



# BMW CHAMPIONSHIP

## WILMINGTON COUNTRY CLUB TO HOST 2022 BMW CHAMPIONSHIP

Penultimate event of the PGA TOUR FedExCup Playoffs  
to bring the top 70 TOUR players to Delaware for the first time

**GLENVIEW, Ill. November 17, 2020...** The PGA TOUR, Western Golf Association and Wilmington Country Club officials announced today the 2022 BMW Championship will be played on the South Course at Wilmington Country Club in Wilmington, Delaware. While official dates have not been announced, the event is scheduled to be held in late August of 2022.

"We're thrilled to be taking the BMW Championship to Wilmington Country Club, one of the finest clubs anywhere in the United States," said Vince Pellegrino, WGA Senior Vice President of Tournaments. "The South Course has everything you look for in a traditional championship layout. It will present a strategic test for the world's best players and a perfect venue for fans and PGA TOUR partners."

The 2022 event will mark the first time the PGA TOUR has played an event in Delaware, and it will be the third time since 2018 that the BMW Championship has been held on the East Coast. The 2021 BMW Championship will be held at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Maryland, a suburb of Baltimore, from Aug. 23-29. Aronimink Golf Club in Newtown Square, Pennsylvania, hosted the 2018 BMW Championship.

"It is a great honor for Wilmington Country Club to be the first club in the state of Delaware to play host to the PGA TOUR, and to the prestigious BMW Championship," Club President Gary Ferguson said. "The passion that fans in this area have for golf is unmatched, and they will enjoy the opportunity to watch the best players in the world compete on this spectacular and challenging golf course."

Wilmington Country Club was established in 1901, with its original 18 holes covering 135 acres. The club relocated in the 1950s, bringing in renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. to design the South Course, which opened in 1959. Playing over 7,500 yards from the championship tees, the South Course has been recognized as one of the United States' best golf courses by Golf Digest.

While this will be Wilmington Country Club's first professional event, the club has long been a proving ground for the world's best amateur players. After hosting the 1913 U.S. Women's Amateur on what is now known as the "Old Course," Wilmington has hosted five other USGA events, including the 1965 and 1978 U.S. Junior Amateur, the 1971 U.S. Amateur, the 1978 U.S. Girls' Junior and the 2003 U.S. Mid-Amateur. The club also hosted the 2013 Palmer Cup competition between Europe and a United States team that featured 2019 BMW Championship winner Justin Thomas, Daniel Berger and Patrick Rodgers.

The club and its membership have a deep commitment to the state of Delaware.

"Delaware is excited to host the 2022 BMW Championship," said Governor John Carney. "The First State has a long and proud golf history and is ideally positioned to support one of golf's great championships. Not only will the BMW Championship enhance the local economy, it will showcase a wonderful course and dynamic community to a global audience."

"We are thrilled the Wilmington Country Club in New Castle County has been selected as the site for the 2022 BMW Championship," said New Castle County Executive Matt Meyer. "New Castle County has a historic relationship with professional golf, including being the home to the LPGA Tour's McDonald's Championship for

nearly a decade. We're excited to welcome back professional golf to one of the premier golf locations on the East Coast."

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki added: "I join with all members of our community to welcome the BMW Championship to Wilmington Country Club. This event will attract many to our city who will be able to enjoy our terrific restaurants and fine hotels in addition to watching the greatest golfers in the world compete for one of the PGA TOUR's most coveted titles."

In addition to having an estimated \$30 million economic impact on the Wilmington area, the 2022 BMW Championship is expected to play a vital philanthropic role by introducing more golfers and fans on the East Coast to the Evans Scholars Foundation and its mission of awarding full tuition and housing college scholarships to deserving youth caddies.

"We are proud of our collaboration with the Western Golf Association and of the support that we've been able to provide to the Evans Scholars Foundation," said Bernhard Kuhnt, President and CEO, BMW of North America. "As the title sponsor of this tournament for the past 14 years, together we have helped to send over 3,000 young students to college to pursue their dreams."

All proceeds from the BMW Championship benefit the Evans Scholars Foundation. Since 2007, the event has raised more than \$35 million for Evans Scholarships. Two caddies have earned Evans Scholarships from Wilmington Country Club – Owen Griffin graduated from the University of Illinois in 1983, and Dan Walsh currently is a junior at Penn State University.

WGA President and CEO John Kaczowski noted that "the BMW Championship at Wilmington Country Club will give us an opportunity to show a new market the power of the Evans Scholars Program. This is a critical step in our efforts to expand from coast to coast and reach more deserving young caddies."

The BMW Championship features the top 70 PGA TOUR players vying to earn one of 30 spots in the season-ending TOUR Championship and the chance to be crowned FedExCup champion. Past BMW Championship winners include Jon Rahm, Justin Thomas, Keegan Bradley, Dustin Johnson, Jason Day, Rory McIlroy, Zach Johnson, Justin Rose and Tiger Woods.

-###-

#### **About the BMW Championship**

The BMW Championship dates back to 1899 when it debuted as the Western Open, making it the third-oldest tournament on the PGA TOUR schedule, behind only the British Open and U.S. Open. BMW has sponsored the tournament since 2007 when it became the penultimate event of the PGA TOUR's FedExCup Playoffs. The BMW Championship features a field of the top 70 players in the FedExCup standings to determine the final 30 players for the FedExCup final at the TOUR Championship in Atlanta. Since 2007, the BMW Championship has contributed more than \$35 million to the Evans Scholars Foundation, the event's charitable beneficiary. To learn more, visit [www.bmwchampionship.com](http://www.bmwchampionship.com).

#### **About Wilmington Country Club**

Wilmington Country Club was established in 1901, with its original 18 holes covering 135 acres. The club relocated in the 1950s, bringing in renowned golf course architect Robert Trent Jones Sr. to design the South Course, which opened in 1959. Playing over 7,500 yards from the championship tees, the South Course has been recognized as one of the United States' best golf courses by Golf Digest.

While this will be Wilmington Country Club's first professional event, the club has long been a proving ground for the world's best amateur players. After hosting the 1913 U.S. Women's Amateur on what is now known as the "Old Course," Wilmington has hosted five other USGA events, including the 1965 and 1978 U.S. Junior Amateur, the 1971 U.S. Amateur, the 1978 U.S. Girls' Junior and the 2003 U.S. Mid-Amateur. The club also hosted the 2013 Palmer Cup competition between Europe and a United States team that featured 2019 BMW Championship winner Justin Thomas, Daniel Berger and Patrick Rodgers.

#### **About the Western Golf Association**

The Western Golf Association conducts six national golf championships and sponsors the nationally acclaimed Evans Scholars Foundation. Headquartered in Glenview, Illinois, the organization was founded in 1899 by 11 Chicago-area golf clubs to promote their interests in golf. In addition to the BMW Championship on the PGA TOUR and the Evans Scholars Invitational on the Korn Ferry Tour, the WGA conducts four prestigious amateur championships, the Western Amateur, the Western Junior, and the Women's Western Golf Association's Amateur and Junior championships.

**About the Evans Scholars Foundation**

Established by the WGA and famed amateur golfer Charles Chick Evans Jr., the Evans Scholars Foundation provides full housing and tuition scholarships to high-achieving caddies across the country. Currently, a record 1,045 caddies are enrolled in 19 universities across the nation as Evans Scholars. The Program, which is supported by the WGA, is funded by contributions from more than 33,000 Par Club members, including Evans Scholars Alumni, as well as proceeds from the BMW Championship. Since the Program's inception in 1930, more than 11,320 caddies nationwide have graduated as Evans Scholars. To learn more, visit [www.wgaesf.org](http://www.wgaesf.org).

###