteers. With that in mind, the TOUR has made the following changes, (*most recent listed first*)
  + change to policy re: players who test positive but are asymptomatic. In accordance with CDC guidelines, a player or caddie who tests positive for COVID-19 but has not had any symptoms may return to competition if he returns two negative tests results, a minimum of 24 hours apart;
  + adjustment to stipend program and at-home testing protocols;
  + additional testing for those traveling on the charter flight;
  + potential withholding of the stipend program if a player tests positive after not following protocols;
  + the return of the TOUR fitness truck to encourage use of on-site facilities;
  + in the COVID-19 pre-tournament testing process, players, along with all other individuals “inside the bubble,” will now not be allowed on host facility property until first being cleared with a negative in-market test.

**IMPACT**

* Workday is committing $1 million in support of the Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio. Recognized as one of the country’s top pediatric facilities, Nationwide Children’s Hospital is an important charitable partner to the PGA TOUR. Since its inception, the Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide has generated more than $22 million in charitable giving to Nationwide Children’s, with over $14 million generated since Nationwide began its partnership with the Memorial in 2011. Through the addition of the Workday Charity Open, Nationwide Children’s will benefit further from the PGA TOUR’s two-week stop in Dublin.
* In addition, Workday is donating $500,000 to the Oakland-based Eat. Learn. Play. Foundation founded by three-time NBA champion and two-time MVP Stephen Curry of the Golden State Warriors and entrepreneur, host and *The New York Times* bestselling author Ayesha Curry.
* Closing the Gap Challenge: Workday’s marketing strategy is centered around equality, under a program called “Closing the Gap Challenge.” They will be asking fans to support the Challenge because “equality doesn’t exist until it exists for all of us.”
* Similar to the Charles Schwab Challenge, the Workday Charity Open will be hosting an auction/sweeps to raise money. Using Rally Up, they will have experiential items available for both auction and sweepstakes opportunities. The auction will benefit Nationwide Children’s Hospital, the Eat. Learn. Play foundation and Year Up.

**Featured Groupings (FedExCup rank listed)**

**Thursday**

**12:59 p.m., No. 1 (Friday – 7:34 a.m., No. 10) – Patrick Reed (6), Matthew Wolff (44), Rickie Fowler (84)**

* Reed has one win (World Golf Championships-Mexico Championship) and one runner-up (Sentry Tournament of Champions) in 12 starts on the season
* Wolff held a three-stroke lead heading into the final round of last week’s Rocket Mortgage Classic before finishing second to Bryson DeChambeau
* Fowler enters the week No. 84 in the FedExCup standings and has never finished the season worse than 43rd in his career (2010-present)

**1:10 p.m., No. 1 (Friday – 7:45 a.m., No. 10) – Patrick Cantlay (34), Phil Mickelson (90), Jordan Spieth (95)**

* Cantlay, who will be defending his Memorial Tournament presented by Nationwide title next week at Muirfield Village, has not missed a cut in 15 starts since the 2019 Zurich Classic of New Orleans, tied for the longest active streak on TOUR (Tyrrell Hatton, Paul Casey)
* In his most recent start, Mickelson held the 36-hole lead at the Travelers Championship before finishing T24, his first start since turning 50 on June 16
* Spieth enters the week No. 95 in the FedExCup standings; since 2009, he is one of only two players to stand outside the top 50 with six weeks remaining and finish the Regular Season inside the Wyndham Rewards Top 10, accomplishing the feat in 2013

**Friday**

**12:59 p.m., No. 1 (Thursday – 7:34 a.m., No. 10) – Jon Rahm (24), Viktor Hovland (35), Jason Day (101)**

* Hovland has finished in the top 25 at each of the four events since the season resumed (T23/Charles Schwab Challenge, T21/RBC Heritage, T11/Travelers Championship, T12/Rocket Mortgage Classic)
* Rahm is currently No. 24 in the FedExCup standings and qualified for the TOUR Championship in each of his first three seasons on TOUR
* With five top-10s in 11 starts, Woodland enters the week No. 38 in the FedExCup standings

**1:10 p.m., No. 1 (Thursday – 7:45 a.m., No.10) – Justin Thomas (2), Gary Woodland (38), Brooks Koepka (155)**

* Thomas, No. 2 in the FedExCup standings, has two top-10s since the season resumed (T10/Charles Schwab Challenge, T8/RBC Heritage)
* Koepka is making his first start since withdrawing before the start of the Travelers Championship out of an abundance of caution following his caddie testing positive for COVID-19.
* Day, who resides just outside of Columbus, has made one cut in four starts since the season resumed (T46/Travelers Championship)

**Interview Schedule**

**Tuesday, June 7**

10 a.m. – Matthew Fitzpatrick

11 a.m. – Gary Young  
12:30 p.m. – Bo Hoag

1 p.m. – Justin Thomas

**Wednesday, June 8**

9 a.m. – Matthew Wolff

10 a.m. – Jon Rahm

1 p.m. – Ryan Armour

2 p.m. – Brandon Wu