

**2021 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP Message Document**

**Things to know about the 2021 ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP**

1. **ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP Returns to Japan:** After being played in the United States in 2020 due to the pandemic, the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP, Japan’s first official PGA TOUR event, returns to its home country at Accordia Golf Narashino Country Club in Chiba, marking the first time the TOUR has played in Asia since the event’s debut in 2019. The tournament’s history is short, but has been significant; In the inaugural event, Tiger Woods defeated Japan’s Hideki Matsuyama to tie Sam Snead for the PGA TOUR’s all-time victories record of 82. In 2020, with the event relocated to Sherwood Country Club in California, Patrick Cantlay picked up his first of a season-best four victories in 2020-21 en route to winning the 2021 FedExCup. (*Note: Woods, Cantlay are not in the field*). The TOUR has worked closely with the Japanese government on a health, safety and prevention plan which will allow tournament participants to travel into Japan. All aspects of the tournament operation have been made in consultation with the Japanese government, local prefectural and city governments. Only 5,000 fans will be permitted onsite daily for the competition rounds.
2. **Japanese Pride Takes Stride**: The 2021 field features 19 Japanese players and a number of PGA TOUR stars with ties to Japan. Headlining is Japanese native and reigning Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama. The six-time PGA TOUR winner returns to Japan in search of his first ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP title after finishing second to Tiger Woods in 2019, representing Japan in the Summer Olympic Games Tokyo 2020, and since becoming the first male golfer from Japan to win a major. Joining Matsuyama will also be Olympic Men’s Golf Competition Gold Medalist Xander Schauffele, five-time PGA TOUR winner and two-time major champion Collin Morikawa, and 2015 PLAYERS Championship winner Rickie Fowler. The field also includes Satoshi Kodaira (2018 RBC Heritage winner), Ryuji Imada (2008 AT&T Classic winner), Takumi Kanaya, former No. 1 in the World Amateur Golf Ranking and recipient of the 2020 McCormack Medal, and current World No. 1 amateur, Keita Nakajima, who made it back-to-back wins for Japan in the McCormack Medal when he won in 2021.
3. **JGTO players in the field**: The leading seven members on the Japan Golf Tour money list following the conclusion of the Bridgestone Open earned spots in the ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP. In order of ranking: Ryosuke Kinoshita, Scott Vincent, Chan Kim, Rikuya Hoshino, Tomoharu Otsuki, Takumi Kanaya and Shugo Imahira. In addition, the Bridgestone Open winner, Tomoyasu Sugiyama, Naoyuki Kataoka and Jinichiro Kozuma, who were the next highest finishers in the Bridgestone Open, will also compete along with sponsor exempts Kazuki Higa, Ryo Hisatsune, Naoto Nakanishi, Kodaira, Imada and Nakajima.
4. **Sponsor Exemptions**: The ZOZO CHAMPIONSHIP sponsor exemptions include five-time European Tour winner Tommy Fleetwood and PGA TOUR winner Wesley Bryan, who will make his first start since the 2021 AT&T Byron Nelson in May after a wrist injury.
5. **ZOZO Inc:** Operates Japan’s largest fashion e-commerce sites “ZOZOTOWN”, and other category-specific web malls such as “ZOZOCOSME” and “ZOZOSHOES” as well as “ZOZOUSED” for pre-loved fashion items, “ZOZOVILLA” for luxury, high-end designer’s brands and “YOUR BRAND PROJECT” for unique influencer brands. ZOZO also plan and develop various services aimed for fashion lovers such as the Lookbook app “WEAR”, while also engaging in development and utilization of unique measurement technologies such as “ZOZOSUIT 2”, “ZOZOMAT” and “ZOZOGLASS”. Its corporate slogan – Make the world a better place, bring smiles to the world – sees the group promoting a fun working environment for its employees and ZOZO aspires to make the world a better place through the power of fashion by bringing its own unique culture to the traditional golf market in Japan.

**Featured Groupings** (All Times Local)

**Thursday**

10:09 a.m., No. 1 (Friday: 8:52 a.m., No. 10) – Carlos Ortiz, Joaquin Niemann, Will Zalatoris

10:20 a.m., No. 1 (Friday: 9:03 a.m., No. 10) – Hideki Matsuyama, C.T. Pan, Xander Schauffele

**Friday**

10:20 a.m., No. 1 (Thursday: 9:14 a.m., No. 10) – Ryan Palmer, Rickie Fowler, Harry Higgs

10:09 a.m., No. 1 (Thursday: 9:03 a.m., No. 10) – Erik van Rooyen, Collin Morikawa, Garrick Higgo

**Pre-Tournament Interviews**

**Tuesday**

Will Zalatoris – 2.30pm

**Wednesday**

Xander Schauffele – 8:45 a.m.

Collin Morikawa – 9:30 a.m.

Rickie Fowler – 11:00 a.m.

Hideki Matsuyama –TBD