**2020 Safeway Open Message Document**

**Things to know about the 2020 Safeway Open**

1. **Season Opener:** On the heels of the conclusion to the 2019-20 PGA TOUR Season and the crowning of the 2020 FedExCup champion, the 2020-21 season kicks off this week at the Safeway Open in Napa, California. The 2020-21 schedule features 50 official FedExCup tournaments – including 14 tournaments that were postponed or canceled as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, beginning with next week’s U.S. Open – and will span this fall, with a record 12 events, through Labor Day weekend in 2021. The tournament, contested at Silverado Resort and Spa’s North Course, will serve as the season-opener for the seventh time in eight years since the TOUR went to a wraparound schedule. A recipient of the PGA TOUR’s tournament award for “Most Fan-First Event” due to its unique food and drink offerings and concert line-ups, the 2020 Safeway Open will be played without fans in attendance and in accordance with local, state and PGA TOUR health and safety protocols.
2. **Fresh Start:** As the PGA TOUR enters its 15th season of the FedExCup, the Safeway Open marks a fresh start in the season-long race. Fall events have become a must-play portion of the schedule, as eight of the 10 different winners in the fall of 2019 – including 2019 Safeway Open winner Cameron Champ – qualified for the season-ending TOUR Championship, the most since the wraparound season began.
3. **The more things change…:** While a player’s eligibility status may have changed, all players who began the 2019-20 season with status, retained the status into 2020-21, with additions limited to first-year members Will Gordon and Erik van Rooyen, and players taking a Career Money Exemption. *Please note: Gordon and van Rooyen are classified as “first-year members” and not rookies, as 2019-20 represented their rookie season.*
4. **Welcome back:** Phil Mickelson headlines the 2020 Safeway Open field, fresh off his first victory in his PGA TOUR Champions debut at the Charles Schwab Series at Ozarks National after his PGA TOUR season came to an end following the first FedExCup Playoffs event, THE NORTHERN TRUST. Mickelson has competed at the Safeway Open every year since 2016, highlighted by a T3 in 2017. The 44-time PGA TOUR winner, who historically competes the week before a major, will head into next week’s U.S. Open looking to complete the Career Grand Slam in the major where he owns a record six runner-ups. Fellow PGA TOUR Champions winner this season and 2003 U.S. Open champion Jim Furyk joins Mickelson, as the 17-time PGA TOUR winner makes his second start at the Safeway Open. Mickelson and Furyk are among four players in the field with double-digit TOUR wins, including Jordan Spieth and Sergio Garcia, who ended their 2019-20 season No. 107 and No. 135 in the FedExCup, respectively.
5. **IMPACT:** Albertsons Companies, the parent company of Safeway Inc., and Albertsons Companies Foundation have committed a total of $53 million in support of COVID-19 relief efforts. The company, whose associates have been on the front lines since the start of the crisis, initially pledged $3 million to community hunger relief in March, and committed an additional $50 million in June to fight hunger. The tournament will honor “Community Heroes” – including COVID-19 healthcare workers, but also local firefighters, grocery store workers, and so on – by hosting frontline workers on-site through the Honorary Observer program.
6. **How to watch**: With fans currently not allowed on-site at PGA TOUR tournaments, there are more ways now than ever to follow the action virtually. Fans in the United States can tune into the Golf Channel telecast as well as PGA TOUR LIVE, the PGA TOUR’s Over-The-Top subscription service. PGA TOUR LIVE is available via subscription on NBC Sports Gold (www.nbcsports.com/pgatour) and Amazon Prime Video Channels (amazon.com/video/pgatourlive) in the United States, and GOLFTV powered by PGA TOUR outside the United States. Live audio coverage is also available on SiriusXM PGA TOUR Radio (Sirius 208, XM 92), and streams free via PGATOUR.COM (pgatour.com/liveaudio) as well as the TOUR’s official iPhone, iPad and Android apps. Follow the action on your mobile device with the PGA TOUR App featuring TOURCast, a video and 3-D graphics experience, and TOURPulse, an evolution of the leaderboard that combines traditional scoring with artificial intelligence-created content.

**Safeway Open Featured Groupings**

**Thursday**

**12:30 p.m., No. 1 (Friday: 7:30 a.m., No. 10) – Brandt Snedeker, Jordan Spieth, Jim Furyk
Notable: Spieth (2015), Snedeker (2012), and Furyk (2010) have each won the FedExCup**

* Snedeker will make his fifth start in the Safeway Open where he finished T2 in 2018
* Spieth, who is in search of his first TOUR victory since the 2017 Open Championship, will make his first start in the Safeway Open after ending the 2019-20 season No. 107 in the FedExCup
* Furyk, who made 13 starts on the PGA TOUR in 2019-20 and won in his lone start on PGA TOUR Champions (The Ally Challenge) in August, will make his second start in the Safeway Open (T17/2019)

**12:40 p.m., No. 1 (Friday: 7:40 a.m., No. 10) – Keegan Bradley, Pat Perez, Kevin Streelman**

* Bradley, who is making his first start at the Safeway Open since 2017, finished the 2019-20 season No. 99 in the FedExCup standings and qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs for the 10th consecutive season.
* Perez, whose 2019-20 season was highlighted by a solo-third at the Shriners Hospitals for Children Open, won one of three PGA TOUR titles in California (2009 The American Express)
* Streelman was one of only two players with multiple solo-second finishes during the 2019-20 season, recording runner-ups at the AT&T Pebble Beach Pro-Am and Travelers Championship (other player: Abraham Ancer); Ended the season No. 32 in the FedExCup, his best finish since 2013.

**Friday**

**12:30 p.m., No. 1 (Thursday: 7:30 a.m., No. 10) – Shane Lowry, Phil Mickelson, Brendan Steele**

* Winner of The Open Championship in 2019, Lowry is playing a domestic event during the fall portion of the PGA TOUR schedule for the first time in his career
* Mickelson, who won in his PGA TOUR Champions debut in his most recent competitive start, is making his fifth consecutive start at the Safeway Open and has two top-10s in that span (T8/2016, T3/2017)
* A two-time winner of the Safeway Open (2016, 2017), Steele finished the 2019-20 season No. 47 in the FedExCup standings after three top-10s

**12:40 p.m., No. 1 (Thursday: 7:40 a.m., No. 10) – Kevin Tway, Sergio Garcia, Emiliano Grillo
Notable: Tway (2018) and Grillo (2015) each won the Safeway Open via playoffs**

* Tway won the 2018 Safeway Open for his maiden PGA TOUR title, becoming the 10th son of a PGA TOUR winner to win on TOUR (son of Bob Tway)
* A 10-time PGA TOUR winner, Garcia will make his tournament debut after ending the 2019-20 season at No. 135 in the FedExCup standings
* Grillo, winner of the 2015 Safeway Open, finished the 2019-20 season No. 93 in the FedExCup standings, his fifth straight season qualifying for the FedExCup Playoffs

**Pre-Tournament Interview Schedule**

**Tuesday, September 8**

Shane Lowry – 1 p.m.

Harry Higgs – 2 p.m.

**Wednesday, September 9**

Jim Furyk

Sergio Garcia