

**2020 THE RSM CLASSIC MESSAGE DOCUMENT**

**Things to Know about the 2020 RSM Classic**

* **Georgia on my Mind:** The PGA TOUR travels 200 miles south from Augusta to Sea Island, Georgia for the 11th playing of The RSM Classic, the TOUR’s annual stop in the beautiful Golden Isles. Played on two courses at Sea Island Golf Club, Seaside and Plantation, 156 players will compete in the penultimate event of the fall portion of the PGA TOUR schedule. Like the majority of events since the TOUR returned to competition amid the COVID-19 pandemic, The RSM Classic will not host spectators on-site in 2020, with tournament amenities like on-site hospitality and a Saturday night concert postponed until 2021. The RSM Classic Charity Putting Challenge – a tournament staple which raises funds for charities including the Boys and Girls Club of Southeast Georgia and the Special Olympics – will take place on Tuesday afternoon without beneficiary participants, but will have the support of TOUR players, including RSM ambassadors Davis Love III, Zach Johnson, Chris Kirk and Andy Sullivan.
* **Legends of the Fall:** The fall portion of the PGA TOUR season has never been more important as the TOUR embarks on a ‘super season’ of 50 events in 2020-21, including a record 12 fall events. There are 6,200 FedExCup points available for winners in the fall events the season, the most ever since the start of the wraparound schedule in 2013-14, with 26 percent of FedExCup points for winners available in the fall. Since 2013-14 when the wraparound season began, all seven winners of The RSM Classic qualified for the FedExCup Playoffs, with four advancing to the TOUR Championship (2013 Chris Kirk/2nd, 2014 Robert Streb/18th, 2015 Kevin Kisner/23rd, 2018 Charles Howell III/28th).
* **Sea Island Stories:**
	+ **Davis’ event:** Tournament host **Davis Love III** will not compete due to an ongoing neck injury
	+ **Major additions:** The field includes 14 major winners, highlighted by two-time major winner and Sea Island resident **Zach Johnson; Webb Simpson** returns after his playoff loss to **Tyler Duncan** in 2019; **Jason Day** and **Henrik Stenson** each return for the first time since 2012; **Justin Rose**, **Shane Lowry**, **Danny Willett** and **Keegan Bradley** all make tournament debuts
	+ **600 Club: Stewart Cink**, winner of the 2020 Safeway Open, will make his 600th career professional start at The RSM Classic becoming the most recent player – and 68th overall – to make 600 or more starts on the PGA TOUR (amateur and professional); **Brian Gay**, winner of the 2020 Bermuda Championship, is the last player to cross the 600th mark (at the 2020 Safeway Open)
	+ **Dawgs on TOUR: Hudson Swafford**, who returned to the winner’s circle earlier this season at the Corales Puntacana Resort and Club Championship, leads the local contingent of players at No. 12 in the FedExCup; former UGA teammate **Harris English** finished a career-best 12th in the 2019-20 FedExCup standings
	+ **World’s Best (Amateur):** Sponsor exemption **Davis Thompson** will make his fourth PGA TOUR start; The University of Georgia senior is the No. 1-ranked amateur in the world and is son of The RSM Classic tournament director Todd Thompson
* **Birdies Fore Love:** The RSM Birdies Fore Love concludes this week in which the top three players will be awarded $300,000, $150,000 and $50,000, respectively, for charity for recording the most total birdies (or better) from the first 11 fall PGA TOUR events.
	+ A new addition to the program this year will be that players’ birdies (or better) will count for two points instead of one at The RSM Classic, so that more players will have a chance to move up the leaderboard in Sea Island.
	+ Winning players are encouraged to designate the funds to charitable organizations dedicated to building tomorrow’s middle market leaders through programs that support education, as well as organizations committed to improving the lives of youth through a focus on hunger, housing and health – organizations aligned with the RSM US Foundation’s areas of focus.
	+ Added in 2019 and continuing this season, the player who records the most birdies (or better) in each fall event, excluding major championships, earns $50,000 for a charity of his choice.
	+ In total, TOUR players will generate close to $1 million for charities during the fall portion of the schedule through RSM Birdies Fore Love.
	+ Sunjae Im, who finished T2 at last week’s Masters Tournament, currently leads RSM Birdies Fore Love entering the final event

**Current birdie (or better) totals thru the Masters Tournament (\**bold indicates not in the field)***

1            Sungjae Im 123
2            Sebastián Muñoz 112

3 Tom Hoge 107

4 Corey Conners 105

5 Sepp Straka 103

**6 Scottie Scheffler 100**

7            Brian Harman 99

**8 Si Woo Kim 98**

**9 Hideki Matsuyama 97**

10 Beau Hossler 96

**Featured Groupings**

**Thursday**

10:10 a.m. Tyler Duncan, Kevin Kisner, Charles Howell III

10:20 a.m. Sungjae Im, Justin Rose, Matt Kuchar

**Friday**

10:00 a.m. Jason Kokrak, Stewart Cink, Webb Simpson

10:10 a.m. Hudson Swafford, Jason Day, Harris English

**Pre-Tournament Interviews**

**Tuesday, November 17**

11 a.m. - Davis Thompson

12 noon - Sungjae Im (transcript only)

12:30 p.m. - Davis Love III

2 p.m. - Tyler Duncan

2:45 p.m. - Harris English

**Wednesday, November 18**

8:15 a.m. - Webb Simpson

10 a.m. - Hudson Swafford

1 p.m. - Stewart Cink