



BMW LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

BMW Ladies Championship

Seowon Hills at Seowon Valley Country Club | Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea | Oct. 17-20, 2024

Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes October 14, 2024

MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(All times are local and subject to change)

Wednesday, Oct. 16

Lauren Caughlin, Amy Yang, Haeran Ryu, Jin Hee Im, Soomin Oh (a), Yuka Saso, Minjee Lee – 12:30 p.m.

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE BMW LADIES CHAMPIONSHIP

- This is the fifth playing of the BMW Ladies Championship and the second year at Seowon Hills at Seowon Valley Country Club
 - The inaugural event was won by **Ha Na Jang** in 2019
 - The tournament was not contested in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic
 - This event was held at LPGA International Busan in 2019 and 2021 and Oak Valley Country Club in 2022
- This the Tour's only official event in the Republic of Korea and the second leg of the fall Asia swing
 - In 2025, the Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown will return to Korea
- The LPGA Tour has had a presence in the Republic of Korea since 1995's Samsung World Championship of Women's Golf at Paradise Golf Club at Cheju Island
 - This is the 26th official LPGA Tour event to be held in the Republic of Korea
 - The 2018 Hanwha LIFEPLUS International Crown was held at Jack Nicklaus Golf Club in Incheon and won by the Korean team of **Sung Hyun Park, So Yeon Ryu, In-Kyung Kim and In Gee Chun**
- This is the second year Seowon Hills at Seowon Valley Country Club is hosting this event
 - Located in the northern part of Gyeonggi-do and within one hour of Seoul, Seowon Hills first opened in 2004 with a nine-hole course before adding 18 holes in 2012
 - For the BMW Ladies Championship in 2023, the West and South courses underwent a course renovation by David Dale, and the design include 86 newly-built bunkers that have a three-dimensional shape, a new type of bunker style not seen in Korea
- There are 78 total players comprised of 68 LPGA Tour players, eight tournament sponsor invites and two Korean amateurs
 - Of the 68 LPGA Tour players:
 - Two defending champions are in the field: **Minjee Lee** (2023) and **Lydia Ko** (2022)
 - Last season, Lee earned her 10th career victory after defeating **Alison Lee** with a birdie on the first playoff hole
 - Lee is making her fifth start at this event
 - She has never missed a cut and has a non-win best finish of T12 in 2021
 - In 2022, Ko earned her 18th career victory defeating **Andrea Lee** by four strokes at Oak Valley Country Club
 - Ko is making her fifth start as well had finished inside the top-three in three of her four previous starts
 - She finished third and T3 in 2023 and 2021, respectively
 - 17 of the 18 Tour winners are in the field including last week's Buick LPGA Shanghai winner **Ruoning Yin**
 - Amy Yang** (KPMG Women's PGA Championship) and **Haeran Ryu** (FM Championship) are winners this season who are natives of Korea
 - Yang is making her fifth start at this event and finished third in 2019
 - She finished T48 last season
 - Ryu is making her second start as a Tour member and her third overall
 - She finished T16 last season and T7 in 2021 as a non-member
 - Bailey Tardy** (Blue Bay LPGA) is the only winner this season in the field making her Korea debut
 - Eight of the top-10 players in the Rolex Women's World Rankings are in the field
 - Lilia Vu** is competing as the highest rated player at No. 2
 - Vu is making her third start in Korea with a career-best finish of T3 in 2022
 - She finished T48 last season
 - The other top players in the field are No. 3 Ko, No 4 Yin, No. 6 **Ayaka Furue**, No. 7 Yang, No. 8 **Hannah Green**, No. 9 Ryu and No. 10 **Celine Boutier**
 - Last week's winner, Yin and Furue are making just their second start at the BMW Ladies Championship
 - Yin finished T41 and Furue finished T10 last season
 - Of the eight sponsor invites:
 - Seven tour members were invited including: **Auston Kim, Jeongeun Lee6, Eun-Hee Ji, Danielle Kang, Kumkang Park and Yu Jin Sung**
 - Kim, a 2024 rookie, is making her Korea debut
 - Kang is making her fifth start at this event and has never finished worse than T10
 - She withdrew after the second round of play last season and finished runner-up in 2019
 - Lee6 is making her fifth start and finished T5 last season
 - Sung is making her first start at this event since 2021 and her second ever
 - She finished T36
 - Ji and Park are making their first ever start at this event
 - Jiyai Shin** gave up Tour membership in 2014 to be closer to her family in Korea
 - Her last Tour win came at the 2013 ISPS Handa Women's Australian Open
 - In 2009, she was named the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year
 - She also became the first player from the Republic of Korea to top the season-ending money list
 - Most recently, she finished T2 at the AIG Women's Open at the Old Course in St Andrews
 - Jihyo Jung** competes on the KLPGA and has made seven starts
 - She finished 21st at the DB Group the 38th Korea Women's Open Golf Championship, her best finish
 - Of the two Korea amateurs:
 - Hyojin Yang** has appeared in 39 events and has 16 top-10 finishes
 - She finished fifth in her most recent event, the KB Financial Group Cup
 - Soomin Oh** has appeared in 37 events and has 18 top-10 finishes with six wins
 - She recently won the World Junior Girls Championship

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Tournament: @bmw_korea (Instagram), #BMWLC

TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times EST)

Wednesday, October 16: 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)
Thursday, October 17: 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)
Friday, October 18: 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)
Saturday, October 19: 11:00 p.m. – 3:00 a.m. (Golf Channel)

Tournament Scoring Records at Seowon Valley Country Club:

18 holes – 62, Ashleigh Buhai (2023)
36 holes – 133, Minjee Lee (2023)
54 holes – 204, Minjee Lee and Ashleigh Buhai (2023)
72 holes – 272, Minjee Lee and Alison Lee (2023)

Overall Tournament Scoring Records:

18 holes – 62, Ashleigh Buhai (2023) at Seowon Valley Country Club
36 holes – 132, Andrea Lee (2022) at Oak Valley Country Club
54 holes – 198, Hee Jeong Lim (2021) at LPGA International Busan
72 holes – 266, Jin Young Ko and Hee Jeong Lim (2021) at LPGA International Busan

2024 Statistical Leaders

Official Money: Nelly Korda, \$3,676,930
Scoring Average: Jeeno Thitikul, 69.89
Birdies: Haeran Ryu, 291
Eagles: Gabriela Ruffels and Lexi Thompson, 10
Hole-in-Ones: Jiwon Jeon and Austo Kim, 2
Greens in Regulation: Jeeno Thitikul, 76.09%
Average Driving Distance: Natthakritta Vongtaveelap, 291.19

2024 Award Standings

Rolex Player of the Year		
1	Nelly Korda	244 points
2	Lydia Ko	144 points
3	Ayaka Furue	124 points

Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year		
1	Mao Saigo	829 points
2	Jin Hee Im	707 points
3	Gabriela Ruffels	494 points

Rolex ANNIKA Major Award		
1	Nelly Korda*	84 points
2	Ayaka Furue	70 points
T3	Amy Yang	60 points
T3	Lydia Ko	60 points
T3	Yuka Saso	60 points

*clinched

#AonRiskReward Challenge		
1	Ruoning Yin	-0.929
T2	Lilia Vu	-0.885
T2	Jeeno Thitikul	-0.885

Vare Trophy (Scoring Average)		
1	Jeeno Thitikul	69.89
2	Nelly Korda	69.92
3	Ayaka Furue	70.06

Race to the CME Globe Points		
1	Nelly Korda	3,735.819 points
2	Lydia Ko	2,500.258 points
3	Ayaka Furue	2,303.277 points

[Aon Risk Reward Challenge](#): No. 17, par 4

Coming down the stretch at Seowon Hills, players must take advantage of the scoring opportunity on the 17th hole, especially when the front tees are utilized. When playing up, look for the longer hitters to try and drive the green, bringing eagle into play. When playing from the back tees, most of the field is expected to hit less than driver off the tee. The main decision players face off the tee is what line to take with their drive. Players that opt to lay up will need to navigate the bunker on the left of the landing zone and the water that runs up the right-hand side. If players try to for the green, a combination of distance and accuracy is required.

After her win last week, **Ruoning Yin** finds herself alone atop the Aon Risk Reward Challenge heading into the BMW Ladies Championship. Yin, with a Risk Reward Score of -0.929, took advantage of the par 5 No. 17 challenge hole at Qizhong Garden Golf Club recording three birdies and an eagle throughout the week. Last week's co-leader with Yin was **Lilia Vu** who did not play in last week's event but is teeing up at the BMW Ladies Championship. She and **Jeeno Thitikul** are tied for second with Risk Reward Scores of -0.885. **Haeran Ryu** and **Patty Tavatanakit** round out the top-five with Risk Reward Scores of -0.861 and -0.846, respectively.

The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a unique, season-long competition on the LPGA Tour that highlights the game's best players as they navigate some of the most strategically challenging holes on tour. Players will take their best two scores from each Aon Risk Reward Challenge hole, with the winners having the best average score to par at the end of the regular season. The winner will take home the Aon trophy and a \$1 Million prize.

[Race to CME Globe Update](#):

The Race to the CME Globe heads into the final stretch of the season with just six events remaining in the 2024 season. Only the top-60 players on Tour this year will gain entry into the CME Group Tour Championship, the LPGA Tour's season finale that boasts the largest winner's prize in women's golf.

Nelly Korda has led the way since the end of March and will be tough to catch as the season winds down. Korda has 3,735.819 points and is 1,200 points ahead of **Lydia Ko** (2,500.258) who has had an impressive season of her own after winning her third event in 2024 at the Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G. The rest of the leaderboard is filled out by major champion **Ayaka Furue** with 2,303.277 points, FM Championship winner **Haeran Ryu** with 2,259.392 points and two-time 2024 winner **Lauren Coughlin** with 2,033.563 points.

While there was no movement within the top-five, there was some big movement among the other players in the race:

- After her win, **Ruoning Yin** moved squarely into sixth place after starting the week in 10th
- **Sei Young Kim** continues to climb up the rankings moving to 11th after jumping into the top-20 the week before
- **Yealimi Noh** made the largest jump of the week, moving up 14 spots after her fourth place finish in Shanghai

The Race to the CME Globe is a season-long points competition with LPGA Tour Members accumulating points in every official LPGA event to qualify for the season-ending tournament, the CME Group Tour Championship. The player who wins the CME Group Tour Championship is named the "Race to the CME Globe Champion." The top 60 points earners and ties earn a spot into the season finale with the entire field competing for a \$11 million purse, increased from \$7 million last season, and is highlighted by a \$4 million winner's check, which is the largest single prize in the history of women's golf.

[CME Group Cares Challenge – Score 1 for St. Jude Update](#):

The CME Group Cares Challenge is a season-long charitable giving program that turns aces into donations. CME Group donates \$20,000 for each hole-in-one made on the LPGA Tour in 2024, with a minimum guaranteed donation of \$500,000 to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, which is leading the way in how the world understands, treats and defeats childhood cancer and life-threatening diseases. Two holes-in-one were made at the LPGA Buick Shanghai, bringing the 2024 donation total to \$420,000 with 21 total aces recorded so far. The Tour surpassed last year's total of \$400,000 (20 aces).

2024 Wins by Country (27 tournaments, 8 countries)

11 – United States of America (Nelly Korda (6), Bailey Tardy, Lilia Vu, Rose Zhang, Lauren Coughlin(2))
5 – Thailand (Moriya Jutanugarn, Jasmine Suwannapura, Patty Tavatanakit, Jeeno Thitikul, Chanettee Wannasaen)
3 – New Zealand (Lydia Ko)
2 – Australia (Hannah Green (2))
2 – Japan (Yuka Saso, Ayaka Furue)
2 – Republic of Korea (Haeran Ryu, Amy Yang)
2 – People's Republic of China (Ruoning Yin)
1 – Sweden (Linnea Strom)

2024 Wins by Player (27 tournaments, 18 players)

6 – Nelly Korda (LPGA Drive On Championship, FIR HILLS SERI PAK Championship, Ford Championship presented by KCC, T-Mobile Match Play presented by MGM Rewards, The Chevron Championship, Mizuho Americas Open)
3 – Lydia Ko (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, AIG Women's Open, Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G)
2 – Hannah Green (HSBC Women's World Championship, JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro)
2 – Lauren Coughlin (CPKC Womens Open, ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open)
2 – Ruoning Yin (Dow Championship, Buick LPGA Championship)
1 – Ayaka Furue (The Amundi Evian Championship)
1 – Moriya Jutanugarn (Portland Classic)
1 – Jasmine Suwannapura (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G)
1 – Haeran Ryu (FM Championship)
1 – Yuka Saso (U.S. Women's Open presented by Ally)
1 – Linnea Strom (ShopRite LPGA Classic presented by Acer)
1 – Bailey Tardy (Blue Bay LPGA)
1 – Patty Tavatanakit (Honda LPGA Thailand)

- 1 – Atthaya Thitikul (Dow Championship)
- 1 – Lilia Vu (Meijer LPGA Classic for Simply Give)
- 1 – Chanettee Wannasaen (Dana Open)
- 1 – Amy Yang (KPMG Women's PGA Championship)
- 1 – Rose Zhang (Cognizant Founders Cup)

Average Age of 2024 Winners: 25.679

Youngest Winner: Chanettee Wannasaen (20 years, 3 months, 5 days)

Oldest Winner: Amy Yang (34 years, 10 months, 26 days)