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**Ponte Vedra** *NewsLine*

CHAMPIONSHIP  
**Spectators Guide**

**May 8th to 13th, 2018**

**THE PLAYERS®**

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## Friday, May 11

*Featured Charity of the Day: Nemours Children's Health System*

- Gates open at 6:15 a.m.
- Second round of competition begins at approximately 7:30 a.m. (threesomes off of No.1 and No.10)

## Saturday, May 12

*Featured Charity of the Day : The St. Vincent's Healthcare Foundation*

- Gates open at 7:30 a.m.
- Third round of competition begins at approximately 8:30 a.m., depending on the size of the cut (twosomes off No.1)

## Championship Sunday, May 13

**PINK OUT and Mother's Day**

*Featured Charity of the Day: The DONNA Foundation*

- Gates open at 7:30 a.m.
- Chapel Service, 7 a.m. - 8 a.m. on the TPC Sawgrass Lower Clubhouse Lawn
- Final round of competition begins at approximately 8:30 a.m., depending on size of the cut (twosomes off No.1)
- THE PLAYERS Closing Ceremonies, approximately 7 p.m. on Lower Clubhouse Lawn

## Saturday, May 5:

- THE PLAYERS DONNA 5K; 8 a.m.  
Register at [www.breastcancermarathon.com](http://www.breastcancermarathon.com)
- 2018 Drive Chip and Putt Championship local qualifying; approximately 9 a.m.

## Tuesday, May 8 Military Appreciation day

*Featured Charity of the Day: The Jim and Tabitha Furyk Foundation*

- Gates open at 7:30 a.m.
- Practice day for professionals
- Military Appreciation Ceremony with Luke Combs concert 5:30 p.m. at the 17th hole

## Wednesday, May 9

*Featured Charity of the Day: Junior Achievement of North Florida*

- Gates open at 7:30 a.m.
- Practice day for professionals
- FCA Golf Jax Breakfast with the Pros, 7 a.m. - 9 a.m. at Sawgrass Marriott
- THE PLAYERS Championship Caddie Competition in memory of Bruce Edwards at 17th hole

## Thursday, May 10

*Featured Charity of the Day: Wolfson Children's Hospital*

- Gates open at 6:15 a.m.
- First round of competition begins at approximately 7:30 a.m. (threesomes off of No. 1 and No.10)

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Emily, Martie, Julie, Linda, Heather, Angela

**FLORIDA** NewsLine

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Welcome to beautiful Ponte Vedra Beach and THE PLAYERS Championship. We hope you enjoy your visit to the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass, which was designed specifically with spectators like you in mind.

Our Ponte Vedra NewsLine Championship Spectators Guide returns for the third year with more helpful information than ever. Within these pages you will find everything you need to know (and many things that are nice to know) about THE PLAYERS Championship.

What's new for 2018? Find out on page 8. Interested in where to get something tasty to eat or refreshing to drink? See page 13. Where are the best bathrooms? Check out page 30. Meet up and coming golfer Julian Suri on page 14 and learn a new golf tip on page 28. The pages in between are full of useful tidbits, all designed to make your visit an enjoyable one.

Our company has produced local community newspapers in the north Florida area for the past 18 years. We thank you, our readers, for making Ponte Vedra NewsLine your community newspaper. We are pleased to present our 2018 Championship Spectators Guide and in a small way be a part of this iconic golf tournament.

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**1974** - For its first three years, the tournament elevated different, pre-existing events already on the PGA TOUR schedule. Fittingly, the greatest major champion to ever live — Jack Nicklaus — carded the lowest final round (67) at Atlanta Country Club to win the inaugural Tournament Players Championship.

**1982** - The Tournament Players Championship moves to its new, permanent home: TPC Sawgrass – Stadium Course. The course is unique, beautiful, challenging and fan-friendly. Jerry Pate hit a fabulous 5-iron (with an orange ball) to within three feet to seal the victory. Then Pate enjoyed an extraordinary celebration: he threw then-PGA TOUR Commissioner Deane Beman and course designer Pete Dye into the pond near the 18th green during the awards ceremony, and dove into the pond himself for an unprecedented victory lap.

**1992** - As he was about to hit a chip shot back onto the 8th green in the final round, Davis Love III overheard spectators betting on whether he could get up and down. Love promptly chipped in and told the guys in the gallery who bet against him, "I hope all of you lost." Love didn't lose on Sunday; he won by four shots for his first PLAYERS title.

**1998** - After much effort, a seagull picks up the ball of Brad Fabel from the 17th green. With the crowd cheering it on, the seagull flies off with the ball, but, like so many golfers, drops it into the water.

**1999** - Jacksonville's own David Duval had a golden opportunity to win the biggest championship of his career, but his ball was bunkered near the 9th green and his lead was in jeopardy. Instead of losing the lead and perhaps the tournament, Duval holed the bunker shot, won THE PLAYERS

## THE PLAYERS'

### Mobile Device Policy:

(Failure to comply may result in revocation of ticket.)

- *Devices must be on silent at all times; flash may not be used.*
- *Devices may be used to capture video, audio and photos (content) in all areas throughout tournament week.*
- *Content may be used for personal purposes (e.g., personal social media); no commercial use.*

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and ascended to No. 1 in the world. And he was cheered on by his father Bob from his own winner's press conference on the Champions Tour. Today, they remain the only father-son duo to win on the Champions Tour and PGA TOUR in the same week.

- No live streaming or real-time coverage (e.g., no shot-by-shot coverage).
- Data use (e.g., texting) is permitted in all areas throughout tournament week.
- Phone calls are allowed only in designated areas.
- Please be respectful of play and do not interfere with players, caddies or media.
- All posted signage and instructions from tournament staff must be observed.
- Failure to comply with this policy may result in the revocation of your ticket.

**2001** - Tiger Woods climbed into THE PLAYERS lead with an eagle and five birdies during the third round, but he faced a seemingly-impossible birdie try at the 17th green. Woods stalked his triple-breaking, downhill, lightning-fast putt that no other player had come close to making. As soon as he hit it, Gary Koch told the NBC audience around the world that Woods' effort was "better than most." Koch kept repeating the phrase ... until the ball dropped in the hole and the crowd exploded. That one stroke — which turned out to be Woods' margin of victory — was indeed "better than most!"

**2008** - Sergio Garcia bounced back from a runner-up finish the year before at THE PLAYERS to join a sudden-death playoff with Paul Goydos. For the first time in tournament history, the playoff began at the famed No. 17. Goydos hit first — unfortunately, into the water. Instead of playing safe, Garcia hit to within five feet to claim the biggest win of his career.

**2016** - THE PLAYERS was won by the No. 1 player in the world. Jason Day opened with a tournament record-tying 63 and followed it up with a 66 to set the 36-hole record. Things started to get tight in the final round, especially when Day struggled around the green at No. 9, but he holed a chip shot for bogey to keep his lead en route to a wire-to-wire victory.

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# 8 what's new for 2018

*When THE PLAYERS Stadium Course debuted in 1982, it was unique in the world of golf, having been built with the spectator in mind. In many ways, it was way before its time, and improvements since the course's opening have maintained and improved the excellent fan experience. Perhaps the first change that fans will notice is that No. 1 tee bleachers have been removed to provide better views and access of the No. 1 tee, fairway and No. 2 hole.*

*Also new this year is The Family Care Suite Presented by Baptist Health, which is located behind No. 16 green / No. 17 tee. The Family Care Suite allows families to have a comfortable venue for baby care as needed during tournament week — including private areas for mothers to pump or nurse their babies.*

*In the area of concessions, a turf concession area with picnic seating located on No. 8 green / No. 9 tee along with upgraded refreshment located near No. 9 green and an open to the public Bier Garden presented by Hoptinger located behind No. 16 green are all new for 2018.*

## **IMPROVEMENTS MADE SINCE LAST YEAR'S TOURNAMENT INCLUDE:**

- The PGA TOUR FAN SHOP at Nicklaus Gate has been redesigned and expanded to more than 21,000 sq. ft. and includes new product lines and exclusive gear including specialty t-shirts and custom logoed headwear for THE PLAYERS 2018
  - Revised Uber pickup and drop off process includes drop off at Sawgrass Marriott Conference Center with shuttle service to the Davis Love III entry. A shuttle will return Uber riders back to Sawgrass Marriott Conference Center for staged Uber pickup.
- Expanded lower clubhouse lawn for trophy pictures and autograph zone
- Resurfaced the VIP parking lot and the new pedestrian walkways connect spectators to the Davis Love III entry
- Expanded spectator area with additional seating located at Tacos on 12
- Expanded fan bleacher includes additional seating and unobstructed views of hole No. 12 and No. 13
- Expanded Benefactor tent with rebranded Michelob ULTRA lower level. An upgraded second floor of the Benefactor features interior custom LED video boards and expanded Oakley Lounge
- Leveled and turfed The Grove, located behind No. 17 tee to improve access and seating for spectators
- Redesigned Greenside Lounge, located on No. 9 green, with upgraded concessions, food and seating.

# Nobody Beats a Key Deal



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# what to bring & leave

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## WHAT YOU CAN BRING:

**Devices:** Cell phones, tablets and PDAs; must be on silent mode and adhere to Mobile Device Policy

**Food:** Bring your own food in a one-gallon clear plastic bag where food items are also wrapped in clear wrap.

**Bags:** Opaque bags measuring 6x6x6 inches and smaller or clear bags 12x6x12 inches and smaller. Clear THE PLAYERS bags are sold at 27 participating Daily's convenience stores for a \$5 donation to The First Tee of Northeast Florida.

- Medically necessary supplies and diaper bags
- Strollers
- Folding chair without chair bag
- Umbrella without sleeve
- Binoculars without case

## WHAT NOT TO BRING:

- Bags larger than a small purse (6x6x6 inches) including carrying cases, backpacks and camera bags
- Beverages
- Coolers
- Bags for folding chairs
- Weapons of any kind
- Pets, except for service animals
- Video cameras
- Radios or TVs
- Posters, signs or banners
- Cameras during competition rounds

## THE PLAYERS' Food Policy

*THE PLAYERS allows fans to bring in their own food in a 1-gallon clear, plastic bag where food items are also wrapped in clear wrap. This policy does not allow fans to bring in outside water bottles and/or beverages.*



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# 10 getting here

## TICKETS:

Tickets for THE PLAYERS 2018 are on sale at THEPLAYERS.com as well as at 56 Publix stores throughout Northeast Florida and the surrounding areas, including two locations in Georgia.

Stadium Passes are \$25 for Tuesday, \$20 for Wednesday; \$60 Thursday and Sunday, \$65 for Friday and \$70 for Saturday.

Fans can also purchase a weekly Stadium Pass for \$225, which includes admission Tuesday – Sunday. Stadium Pass prices are exclusive of sales tax and do not include parking.

Youth 18 and younger are admitted free of charge when accompanied by a ticketed adult, and there is no limit to the number of youth fans admitted with that ticketed adult.

The Family Plan package offers two adult Stadium Passes, unlimited youth admission at the gate and two \$10 concession vouchers. The Family Plan is \$120 for

Thursday and Sunday, \$130 for Friday and \$140 for Saturday (taxes not included). Parking passes are additional.



The Family Plan is offered at 27 participating Daily's convenience stores and at THEPLAYERS.com.

THE PLAYERS provides all career military (active duty, Reserve, military retirees and dependents) with complimentary admission to the tournament all week. THE PLAYERS also provides discounted admission for non-career military veterans. To obtain a voucher for discounted admission, go to THEPLAYERS.com and click on the Military link (<https://birdiesforthebrave2.sheerid.com/theplayers2018/>). Parking is not included.

## PARKING:

All parking passes must be purchased in advance. Volunteers will not sell parking passes in the lot and parking will not be sold at Publix or Will Call.

Cars with four or more people will receive complimentary parking Thursday – Sunday in the general parking lot off Country Road 210 with a pre-printed "Four for Free" voucher. (THEPLAYERS.com/parking). A new voucher must be downloaded and printed for each day (or saved on an electronic device); there is no limit to the number of days guests can park for free, but there is a limited number of vouchers per day.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, as in previous years, fans can still park for free in the general parking lot and no parking pass is required.

Thursday through Sunday, fans are required to purchase parking in advance (\$30 Thursday and Sunday per day for general parking; and \$35 Friday and Saturday per day in general parking). Parking passes can be purchased at THEPLAYERS.com/parking. Parking space is limited and carpooling is encouraged.

## ALTERNATIVE TRANSPORTATION METHODS:

Shuttles are available from downtown-area hotels to TPC Sawgrass for THE PLAYERS, Thursday through Sunday of tournament week.

Uber is the premier ride sharing partner of THE PLAYERS Championship. The Uber pickup and drop off process includes drop off at Sawgrass Marriott Conference Center with shuttle service to the Davis Love III entry. A shuttle will return Uber riders back to Sawgrass Marriott Conference Center for staged Uber pickup. Riders can call for an Uber once back at the Sawgrass Marriott Conference Center.

Why drive when you can pedal to THE PLAYERS? THE PLAYERS offers complimentary bike parking during the tournament, from 7:30 a.m. until end of play. Spectators can ride their bikes to the Couples Gate off of ATP Boulevard or to Gate B located inside the Sawgrass Gates off of PGA TOUR Boulevard. Tournament volunteers will secure and monitor the bikes – free of charge.



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**THE PLAYERS Club:** This private hospitality and hosting experience with private space on-site in the TPC Sawgrass Clubhouse is on the No. 17 tee and No. 18 green. This high-end, all-inclusive venue includes food from top chefs in the country and top-shelf cocktails prepared by award-winning bartenders. PLAYERS Club tickets cost \$6,000 per person and are purchased on a weekly ticket basis; visit [pgatour.com/theplayersclub](http://pgatour.com/theplayersclub) for more information.

**The Benefactor featuring the ULTRA Club and Oakley Lounge:** Perfectly situated behind the tee box of the world famous 17th hole at THE PLAYERS Stadium Course, The Benefactor featuring the ULTRA Club and Oakley Lounge has sold out since 2012. This 14,500 square-foot, climate-controlled ticketed venue has a 4,500 square-foot patio and allows spectators access to The Benefactor, The Turn and Tournament Grounds. There is upscale food and premium bar available for purchase and private restroom facilities. The first floor of The Benefactor is the ULTRA CLUB with a sleek new design, a reimagined Michelob ULTRA brand experience, and unforgettable views on the most famous hole in golf. On the second floor of The Benefactor, fans can enjoy views of No. 17 from the Oakley Lounge in all-new Oakley sunglasses.

**The Bier Garden presented by Hoptinger:** Located adjacent to the Couples Gate in the old Courtyard location, this new public venue features a variety of craft beers on tap.

**The Turn:** Located near the No. 9 green and the No. 18 fairway, this venue has flat-screen televisions surrounding the interior lounge, providing coverage of six-plus broadcasts at a time. The interior features a GREY GOOSE® 19th Hole Lounge with GREY GOOSE® signature drinks, including the Sawgrass Splash, and soft seating. The back wall provides a great view of the No. 9 green and the front provides outdoor seating and views of the No. 18 fairway and green.

**The Wine Lounge presented by William Hill Estate:** Open to the public, this is a stylish and contemporary recreation of William Hill Estate's Napa Valley tasting room that offers views of the challenging par-3 No. 8 hole. William Hill Estate wines, including the Napa Collection Chardonnay, Napa Collection Cabernet, Coastal Collection Chardonnay, Coastal Collection Cabernet Sauvignon and Coastal Collection Pinot Noir, La Marca Prosecco and La Marca Mimosas, are available for purchase.

**Wine & Dine on 9:** This public venue, located to the left of the No. 9 fairway, offers gourmet small plates prepared by Matthew Medure, one of Northeast Florida's most renowned chefs, in a beautiful garden setting. Wine & Dine on 9 also features premium varietals from William Hill Estate Winery.

**Trucks on 10:** Located between the No. 10 fairway, the No. 11 fairway and the No. 15 green, this public venue offers flavors from local, favorite food trucks, an upgraded restroom and an open-air, centrally located Michelob ULTRA Mobile bar. Trucks on 10 offers seating for fans and includes great-tasting food from local trucks such as Cely's Filipino Food, Delish Kabob's, Mama's Food Nomi's, Pele's Wood Fire Grill and Up in Smoke BBQ.

**Palm Valley Village:** This newly created fan area provides fans with a comfortable area near the No. 9 green / No. 18 green and practice area. It is open to everyone with a Stadium Pass and features a William Hill Open Air Bar and 4Rivers Smokehouse.

*THE PLAYERS is not just about golf; there are many places to try the finest food and beverages offered by the most unique vendors for any sporting event. If you are hungry or thirsty, or just want to do some people watching, try these varied options:*

**Taste of JAX:** Located behind the No. 11 green and the No. 12 tee, this public venue offers flavors from local, favorite restaurants, a GREY GOOSE® open-air bar, permanent restrooms and video boards to keep up with the tournament. Taste of JAX restaurants include Candy Apple Cafe, Hawkers Asian Street Fare, Mojo Kitchen and Zoe's Kitchen.

**Tacos on 12:** Located between the No. 11 tee, the No. 12 green and the No. 13 tee, this public venue includes seating and shaded areas. TacoLu, Jacksonville's popular Baja Mexicana, serves food and beverages.

**The Oasis:** Open to the public (must be 21+), The Oasis features signature cocktails made with GREY GOOSE® Vodka, the official vodka of the PGA TOUR. Located between the No. 9 and No. 18 tee boxes, The Oasis features an air-conditioned venue, where signature cocktails, food and drink are available for purchase. The Oasis also boasts a rear deck for prime views of the No. 9 tee.

**The Patio:** Located between No. 10 tee and No. 18 green / No. 16 tee, The Patio offers a shaded fan zone that includes open-air seating and a video board to keep up with the tournament. The Patio features food from Southern Soul BBQ, a top-notch barbeque staple from St. Simon's Island. The Patio also features permanent restroom facilities, includes the Michelob ULTRA Bar and a social media board covering THE PLAYERS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds.

**Food Court:** Located to the left of the Nicklaus Gate entrance, the food court features local restaurants Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q, Brucci's Pizza, Firehouse Subs, M Shack, and Tropical Smoothie Café. There's a permanent restroom and shaded seating near the Food Court, so everyone can grab a bite to eat and meet up for a family picnic at THE PLAYERS.

**Miscellaneous Food and Beverage:** BUBBA burgers are served throughout the course as an added fan enhancement. For younger fans, kid-friendly options such as fruit and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are available at most concession stands around the course.

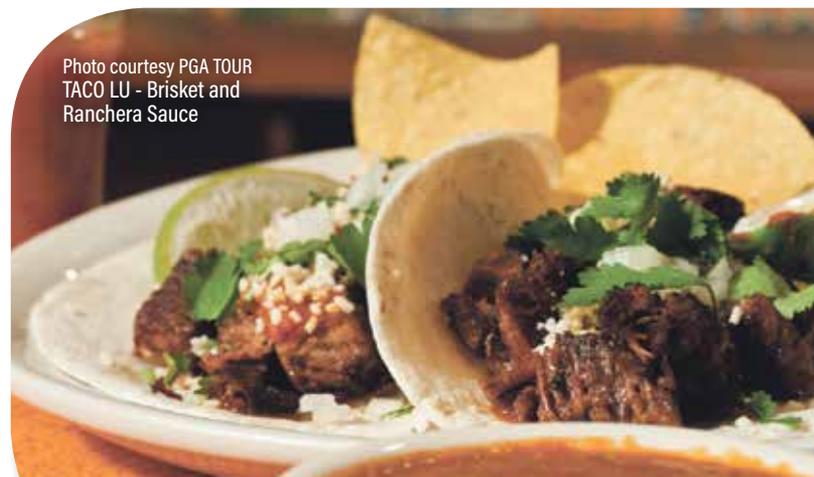


Photo courtesy PGA TOUR  
TACO LU - Brisket and  
Ranchera Sauce

# 14 Julian Suri:

By Angela Higginbotham

## Competition is the line drive of life

As a child, local golf professional Julian Suri grew up as a spectator at THE PLAYERS Championship. Suri has fond memories of asking many of his favorite players to sign his hat or glove.

"This is a special Championship for me. As far as I'm concerned, THE PLAYERS is the fifth major in golf and I hope to play it one day," Suri said.

Born in New York City, Suri and his family moved down to the Jacksonville area in 2001. At only 10 years old, Suri discovered his love for golf while playing in the local neighborhood of South Hampton's Junior Golf program.

"During the Tiger Woods phenomenon, I knew I enjoyed the game and then I realized I was pretty good at playing it," Suri said.

A graduate of Bartram Trail High School, Suri went on to play golf at Duke University.

During his collegiate career, he won three events and was an All American in 2012. He turned pro in 2013 and

went on to become a member of the Challenge Tour and currently, the European Tour. His first European Tour win came in August of 2017 at the Made in Denmark tournament.

A recent resident of Ponte Vedra, Suri enjoys the year-round golfing weather in North Florida and especially having his family and support system nearby.

"It's always nice to come home after traveling so much and just be comfortable with your surroundings. It's nice to be close to my family and friends and I love how this community embraces golf," Suri said.

In those few moments when he isn't on a golf course or a practice green, Suri enjoys spending his time with family and friends doing anything competitive. Ping pong, video games and tennis with his Dad — there is always something on

the line if Suri has any say in the matter.

It's been said that in golf as in life, it is the follow through that makes the difference. Suri has a humbleness that is endearing and a passion that will take him far. With his goals set on the PGA TOUR, he is headed in the right direction with his recent T8 finish at the Houston Open. Noting that his dad and grandfather were instrumental in his passion for the game of golf, his family has traveled often to be by his side. Suri enjoys playing courses like Valderrama in Spain that test every part of his game.

"It's important to have goals or you will never move forward. I hope to just keep climbing in the world rankings and see how far I can go. Competition drives me and keeps me going in everything and I'm thankful for the support I have," Suri said.

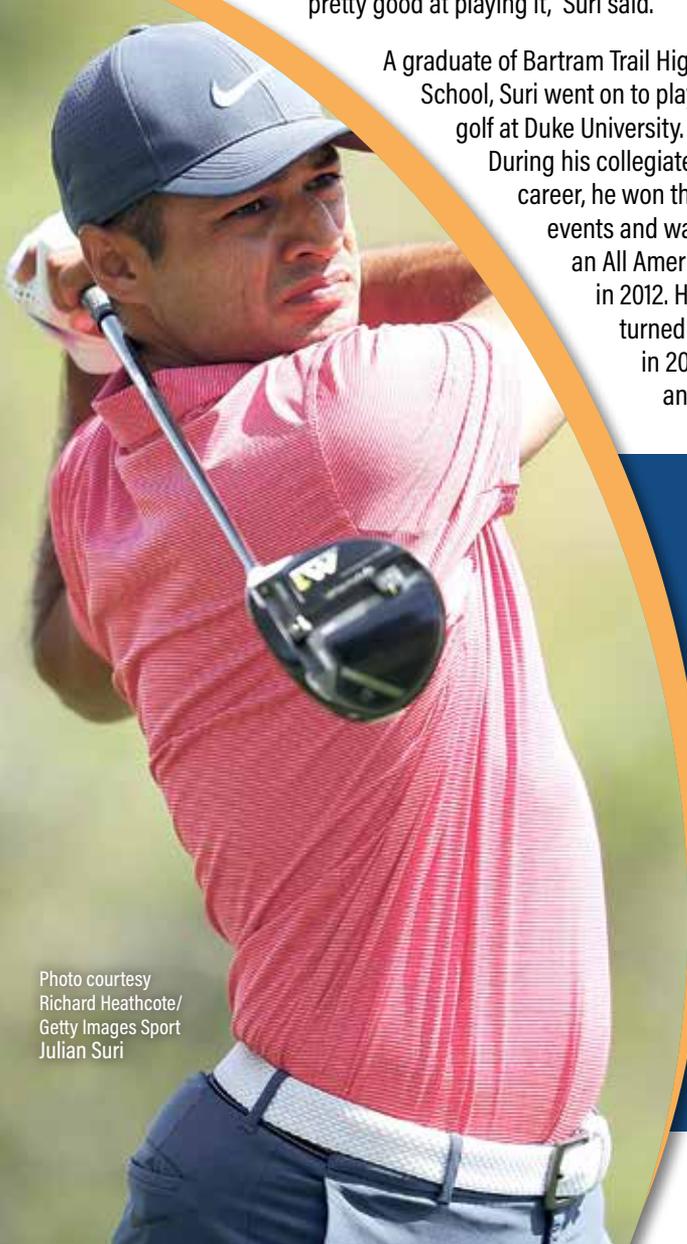


Photo courtesy  
Richard Heathcote/  
Getty Images Sport  
Julian Suri

## Sawgrass Splash

- 1 ¼ oz. Grey Goose L'Orange Vodka
- 3 oz. Fresh Lemonade
- 2 oz. Fresh Orange Juice
- 1 oz. Fresh Lime Juice
- ½ oz. Simple Syrup

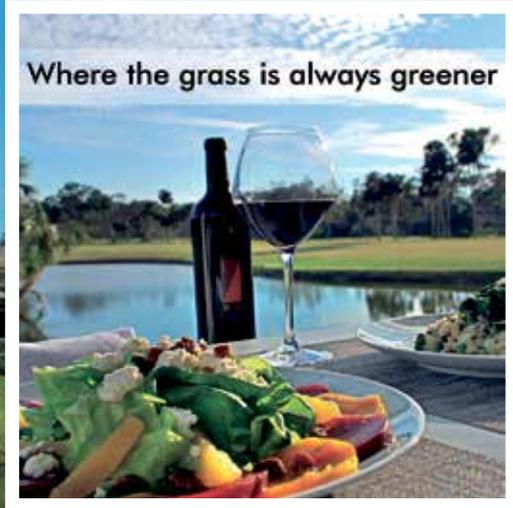
Served tall over ice, garnish with a slice of lime



Photo courtesy PGA TOUR  
Sawgrass Splash



Where the grass is always greener



## PLAYERS PATIO PARTY AT 3 PALMS GRILLE!



### **PLAYERS Week: May 8 - 13**

Open to the public. Easy gate access - just say "I'm headed to 3 Palms!"

Live music, food and beverage specials

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Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday

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- Bar Bites Menu

Don't miss all the fun and activity of PLAYERS week at 3 Palms Grille. There is plenty of space outdoors just for the occasion with extended social seating and TVs to watch the excitement in the ultimate golf-side setting. To dine indoors, a reservation is suggested and be sure and reserve your spot for Mother's Day Brunch on Sunday, May 13 — Championship Sunday.

254 Alta Mar Drive, Ponte Vedra Beach | 904-686-2128 | 3PALMSGRILLE.COM

# 16 course map

## LIVE MAPS AVAILABLE



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- DYE'S PAVILION
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- PROUD PARTNERS
- THE PLAYERS CLUB
- PAST CHAIRMAN'S LOUNGE
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- PERFORMANCE CENTER
- TROPHY CLUB

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- DISABLED GUEST SERVICES SHUTTLE STOP

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### A WELCOME EXPERIENCE

- Activities for the whole family, plus food and drinks for purchase
- Daily's
  - The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation Kid Zone featuring The First Tee Experience
  - PGA TOUR Fan Shop
  - Tikiz Shaved Ice

### B FOOD COURT

- Local food and drinks for purchase
- Bono's Pit Bar-B-Q
  - Candy Apple Café
  - Firehouse Subs
  - M Shack
  - Tropical Smoothie Café

### C THE WINE LOUNGE PRESENTED BY WILLIAM HILL ESTATE WINERY

Enjoy premium varietals from William Hill Estate Winery with great views of 8 Green

### D THE OASIS

Featuring signature cocktails made with GREY GOOSE® Vodka. Must be 21+

### E WINE & DINE ON 9

- Shaded venue with open-air seating and upscale food and drinks for purchase
- William Hill Estate Winery
  - Restaurant Medure
  - Permanent Restrooms
  - Video Board

### F PALM VALLEY VILLAGE

Enjoy premium varietals from William Hill Estate Winery, food from 4Rivers Smokehouse

### G STADIUM VILLAGE & 17<sup>TH</sup> HOLE CHALLENGE

- Tented, climate-controlled venue featuring a variety of fun activities
- Bridgestone Performance Center
  - Florida Home Improvement Associates
  - Geico
  - Lexus
  - Mayo Clinic
  - Microsoft
  - PGA TOUR Must See Moments
  - Publix
  - Skechers Performance
  - Topgolf

### H THE PATIO

- Shaded venue with open-air seating, video board and food and drinks for purchase
- Southern Soul Barbeque
  - Michelob ULTRA Bar
  - Permanent Restrooms
  - Social Media Video Board

### I MORGAN STANLEY EAGLES FOR IMPACT EXPERIENCE

Show off your skills and make an eagle in a state-of-the-art golf simulator for a chance to win exclusive gear!

### J FAN BLEACHERS PRESENTED BY MAYO CLINIC

1. Public covered bleacher and deck with views of 16 and 10
  2. Public bleacher with covered deck and views of 16, 17 and 18
- Concessions available at both locations

### K TRUCKS ON 10

- Local food and drinks for purchase
- Cely's Filipino Food
  - Delish Kabobs
  - Mama's Food
  - Island Girl Seafood
  - Pele's Wood Fire
  - Up In Smoke BBQ

### L TACOS ON 12

TacoLu, Jacksonville's most popular Baja Mexicana, will be serving food and beverages. Venue includes seating and shaded areas

### M FAN BLEACHER PRESENTED BY PUBLIX

Public covered bleacher and deck with views of 12 and 13. Concessions available

### N TASTE OF JAX

- GREY GOOSE® open-air bar, seating, permanent restrooms and shaded area, plus local food and drinks for purchase
- Brucci's
  - Hawkers Asian Street Fare
  - Mojo Kitchen
  - Zoe's Kitchen

### O THE BIER GARDEN PRESENTED BY HOPTINGER

Featuring a variety of craft beers on tap

## PROPER CREDENTIALS REQUIRED

### P GREENSIDE LOUNGE

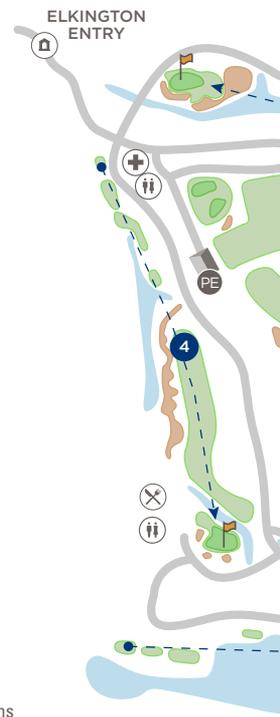
Adjacent to 9 Green featuring Coca Cola Share A Coke, with soft seating, HDTVs, upgraded food, premium-bar options

### Q THE TURN FEATURING THE GREY GOOSE® 19TH HOLE

GREY GOOSE® signature drinks, soft seating and HDTVs

### R THE BENEFACTOR FEATURING THE ULTRA CLUB AND OAKLEY LOUNGE

The Michelob ULTRA CLUB, located on the first floor, will feature an upgraded food and beverage experience with unforgettable views on hole 17. Upstairs, fans can find unique performance or lifestyle products to fit their active lifestyles in the newly redesigned Oakley Lounge



## TPC SAWGRASS • STADIUM COURSE

HOLE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	OUT	HOLE	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	IN	TOTAL
PAR	4	5	3	4	4	4	4	3	5	36	PAR	4	5	4	3	4	4	5	3	4	36	72
YARDS	423	532	177	384	471	393	451	237	583	3651	YARDS	424	558	302	181	481	470	523	137	462	3538	7189

# course map 17



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Quartz Countertops, 10' Ceilings, Spa Shower in Owner's bath  
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### EPWORTH

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# where to watch golf 19



*Naturally, there are plenty of great places to watch golf on the Stadium Course, which was specially designed to enhance the viewing experience. Everyone knows about the iconic 17th hole, but there are many more, often less crowded, places to watch golf. Here is a hole-by-hole guide of the best – and sometimes hidden – spots to experience THE PLAYERS Championship:*

**HOLE 1:** The No. 1 tee is a popular spot, with limited foliage, to watch players hit their tee shots with mounds to the left and right of the green for optimal viewing. This less-crowded location provides a great opportunity to get close to players as they walk from No. 1 green to No. 2 tee.

**HOLE 2:** Elevated mounding behind the green provides a great place to watch players decide whether or not to go for the par 5 in two or lay-up, and then you can keep an eye on them as they head to No. 3 tee to take a shot at the par-3 green.

**HOLE 3:** Left of the tee box is a great place, as you are just on the other side of the practice tee – which means you can move back and forth to watch the 3rd hole as well as see players warm-up.

**HOLE 4:** There is an expanded fan walkway and lowered mounding for improved viewing on the No. 4 tee.

**HOLE 5:** Find great views of this tough par 4 from the elevated left side of the fairway, where you can also catch a glimpse of players practicing on the back tee of the upgraded driving range.

**HOLE 6:** This green isn't very crowded and offers a great place to catch the action up close. You can be near the players as they walk from the green to the No. 7 tee.

**HOLE 7:** The elevated mounding behind the green allows you to see all the way back to the tee box.

**HOLE 8:** Always a fan favorite, you can get close to the action when players hit their tee shots, thanks to elevated mounding behind the green (and in the shade of nearby trees).

**HOLE 9:** This is a great par 5 to watch players hit their tee shots and decide whether or not to go for the green in two. Significant amounts of

foliage to the left of the green have been removed and new mounding has been added to give you a better view of players' approach shots and putts.

**HOLE 10:** The elevated mounding behind the tee provides great views of players' tee shots and you're just steps away from a permanent restroom.

**HOLE 11:** A fan favorite par 5 where players often go for the green in two, the green is surrounded by sand and water, which provides non-stop excitement. The newly enhanced bowl-shaped mounding around the green provides fantastic views of No. 11 and No. 12 with great shade.

**HOLE 12:** Significant renovation on this hole includes a reshaped green complex with additional spectator mounding to the left of the newly added pond, behind the green and to the right of the green.

**HOLE 13:** Fans directly behind the green may see a ball or two roll through the green and end up in collection area just on the other side of the ropes from where they're sitting.

**HOLE 14:** This tough par 4 has elevated views behind the tee and the right side of the fairway. Errant tee shots to the right often end up right near fans.

**HOLE 15:** This par 4 has elevated mounding on the left side of the green, providing good views of approach shots and putting as well as mounding for improved viewing on the No. 15 green.

**HOLE 16:** The Fan Bleacher presented by MD Anderson Cancer Center – located behind the tee provides a great view as players launch their tee shots. The elevated mounding on the left side of the green provides an ideal vantage point for approach shots and putts, as well as a view of the No. 17 hole.

**HOLE 17:** There is not a bad view of this legendary, island green par 3. This is a perfect spot to watch golf and then see players walk off the green and through the tunnel as they head to the 18th tee.

**HOLE 18:** You'll find great views behind the tee and down the right side of the hole. The elevated area around the green is known as The Bluff, where courtesy folding chairs are provided at no charge – and if you're in your chair when the last putt drops at the end of the day, you can take it home for free.

# 20 get to know

By Angela Higginbotham

## Volunteer D.J. Palmer



*Born and raised in Vermont, D. J. Palmer is the oldest of three boys and enjoyed his childhood in the Northeast. He spent his college years in New Hampshire where he had a double major, earning degrees in both business and communications. His career in IT project management brought him down to the Jacksonville area in 1999 and he decided to stay.*

*An active volunteer, Palmer has devoted many hours to THE PLAYERS Championship Facilities Committee and also with other golf championships and events via the Web.com Tour to help guide and mentor other volunteers.*

## Fun Facts!

More than 210,000 fans attended THE PLAYERS 2017.

### What is the most rewarding aspect of your work with THE PLAYERS Championship?

THE PLAYERS is such a great experience to be a part of, but for me, the most rewarding part is the people that I've met. I've made lifelong friendships and built relationships that mean a lot to me. The charity work is great, but the people are what keeps me coming back every year.

### Are you a golfer yourself and what professionals do you enjoy watching most?

I don't play much golf these days, but I keep telling myself that I need to get back out there and work on my game. I don't keep up with the newer guys as much, but Justin Thomas, Ernie Els, Rickie Fowler and Jordan Spieth come to mind as a few favorites.

### What is your job as a volunteer for THE PLAYERS?

I've been a volunteer for 10 years now and I'm now the Assistant Chair of the Facilities Committee. It does take a significant amount of time to do the job well, but I really enjoy doing it. I think my background in project management contributes in the preparation of the event and my enjoyment of the week. I've also learned so much from the veteran volunteers that have been giving their time for 30 plus years.

### What do you enjoy doing apart from your volunteer work?

I enjoy adult athletics. In the past I was very active and on an adult softball team, but I keep getting older while the other guys keep getting younger. I enjoy working with my hands building things. I love fishing and I still enjoy going back to Vermont in the winter for skiing.

Photo courtesy D.J. Palmer  
D.J. Palmer (right) with his brother Roy Palmer at TPC Sawgrass.

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Do you enjoy listening to the ocean waves while you relax with a glass of wine? This first floor unit is steps away from Ponte Vedra beaches as well as The Lodge & Club, an exceptional resort with dining, fitness, and several pools.

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This 4 bedroom / 4.5 bathroom home offers a light filled open plan for gracious and expansive entertaining. The centerpiece of this unique home is a lush garden courtyard providing a private sanctuary including pond, fountains, and fireplace. Perfect setting for everything from casual dinners to large celebrations or simply unwinding with a book at the end of the day.

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# Stay hydrated!

## THE FLORIDA SUN CAN BE VERY HOT!

Be sure to take advantage of the Mobile Refreshment Centers provided by THE PLAYERS. These carts roam the golf course in strategic, high-traffic locations, selling water, soda and beer so you can follow along and watch your favorite players.

Also, chilled, filtered drinking water is available in the permanent restrooms near The Patio, behind the No. 16 green and No. 17 tee, Taste of JAX and Wine & Dine on 9 — so keep your water bottle and refill it as many times as you'd like as a way to stay hydrated and save money.

# birdies for charity 23

For more information visit:

[www.birdiesforcharity.playerschampionship.com](http://www.birdiesforcharity.playerschampionship.com)

As a way to connect with THE PLAYERS while generating funds for local non-profits, fans can make a donation (minimum \$20) for the chance to guess the total number of birdies that will be made by the field during the tournament. The fan who correctly guesses the right amount can win a grand prize of \$10,000.

Gerald Bettman, supporting River Garden, guessed the correct number of birdies at THE PLAYERS 2017 (1,469). Bettman donated the \$5,000 he won back to River Garden.

In addition to providing an incentive for donors, each participating organization is eligible to receive additional funds from THE PLAYERS \$300,000 Birdies Bonus Pool. The 2018 Birdies for Charity campaign launched on Jan. 8 and will end on May 9.

## Stay connected: @ THE PLAYERS

*In this digital age, THE PLAYERS has implemented several initiatives to make sure fans stay connected while at the tournament:*

- **Devices:** Fans are permitted to bring their PDAs, cell phones and tablets onto the grounds.
- **The PGA TOUR app** is available for download on iPhone, Android and iPad.
- **Live video coverage of the tournament:** Fans can follow a marquee group all four days of the event exclusively on PGA TOUR digital platforms (PGATOUR.COM, mobile and iPad). PGA TOUR Live will follow two key groups each day, providing coverage outside the television window and complimentary coverage during the telecast.
- **Track favorite players:** A Google map of the course is available online, allowing fans to track their favorite player from their mobile device, find the best viewing spots on the course, locate the nearest concessions, restrooms and more based on their GPS location. Simply go to [livemaps.pgatour.com](http://livemaps.pgatour.com).
- **Find us @THEPLAYERSChamp:** For all the latest behind-the-scenes details, fans should follow THE PLAYERS at [facebook.com/THEPLAYERS](http://facebook.com/THEPLAYERS) or on Twitter and Instagram @THEPLAYERSChamp. On practice round days, follow @THEPLAYERSChamp on Twitter for updates on when marquee players are heading to the range to warm up for their practice round; social media caddies will also provide updates on players' locations throughout their practice rounds so fans can better locate and follow their favorite players on the course.

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- **Free admission for children:** Youth 18 and younger are admitted free of charge when accompanied by a ticketed adult, and there is no limit to the number of youth fans admitted with that ticketed adult.
- **The Family Plan:** The Family Plan package offers additional savings and benefits for families seeking a day at THE PLAYERS. Families get two adult Stadium Passes, unlimited youth admission at the gate and two \$10 concession vouchers. The Family Plan is \$120 for Thursday and Sunday, \$130 for Friday and \$140 for Saturday (taxes not included). Parking passes are additional, but remember that any car with four or more passengers parks for free under THE PLAYERS "Four for Free" policy (download vouchers at <https://theplayersparking.clickandpark.com>). The Family Plan is offered at 27 participating Daily's convenience stores and at THEPLAYERSChampionship.com.
- **The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation Kid Zone:** The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation Kid Zone, an enclosed air conditioned interactive destination for kids and families, is located in the main entryway experience for fans as they arrive through the Nicklaus Gate from general parking. The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation Kid Zone features a restroom trailer, video boards, shaded area and more. This is not a daycare area, as parents are required to stay with their children, but it allows parents the ability to take a break and relax in the shade while the kids have fun. Hours of operation are Tuesday – Wednesday, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Thursday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- **Autograph Zones:** There is a "kid corner" within the autograph zones designated specifically for youth. These areas allow youth the opportunity to get close to their favorite players for a signature.
- **Food and beverage:** For younger fans, kid-friendly options such as fruit and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches are available at most concession stands around the course.
- **Apparel:** THE PGA TOUR FAN SHOP at Nicklaus Gate features an expanded kids' area with toys, apparel and headwear for kids of all ages.

*THE PLAYERS is a tournament for all ages, including families. From the Family Plan for tickets to special kids' areas at the course, you should definitely plan to bring your children to the THE PLAYERS.*

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# 26 military appreciation

Tuesday, May 8

Continuing a PGA TOUR tradition of honoring men and women in uniform, THE PLAYERS Championship's full slate of military appreciation activities and programs for the 2018 event will **FEATURE A SPECIAL PERFORMANCE BY LUKE COMBS ON TUESDAY, MAY 8, DURING MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY.**



Photo courtesy PGA TOUR  
Luke Combs

The Military Appreciation Day Ceremony at 5:30 p.m. and concert that follows will be held on the 17th hole. Note the new time for the ceremony this year; plan to arrive early for this popular event. The Military Appreciation Day Ceremony and Concert is free to any Tuesday ticket holder; a Tuesday Stadium Pass starts at just \$25. Parking is also free on Tuesday and Wednesday of tournament week. Combs will cap off the Military Appreciation Day program, which will include pageantry by military personnel and a flyover by the 125th Fighter Wing. Speakers during the 2018 Military Appreciation Day ceremony include PGA TOUR Commissioner Jay Monahan and PGA TOUR player Jim Furyk.

In addition to Military Appreciation Day, THE PLAYERS provides all career military (active duty, Reserve, military retirees and dependents) with complimentary admission to the tournament all week and discounted admission for non-career military veterans.

To obtain a voucher for discounted admission, visit [THEPLAYERS.com](http://THEPLAYERS.com) and click on the Military link (<https://birdiesforthebrave2.sheerid.com/theplayers2018/>).

Military can enter the tournament through the Davis Love III, Nicklaus, and Couples gates. Parking is not included in the complimentary or discounted tickets for military; parking passes can be purchased at <https://theplayersparking.clickandpark.com>.

Throughout tournament week, all active duty, Reserve military members, military retirees,

veterans and their dependents have access to the Birdies for the Brave® Patriots' Outpost, a hospitality tent reserved exclusively for the military which offers complimentary food, beverages and activities. Located near the tee at No. 16, the Patriots' Outpost is financially supported by United Way, THE PLAYERS volunteer leadership, the Red Coats, and Jacksonville-area companies and individuals. The

venue is more than 10,000 square feet, making it the largest Birdies for the Brave® Patriots' Outpost at a PGA TOUR tournament.

In 2017, THE PLAYERS issued more than 35,000 complimentary military tickets, and the tournament is once again proud to continue its policy of providing free or affordable access to the tournament for men and women of the U.S. Armed Services.



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# 28 golf tips

## What the Pros Do

By Janie C. Farina, LPGA

*"The more I practice, the luckier I get." ~Arnold Palmer*

*Is practice the sure way to a better golf round? Or is a better golf round just "luck?"*

*Watching golf swings, literally, from the day one, I can tell you that practice is not a sure way to a Lucky Round, unless you do "what the pros do" when they practice.*

*Visiting the driving range at a TOUR event, such as the THE PLAYERS, and watching the pros practicing, spectators get a chance to see what the pros do:*

1. They warm up with stretches.
2. They start hitting short irons to get tempo and timing.
3. They work their way up from short irons to long irons, then hybrids, fairway woods, and lastly the driver.
4. They work their way back down to short irons or move onto the chipping, sand, and pitching area.
5. They start or finish with putting, for at least 20 minutes.
6. They all have a balanced finish to the target, not staring down at where the ball was, but where it went.
7. Pros don't scatter their divots; most work their shots so the divots make a square to preserve the hitting area.
8. Pros clean their grips, grooves, and club heads after each shot, as they always have a towel handy.
9. Pros use a caddy or coach to ensure proper line up for each shot to the target or use alignment sticks to stay on track.
10. During a practice/tourney/round, all pros get back behind the ball to line up for each shot, looking face on (not from the side) where they make a practice motion before walking to the ball for the final swing (this may change for putting).

**So if your game needs to find that Pot of Gold at the end of the Golfing Rainbow, do what the pros do — and watch your game get really lucky!**

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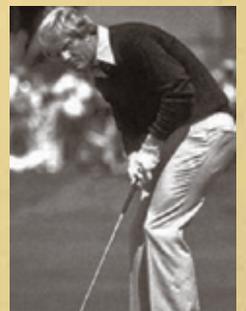
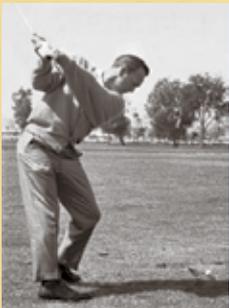
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# 30 the best of..

## **BEST PLACES TO COOL OFF:**

**Stadium Village and First Tee Challenge:** Located behind No. 18 green, the Stadium Village is an air-conditioned public fan zone that features a centrally located bar, open table seating, luxury restrooms and The 17th Hole Challenge presented by Grant Thornton, Optum and Morgan Stanley — a replica of the famed 17th hole where fans can take two free shots at the Island Green or purchase an additional chance for a \$5 donation to The First Tee of North Florida.

**The Grove:** New in 2018, The Grove has been leveled and turfed to improve access and seating for spectators. Located in the area behind No. 17 tee and No. 16 green, The Grove is an outdoor, shaded area that is open to the public. The area includes pavers, table seating and an upgraded walkway from the Nicklaus Gate that leads fans directly to the location. The Grove includes a large video board showcasing the Golf Channel and NBC broadcast so fans won't miss any tournament action while they're taking a break. The Grove will also feature a social media board covering THE PLAYERS Facebook, Twitter and Instagram feeds. The area is also in close proximity to the large permanent restrooms located behind No. 16 green and No. 17 tee.

**Fan bleacher presented by Publix:** The Fan Bleacher presented by Publix provides excellent shaded viewing for fans. Located on No. 12 green and No. 13 fairway, the double-sided Fan Bleacher offers a covered public bleacher and deck with concessions available for purchase.

**Fan Bleachers presented by Mayo Clinic:** With two locations, the Fan Bleachers presented by Mayo Clinic provide excellent shaded viewing for fans. Located on No. 16 tee, with views of No. 10 tee, the Fan Bleacher presented by Mayo Clinic offers a covered public bleacher and deck. The Fan Bleacher presented by Mayo Clinic is a public bleacher behind No. 17 green that features a covered deck, misters to help fans stay cool and concessions. Concessions are available at each location.

**The 11th hole:** The newly enhanced bowl-shaped mounding around the green of this par 5 provides fantastic views of No. 11 and No. 12 with great shade.

**The 4th hole:** Sit on the bulkhead around the water surrounding the green on No. 4 and dangle your feet.

## **BEST PLACE TO GET AUTOGRAPHS:**

Autographs are not allowed on course during practice days and tournament competition days. THE PLAYERS has designated Autograph Zones to allow fans the opportunity to meet their favorite players and get their signature. PGA TOUR players have been asked to spend time in the two designated autograph zones before and/or after play to sign autographs for fans.

The autograph zones are marked with signage for fans and players and are also listed on the course map.

### **There are two autograph zones located on the course:**

- Main player practice grounds/driving range
- Scoring area behind 18 green

There is a "kid corner" within the autograph zones designated specifically for youth. These areas allow youth the opportunity to get close to their favorite players for a signature.



## BEST RESTROOMS:

THE PLAYERS has constructed four large-scale, permanent public restrooms:

- The Patio (near No. 10 tee / No. 16 tee)
- Wine & Dine on 9 (near No. 5 green/ No. 9 fairway)
- Behind 16 green (near The Grove)
- Taste of JAX

Additional restrooms are located near:

- Stadium Village
- The McKenzie Noelle Wilson Foundation Kid Zone

There are additional temporary restrooms throughout the tournament as well.



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