



## **2009 Champions Tour Fact Sheet**

### **Name**

PGA TOUR's Champions Tour (first reference)

**Headquarters** 112 PGA TOUR Boulevard, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082, Phone: 904.285.3700

### **Commissioner**

Timothy W. Finchem (since June 1, 1994)

### **President**

Mike Stevens (since June 1, 2008)

### **Web Site**

[PGATOUR.com](http://PGATOUR.com)

### **About the Champions Tour**

The Champions Tour collectively, has the most recognizable and accomplished players in the game with 15 World Golf Hall of Fame Members actively competing in its events and numerous other major championship winners among its members. Conceived in 1980 as the Senior PGA Tour, it started with just four events and purses totaling \$475,000. The Champions Tour will feature a minimum of 26 official events offering \$51.4 million in prize money in 2009 and its highest average purse ever of \$1.98 million. The Champions Tour is a division of the PGA TOUR, Inc., a tax-exempt membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older and as such operates under the umbrella of the PGA TOUR which includes the PGA TOUR, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour. The Champions Tour's primary purpose as an entity of the PGA TOUR is to provide significant competitive and earnings opportunities for players age 50 and older; to protect the integrity of the game; and to help grow the reach of the game in the U.S. and around the world. In addition to providing competitive opportunities for its membership, Champions Tour events also generate significant sums of money for charity. The commissioner of the PGA TOUR is Tim Finchem. Mike Stevens is president of the Champions Tour. TOUR headquarters is in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida.

### **History**

1980 – 2009. The Tour enters its 30th season in 2009.

### **Charity**

The Champions Tour and its tournaments generate significant sums of money for charity and were a contributing factor in 2008 to tournaments on all three Tours (PGA TOUR, Champions Tour and Nationwide Tour) and the PGA TOUR itself, donating over \$120 million to charitable and community organizations. The PGA TOUR surpassed the \$1 billion mark in all-time charitable giving in 2005. While it took 67 years to reach that total, all three Tours are now on track to achieve the second billion in the next four to six years. The tournaments on all three Tours vividly demonstrate each year that Giving Back is the Heart of the PGA TOUR. Champions Tour players, sponsors, tournament organizations, and volunteers and fans can all

take pride in their role in ensuring that golf is a sport that leaves each of our communities better off for the presence of one of our Champions Tour events.

### 2009 Schedule

There are 26 official Charles Schwab Cup events, plus a lineup of two Challenge / unofficial events that are played in January and December. The Tour will play in 15 states in the U.S., plus the Dominican Republic and England.

Mitsubishi Electric and Triton Financial are new title sponsors on the Champions Tour, The Champions Tour's season begins in January on the Big Island of Hawaii with the Mitsubishi Electric Championship at Hualalai (Jan. 19-25). The Triton Financial Classic will be held June 1-7 in Austin, TX. The season will come to a close in late October at the Charles Schwab Cup Championship (Oct. 26-Nov. 1) at Sonoma (CA) Golf Club.

The Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort & Spa in Savannah, GA will once again serve as host to the Champions Tour's longest running event, the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, which enters its 32<sup>nd</sup> year. The Legends Division remains a two-man better ball event counting for official prize money and as an official win for both each team members.

For the sixth straight year, junior golfers and Champions Tour players will compete side-by-side in one of the most popular and unique events in golf, the Walmart First Tee Open at Pebble Beach, held at the renowned Pebble Beach Golf Links and Del Monte Golf Course over Labor Day weekend.

### Major Championships (5)

The major championships feature a distinguished list of venues. The Senior PGA Championship will be played May 18-21 at Canterbury Golf Club in Cleveland, OH, which annually ranks as one of *Golfweek's* Top 100 Greatest Golf Courses in America and has hosted a number of significant U.S. men's championships since 1932. Sunningdale Golf Club in Berkshire, England will welcome the Senior British Open to its links July 20-26. Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, IN will host the U.S. Senior Open on its Pete Dye course July 27-August 2. Both the JELD-WEN Tradition (Crosswater Club at Sunriver Resort) August 17-23 and Constellation Energy Senior Players Championship (Baltimore Country Club) September 28 – October 4 will return to their respective host venues for a third straight year.

### Prize Money

\$51.4 million – Official Charles Schwab Cup (26 events)  
\$1.86 million – Challenge / Unofficial (2 events)

### Charles Schwab Cup

The Charles Schwab Cup, now in its ninth season, designed to recognize the Champions Tour's leading player, rewards both top finishes and week-in/week-out consistency in all official events. Players receive points for top-10 finishes and ties based on each week's money distribution, with \$1,000 earned being the equivalent of one Charles Schwab Cup point, with double points awarded at the five major championships and the season-ending Charles Schwab Cup Championship. **Jay Haas** won the Cup in 2008 by the slimmest margin ever of 12 points over **Fred Funk**. The Season-long points competition kicks off in Hawaii with 26 official events and *The Road to the Charles Schwab Cup* culminates in Northern California at Sonoma Golf Club, October 26 – November 1, with \$2.1 million in payout awarded to the season's top five leading performers with \$1 million to the winner.

### Size of Field

In 2008, the field size for Champions Tour events will be 78 players, except at those tournaments that have specific eligibility criteria. See "Eligibility" below for details of a standard 78-player field.

## Eligibility

### 2009 Champions Tour Eligibility Requirements

In order to be eligible for an official Champions Tour event, a player must be attain age 50 on or before the day of his first tournament obligation (e.g. Wed.-Thurs. pro-am, date of Pre-Qualifying, date of Event Qualifying, etc.). The field size at the majority of Champions Tour events in 2009 will be 78 players up to a maximum of 81 players based on the eligibility listed below.

There were several eligibility changes for the 2009 season that are highlighted as follows:

- The top five finishers from the 2008 National Qualifying Tournament received exempt cards for 2009, with finishers six through twelve receiving conditional cards.
- The number of spots available at Event Qualifying (weekly) will be reduced from a maximum of nine spots to four.
- If the floors for the Prior Year Money List (30 players, floor of 50) and All Time Money List (30 players, floor of Net 70) are reached and less than 60 players are in the field from these two categories, additional players from the PGA TOUR Career Victory Category will be used to fill the field to 64 players before proceeding to the next eligibility category.
- Unrestricted sponsor exemptions have been reduced from three to two, and restricted sponsor exemptions increased from two to three. The additional restricted sponsor exemption must be used on a committed eligible player from the PGA TOUR Career Victory Category. If no such player is available, the restricted sponsor exemption converts to an unrestricted sponsor exemption.
- The maximum number of top ten finishers advancing to the next tournament is reduced from two to one. A top ten finisher will reduce Event Qualifying spots from four to three. Players will not be able to Top Ten into or out of major championships, invitationals or special eligibility events, thus assuring no less than three qualifying spots available at every Event Qualifier.
- The Reorder Category is comprised of players among the top 75 on the Champions Tour current year money list, plus the top 12 finishers from the 2008 Champions Tour National Qualifying Tournament and members remaining eligible via the Special Medical Extension Category as of the implementation date. In 2009 this category will be implemented using the current year money list through the JELD-WEN Tradition. The Reorder Category will replace the National Qualifying Tournament category for the last six full field events of the year. In 2008, the Reorder Category was used for the last four full field events of the year.
- Players eligible for the PGA TOUR Career Victory Category will be placed on the alternate list after players from the All Time and Prior Year Money List categories and before Special Medical Extensions, National Qualifying Tournament #6 through #12, Past Champions and Veteran Members.

Following is the 2009 Eligibility-At-A-Glance:

**CHAMPIONS TOUR  
ELIGIBILITY-AT- A-GLANCE  
Standard Field Size: 78 Players**

1. 30 players -- Available from Prior Year Money, floor of 50
2. 30 players -- Available from All-Time Money, floor of net 70 (not exempt in #1)
3. 4 players -- PGA TOUR Career Victory Category (not exempt in #1 or #2)
  - If category #1 & #2 are met, additional players from the PGA TOUR Career Victory category will be used to fill the field to 64 players before proceeding to category #4.
4. 5 players -- Top Five Available from National Qualifying Tournament, floor of 12
  - National Qualifying Tournament players #6 – #12 gain access as needed to complete this category to 5 players or when categories #1-#5 “floor out”. This category remains in place until the implementation of the Reorder Category.
5. Space Available -- Special Medical Extension (not exempt in #1 - #4)
  - On a space available basis (i.e. special medical is positioned prior to #6 Q-School) until the implementation of the Reorder Category.
6. 5 players -- Invited by the Tournament
  - Three spots restricted: (2) players w/ one PGA TOUR or Champions win and Veteran member status; plus (1) PGA TOUR Career Victory Category eligible player. If there is not a Career Victory player available the spot reverts back to an unrestricted exemption.
  - Two spots unrestricted
7. 4 players -- Event Qualifying
  - NOTE: Top Ten Advance – maximum of one player not exempt in #1 - #6 (or Reorder Category when implemented) will reduce event qualifying spots by one (from four to three).

**The following players will be added to the field to a maximum of 81:**

- Non-Exempt Tournament Winners;
- Committed and eligible players from the All-Time Victory Category;
- “Major” Medical Extensions

**NOTE:** *Should any combination of the above move the starting field above 81 players, restricted then unrestricted Sponsor Exemptions would be reduced in alternating order.*

**Reorder Category**

The Reorder Category will be established using the Champions Tour Official Money List and will replace the National Qualifying Category upon implementation.

All Champions Tour players, not otherwise exempt, 75th or better on the Champions Tour Current Year Money List, along with the top 12 finishers from the 2008 Champions Tour National Qualifying Tournament and members remaining eligible via the Special Medical Extension Category, shall be eligible for the Reorder Category. Eligible players will be ranked in order based upon each player’s position on the Champions Tour Official Money List as of the implementation date. In 2009 this category will be implemented using the current year money list through the JELD-WEN Tradition. The Reorder Category will be in effect for the last six (6) full-field events of the season. Priority order within this category will not change for the remainder of the season.

### **Alternates**

After the commitment deadline, withdrawals will be replaced by the first available player on the All-Time Money List and Prior Year Money List in alternating order. If all available players from Categories #1 and #2 are in the field (“floor out”), additional players in the following priority order will fill the field as alternates, as necessary: PGA TOUR Career Victory; Special Medical; National Qualifying Tournament #6 - #12 (Replaced by Reorder Category upon implementation); Past Champions; and Veteran Members.

### **Event Qualifying**

A maximum of the top 4 low scorers at a Qualifying event for each cosponsored, open, full-field event will be entered into the starting field. Such qualifying events will take place on Monday or Tuesday of tournament week.

The available positions via the Event Qualifier shall be reduced to three (3) should any player be eligible under the category Top Ten from Previous Tournament.

The Event Qualifier shall only be open to professionals, age 50 and over, the field of which shall be comprised of the following: Players finishing among the top 30 plus ties in the Champions Tour National Qualifying Tournament, Tournament Winners on the PGA TOUR and Champions Tour (including team victories), PGA TOUR and Champions Tour Veteran Members, those players finishing 31-75 on the Previous Year’s Official Money List, six players from a local Open “Pre-Qualifying” event hosted prior to this Event Qualifier and any Event Qualifier competing in the immediately preceding cosponsored or approved event that would otherwise be required to compete in the Pre-Qualifier.

### **Top Ten from the Previous Tournament**

If not otherwise exempt into the tournament by the Friday 5:00p.m. deadline, a maximum of one (1) player finishing in the top ten or tied for 10<sup>th</sup> place in a co-sponsored, open, full-field event will advance into the next co-sponsored, open, full-field event reducing Event Qualifying spots accordingly. (NOTE: Players will not be eligible to Top Ten into or out of major championships, invitational or special eligibility events.)

### **Membership**

Champions Tour members hail from around the globe. In 2009, 29 international players have full or partial Tour exemptions. Eighteen countries besides the United States are represented; they include Argentina, Australia, Canada, England, Germany, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, Namibia, New Zealand, Puerto Rico, Scotland, South Africa, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Wales, and Zimbabwe.

### **World Golf Hall of Fame Members**

The following 27 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame are members of the Champions Tour: (15 Hall of Fame members [in **bold**] are currently active): **Isao Aoki**, Deane Beman, Billy Casper, **Bob Charles**, **Ben Crenshaw**, Roberto De Vicenzo, Nick Faldo, **Raymond Floyd**, **Hubert Green**, **Hale Irwin**, Tony Jacklin, **Tom Kite**, **Bernhard Langer**, Gene Littler, Johnny Miller, **Larry Nelson**, Jack Nicklaus, **Greg Norman**, Arnold Palmer, **Gary Player**, **Nick Price**, Chi Chi Rodriguez, Charlie Sifford, **Curtis Strange**, Peter Thomson, **Lee Trevino** and **Tom Watson**. The 15 Hall of Fame members who are currently active account for 48 major championships and 266 PGA TOUR victories total, 188 Champions Tour titles and over 354 International wins. Former members who played on the Champions Tour include Tommy Bolt, Julius Boros, Paul Runyan and Sam Snead.

### **Fan Features**

The Champions Tour's Fan Features are designed to give the Tour a distinct identity and complement the high level of skill displayed by its members in tournament play. The Champions

Tour seeks to be the most approachable, accessible and fan-friendly arena, not only in golf, but in all of sports. The program has had significant impact as evidenced by the positive feedback received weekly from tournament organizers, sponsors and fans, with players going out of their way to support the features. Fan Features include live television interviews during play, gallery in the fairway, honorary observers, caddie for a day, behind-the-scenes tours, junior clinics, a game-improvement platform, and more.

## TV

All 26 events are televised nationally in the United States, with 19 receiving complete coverage on the GOLF CHANNEL, the Tour's exclusive cable television partner that reaches over 82 million homes in the U.S. and 38 million homes internationally.

The five major championships will have network coverage on the weekend (NBC – Senior PGA Championship, Senior U.S. Open, JELD-WEN Tradition and Constellation Energy Senior Players Championship; ABC – Senior British Open). Additionally CBS will telecast weekend coverage of the Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf, while NBC will offer weekend coverage of the Outback Steakhouse Pro-Am.

## International TV

Champions Tour telecasts are distributed internationally in Canada, Europe, Africa, Middle East, Asia, Australasia, and Latin America through various distribution partners. The events air live, tape-delayed or in a highlights-package format in some 103 to 112 countries reaching 70-86 million homes depending on the amount of coverage for any given event.

## Awards

The Champions Tour presents the following awards annually:

- Champions Tour Player of the Year/Jack Nicklaus Trophy
- Charles Schwab Cup
- Champions Tour Rookie of the Year
- Champions Tour Comeback Player of the Year
- Arnold Palmer Award (leading money-winner)
- Byron Nelson Award (scoring leader)
- CTTA "Bruno" Award (contributions to the Champions Tour)
- Champions Tour Charity of the Year
- Champions Tour Volunteer of the Year

In addition, the Champions Tour recognizes a Player of the Month (January through October).

## "Rookies"

The Champions Tour 'Rookie' Class of 2009 of players turning age 50 includes exempt players (via All-Time Money): **Tom Lehman** (Mar. 7 – major championship winner of the 1996 British Open - eligible for The AT&T Championship), **Bob Tway** (May 4 – winner 1986 PGA Championship - eligible for Regions CC), **Olin Browne** (May 22 - eligible for the Principal Charity Classic), **Tom Pernice, Jr.** (Sept. 5 – eligible for the Greater Hickory Classic), **David Frost** (Sept. 11- eligible for the Greater Hickory Classic), **Fred Couples** (Oct. 3 – winner of the 1992 Masters - eligible for the Administaff Small Business Classic).

Other rookies eligible via the Career Victory Category include **Steve Jones** (12/27/08 – winner of the 1996 U.S. Open – potential debut late spring/ early summer due to surgery), **Keith Clearwater** (Sept. 1 – eligible for the Greater Hickory Classic), Tommy Armour III (Oct. 8 eligible for the Administaff Small Business Classic).

*Note: A player's first planned tournament is subject to his schedule and eligibility*

Players competing in less than six events after turning 50 in 2008 are still considered "rookies" this year. They are **Larry Mize** (4 events in 2008), **Hal Sutton** (two events) and **Blaine McCallister** (one event).

Additional "rookie" prospects turning 50 2009-12 include:

**2009** – **Jay Don Blake** (10/28/08), **Russ Cochran** (10/31/08), **Curt Byrum** (12/28/08), **Michael Allen** (1/31/09), **Robin Freeman** (5/7/09), **Robert Wrenn** (9/11/09) **Trevor Dodds** (9/26/09)

**2010** – Corey Pavin (11/16/09), Paul Azinger (1/6/10), Mark Calcavecchia (6/12/10) Kenny Perry (8/10/10)

**2011** – Steve Lowery (10/12/10), Ian Baker-Finch (10/24/10), Mark Brooks (Mar. 25), Steve Pate (May 26), John Huston (June 1), Brad Faxon (Aug. 1).

**2012** – Kirk Triplett (3/29/12), Andrew Magee (5/22/12), Duffy Waldorf (8/20/12)

#### What the "Rookies" are Saying:

**Bob Tway (2009)** -- *"I'm really looking forward to playing the Champions Tour. I talked with David Edwards and a few of the guys at the Father-Son Challenge and everyone tells me what a fun time it is out there. Obviously, the competition is great, but they all say it's just a wonderful time. I'm really looking forward to that."*

**Tom Lehman (2009)** -- *"Turning 50 is a milestone. As a golfer, I've always been competitive and always wanted to play my best. I've enjoyed my years on the PGA TOUR but at some point I'll know when it's time to move on. The Champions Tour is something I look forward to with a lot of anticipation. There's a great camaraderie on the Champions Tour but it's also very competitive. It's a great situation to be in and I really look forward to that."*

**Fred Couples (2009)** -- *"I'm really looking forward to it. I've talked with Mark O'Meara and Jay Haas about it and my goal is to be healthy once I turn 50. The great thing is I'll be able to play in a few Champions Tour events right after I serve as the captain of the U.S. team at the 2009 Presidents Cup at Harding Park."*

**Corey Pavin (2010)** -- *"Right now, turning 50 possibly means more competitive golf and that's exciting to me. I've enjoyed 28 years on the PGA Tour but there's a point when I know I'm ready for the next phase of my career. The moment is almost here and even with my Captaincy of the 2010 U.S. Ryder Cup Team, I will play some early Champions Tour events in 2010 and later in the fall after the Ryder Cup in Wales. I look forward to the atmosphere, the camaraderie, but most of all, the refueled competitiveness that is most talked about on the Champions Tour."*

January 2009