Smucker’s LPGA “Moms on Tour”

Becoming a parent is a life-changing experience for anyone who has a child, but for professional female athletes, becoming a mom also brings some unique challenges. The LPGA has worked to provide programs and policies to help its players pursue their goals both as an elite athlete and a mom while helping them to thrive both on and off the golf course as they travel with their young children.

The Smucker’s LPGA Child Development Center
The LPGA pioneered the concept of providing the children of its professional athletes with consistent, high quality and familiar child development services. The Smucker’s LPGA Child Development Center was the first traveling childcare center in the world of professional sports and has been with the LPGA Tour for more than 25 years. The program has provided childcare services to LPGA athletes and staff since its inception, and it is vital to helping the LPGA’s athlete moms continue their careers after having children.

Three full-time credentialed child development staff members travel to each North American event to care for the children of LPGA Tour moms. Week after week, as the LPGA Tour travels, the children receive consistent care and education because these same staff members travel with the center. The facility is also supported by temporary credentialed staff and volunteers.

LPGA Maternity Policy
In 2019, the LPGA introduced an updated maternity policy designed to provide new moms with more flexibility regarding maternity leave. A few keys of the policy:

• Policy designed to be pro-athlete and pro-mom
• Structured to give moms flexibility and options regarding their maternity leave
• Players can take maternity in year of child’s birth or the year after
• Moms have two years from date of baby’s birth to return to playing
• Once Moms return, they have the same status they had entering the season of maternity and have 12 months (i.e. same number of tournaments) to compete at that status

In addition to the LPGA’s updated maternity policy, all five majors on the LPGA Tour schedule now have maternity clauses that exempt a player into the championship who qualified for the previous year but did not compete due to maternity.
Smucker’s LPGA “Moms on Tour”

- Paula Creamer
  - Hilton Kennedy (2022)
- Laura Diaz
  - Cooper Diaz (2006)
  - Lily Diaz (2010)
- Julieta Granada
  - Gia Granada (2021)
- Mi Jung Hur
  - Ji-An Wang (2022)
- Juli Inkster
  - Hayley Inkster (1990)
  - Cori Inkster (1994)
- Cristie Kerr
  - Mason Stevens (2013)
  - Griffin Stevens (2018)
- Brittany Lang
  - Shay Spann (2020)
- Stacy Lewis
  - Chesnee Chadwell (2018)
- Brittany Lincicome
  - Emery Gouws (2019)
  - Sophia Gouws (2022)
- Catriona Matthew
  - Katie Matthew (2006)
  - Sophie Matthew (2009)
- Gerina Mendoza
- Sydnee Michaels
  - Isla Muncrief (2017)
- Azahara Munoz
  - Lucas Vickers (2022)
- Brooke Pancake
  - Lucy Rende (2018)
  - Jackson Rende (2020)
  - Palmer Rende (2021)
- Hee Young Park
  - Mino Joe Park (2023)
- Jane Park
  - Grace Godfrey (2020)
- Katherine Perry-Hamski
  - John Hamski (2020)
- Rachel Rohanna
  - Gemelia Virgili (2018)
- Sarah Jane Smith
  - Theo Smith (2019)
- Jackie Stoelting
  - Baren Stoelting (2019)
  - Baylor Stoelting (2022)
- Mariajo Uribe
  - Lucca Bautista (2020)
- Michelle Wie West
  - Makenna West (2020)
- Cheyenne Woods
  - Cameron Hicks (2022)

Additionally, Caroline Masson, Inbee Park and Sophia Popov are expecting their first children in 2023.