



### Maybank Championship

Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | Oct. 24-27, 2024

### Tuesday Pre-Tournament Notes

October 22, 2024

#### MEDIA AVAILABILITY SCHEDULE

(All times are local to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 12 hours ahead of Eastern Time. All pre-tournament press conferences will be uploaded to the Online Media Center and transcripts will be available through the ASAP Transcripts link.)

#### Wednesday, Oct. 23

12:30 p.m. – ASEAN players - Ida Ayu Indira Melati Putri, Chayanit Wangmahaporn, Liyana Durisic, Kristina Natalia Yoko, Nur Durriyah Damian  
1:00 p.m. – Lilia Vu  
2:00 p.m. – Jasmine Suwannapura  
3:00 p.m. – Ayaka Furue

#### THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE MAYBANK CHAMPIONSHIP

- This is the second playing of the Maybank Championship
  - Maybank, one of Asia's leading banking groups, was announced as the title sponsor of the event on March 28, 2023
  - Maybank was the first financial institution in Malaysia to champion a structured long-term development of golf across the region, celebrating the spirit of the sport for over 14 years
- In the inaugural year, **Celine Boutier** and **Jeeno Thitikul** tied for first place at 21-under par
  - They proceeded to participate in a nine-hole playoff where Boutier finished victorious
  - The playoff between Boutier and Thitikul tied for the second-longest in LPGA Tour history
- Kuala Lumpur Golf & Country Club is the host site for the Maybank Championship
  - Established in 1991, KLGCC is owned and managed by Sime Darby Property Berhad and is located minutes from the heart of Kuala Lumpur
  - The course has also hosted numerous other professional tournaments on the PGA and Asian Tours including the CIMB Classic and the Maybank Malaysian Open
- The Maybank Championship is a 72-hole, no-cut event
- This is the third event of the LPGA Tour's fall Asia swing following the Buick LPGA Shanghai and BMW Ladies Championship
- The field consists of 78 players including 10 sponsor invites
  - There are 14 2024 winners in the field this week including **Hannah Green, Ruoning Yin, Ayaka Furue, Moriya Jutanugarn, Haeran Ryu, Yuka Saso, Linnea Strom, Jasmine Suwannapura, Bailey Tardy, Patty Tavatanakit, Jeeno Thitikul, Lilia Vu, Chanettee Wannasaen and Amy Yang**
  - BMW Ladies Championship winner, Green is in the field after earning her third victory of 2024 and sixth of her career last week
  - Defending champion Boutier looks to claim her second Maybank Championship title this week
    - She is entering this week with back-to-back top-10 finishes at the Buick LPGA Shanghai (T9) and the BMW Ladies Championship (2nd)
    - Boutier has one additional top-10 finish in 2024, at the HSBC Women's World Championship this spring (2nd)
    - Her Maybank Championship victory is the last time she has won on the LPGA Tour. However, she did win the LET Aramco Team Series – Shenzhen the week prior to the Buick LPGA Shanghai
  - There are eight LPGA Tour rookies including **Nataliya Guseva, Jin Hee Im, Auston Kim, Somi Lee, Hira Naveed, Gabriela Ruffels, Mao Saigo, Yu Jin Sung**
  - LPGA players to be making their first start at the Maybank Championship (not including rookies) are **Marina Alex, Ssu-Chia Cheng, Carlota Ciganda, Kristen Gillman, Georgia Hall, Wei-Ling Hsu, Charley Hull, Alison Lee, Somi Lee, Lucy Li, Ruixin Liu, Wichanee Meechai, Yealimi Noh, Anna Nordqvist, Bianca Pagdanganan, Paula Reto, Bailey Tardy, Lilia Vu and Arpichaya Yubol**
  - There are 10 Maybank sponsor invites in the field including:
    - Three LPGA Tour players (**Bianca Pagdanganan, Ashleigh Buhai and Auston Kim**)
      - Pagdanganan is making her first start since the Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G
        - She currently sits at No. 107 in the Race to the CME Globe
        - She has one top-10 finish in 2024 at the Mizuho Americas Open (T7)
        - She finished T4 at the 2024 Paris Olympics while representing the Philippines
      - Buhai is making her 21st start of 2024
        - She finished T6 at last week's BMW Ladies Championship
        - She has managed a toe injury for the past several months
        - She represented South Africa in the 2024 Paris Olympics
      - Kim is a 2024 rookie
        - Her best finish of the season was T5 at the Dow Championship
        - She is currently No. 77 in the Race to the CME Globe and No. 7 in Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year standings
        - She won the 2023 Epson Tour Championship to secure her LPGA Tour card
    - Four Malaysian players (**Liyana Durisic, Durriyah Damian, Ashley Lau, Mirabel Ting (a)**)
      - Durisic and Damian earned a spot in the field through the ASEAN qualifier in August
        - Durisic graduated from Iowa State earlier this year and turned professional during the qualifier
        - Damian won five times on the local Malaysian tour several years ago
      - Lau currently competes on the Epson Tour
        - In the season-ending event, the Epson Tour Championship, Lau finished second
        - She will compete at the LPGA Final Qualifying in hopes of securing her LPGA Tour card for 2025
      - Ting is Malaysia's highest ranked amateur and the only amateur in the field
        - She is a member of the women's golf team at Florida State University, earning medalist honors in two of her starts this fall including the Folds of Honor Collegiate and the Schooner Fall Classic
        - She finished T8 at the 2024 Augusta National Women's Amateur and was a member of the 2024 Arnold Palmer Cup International Team
    - Three additional ASEAN players (**Ida Ayu Melati, Chayanit Wangmahaporn, Kristina Yoko**)
      - Each of these players also earned a spot in the field through the ASEAN qualifier in August
        - Ida is from Indonesia and also participated in the inaugural Maybank Championship as a sponsor invite
          - She was a member of the Purdue University women's golf team from 2015-2019
        - Wangmahaporn is from Thailand and was a member of the Iowa State women's golf team from 2015-2019
        - Yoko competed in the qualifier as an amateur, but has since turned professional

#### LPGA ON-SITE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

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#### QUICK LINKS

[Interview Transcripts](#)  
[LPGA Tour Online Media Center](#) (OMC): includes links to daily tournament notes, statistics and photo/video assets  
[LPGA Statistical Database](#): Request access to LPGA Tour data from 1980 to present  
[Stats Box](#): Includes all-time records, major records, purse breakdowns, stats documents, scoring files, points structures, and tournament histories  
[Media Assets](#): For access to tournament photos and videos, please contact the on-site LPGA Communications team  
[Tournament Website](#)

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

**LPGA Tour:** @LPGA, @LPGAMedia (X), @lpga\_tour (Instagram, TikTok)  
**Tournament:** @MaybankChampionship (Instagram), @MaybankChampion (X)

#### TV/STREAMING TIMES (All times ET)

**Wednesday, Oct. 23:** 9:30 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. (NBCSports.com/App)  
**Thursday, Oct. 24:** 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (Encore – Golf Channel); 9:30 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. (NBCSports.com/App)  
**Friday, Oct. 25:** 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (Encore – Golf Channel); 9:30 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. (NBCSports.com/App)  
**Saturday, Oct. 26:** 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. (Encore – Golf Channel); 9:30 p.m. – 2:30 a.m. (NBCSports.com/App)  
**Sunday, Oct. 27:** 6:30 – 10:30 p.m. (Encore – Golf Channel)

#### 2024 LPGA TOUR STATISTICAL LEADERS

Official Money: Nelly Korda, \$3,676,930  
Scoring Average: Jeeno Thitikul, 69.78  
Birdies: Haeran Ryu, 310  
Eagles: A Lim Kim, Gabriela Ruffels and Lexi Thompson, 10  
Hole-in-Ones: Jiwon Jeon and Austo Kim, 2  
Greens in Regulation: Jeeno Thitikul, 77.33%  
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	875 points
2	Jin Hee Im	763 points
3	Gabriela Ruffels	499 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	Jeeno Thitikul	-0.893
2	Ruoning Yin	-0.867
3	Lilia Vu	-0.857

Vare Trophy (Scoring Average)		
1	Jeeno Thitikul	69.78
2	Nelly Korda	69.92
3	Ayaka Furue	70.11

Race to the CME Globe Points		
1	Nelly Korda	3,735.819 points
2	Lydia Ko	2,562.758 points
3	Haeran Ryu	2,369.392 points

**Aon Risk Reward Challenge:** No. 16, par 4

The short par-4 at Kuala Lumpur will require better decisions and execution regardless of the day's setup. Water lines the left side of the hole, with bunkers on the right side of the fairway, putting a premium on accuracy. When playing the forward tees, the scoring average is expected to be .25 strokes lower than from the back tees. With the tees moved back, less than 20% of the field is expected to go for the green with their drive. The percentage of players going for the green jumps to over 50% when playing the forward tees. If laying up, players will try and aim at the first right bunker, leaving just a wedge into the challenging green.

**Jeeno Thitikul** sits in the No. 1 spot in the Aon Risk Reward Challenge with an average to par of -0.893. Following the BMW Ladies Championship, she replaced fellow competitor and friend **Ruoning Yin** in the top spot. Yin moved down into second place at -0.867 and **Lilia Vu** moved down to third place at -0.857. **Haeran Ryu** maintained her spot at No. 4 with an average to par of -0.842. Rounding out the top 5 is **Natthakritta Vongtaveelap** with -0.833. With five events remaining, players continue to vie for the No.1 position to earn the \$1 million prize and be the 2024 Aon Risk Reward Challenge winner.

The Aon Risk Reward Challenge is a 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 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**

Following the BMW Ladies Championship in Korea, the LPGA Tour heads onto the third week in the fall Asia swing, the Maybank Championship. **Nelly Korda** maintains her spot in the No. 1 position with 3,735.819 points with five events left in the 2024 season. After a tied for 12th finish, **Lydia Ko** earned 62.50 points and is still in second place, 1,173.061 points behind Korda. At 2,369.392 points is 2023 Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year, **Haeran Ryu**. Ryu finished tied for sixth in her home country last week to move up a spot in the Race. 2024 major champion **Ayaka Furue** dropped to No. 4 (2,315.277 points) after finishing T41 at the BMW Ladies Championship, her first start since the AIG Women's Open. Upon earning her third victory of the 2024 season, **Hannah Green** moved into No. 5 in the Race to the CME Globe with 2,175.967 points.

More notable moves in the Race to the CME Globe following the BMW Ladies Championship include:

- **Hannah Green** moved from No. 8 to No. 5 with her win
- **Chanettee Wannasaen** moved from No. 20 to No. 13 after her 3rd place finish
- **Celine Boutier** moved from No. 36 to No. 18 with her runner-up finish
- **Ashleigh Buhai** moved within the top-60 and from No. 68 to No. 59

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**

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. There have been 21 total holes-in-one made this season, bringing the 2024 donation total to \$420,000. The last holes-in-one were made at the Buick LPGA Shanghai.

#### **2024 Wins by Country (28 tournaments, 8 countries)**

11 – United States of America (Nelly Korda (6), Lauren Coughlin (2), Bailey Tardy, Lilia Vu, Rose Zhang,)  
5 – Thailand (Moriya Jutanugarn, Jasmine Suwannapura, Patty Tavatanakit, Jeeno Thitikul, Chanettee Wannasaen)  
3 – Australia (Hannah Green)  
3 – New Zealand (Lydia Ko)  
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 (28 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 – Hannah Green (HSBC Women's World Championship, JM Eagle LA Championship presented by Plastpro, BMW Ladies Championship)  
3 – Lydia Ko (Hilton Grand Vacations Tournament of Champions, AIG Women's Open, Kroger Queen City Championship presented by P&G)  
2 – Lauren Coughlin (CPKC Womens Open, ISPS HANDA Women's Scottish Open)  
2 – Ruoning Yin (Dow Championship, Buick LPGA Shanghai)  
1 – Ayaka Furue (The Amundi Evian Championship)  
1 – Moriya Jutanugarn (Portland Classic)  
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 – Jasmine Suwannapura (Walmart NW Arkansas Championship presented by P&G)  
1 – Bailey Tardy (Blue Bay LPGA)  
1 – Patty Tavatanakit (Honda LPGA Thailand)  
1 – Jeeno 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:** 25.724

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

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