# 2026 CME GROUP TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP
# What to Watch | Key Storylines | Tune-In Guide

The culmination of the 2026 season takes place in Naples, Fla., with the top 60 players in the Race to the CME Globe from the season battling it out for the single largest winner's prize in women's golf at $4 million.

## 📺 WHERE TO WATCH

**Thursday:** Golf Channel | 2:00 to 3:00 pm ET (streaming); 3:00 to 5:00 pm ET (linear)
**Friday:** Golf Channel | 2:00 to 3:00 pm ET (streaming); 3:00 to 5:00 pm ET (linear)
**Saturday:** CNBC | 1:00 to 4:00 pm ET
**Sunday:** NBC + Peacock | 1:00 to 4:00 pm ET

## WHY WATCH

### All Eyes on Jeeno Thitikul

Jeeno Thitikul will enter the week as a four-time champion in 2026 and the back-to-back defending champion of the CME Group Tour Championship. The Thailand native is seeking to become the first player in LPGA Tour history to defend her title for three consecutive years at the CME Group Tour Championship, and the first since Inbee Park to defend any title for three consecutive years.

Additionally, Thitikul is $2,298,180 behind Annika Sorenstam on the all-time money list, with a historic third win giving her the chance to pass her for the top spot.

### Season-Long Awards

Still up for grabs is the Vare Trophy, given to the player with the lowest scoring average this season. Miyu Yamashita (69.50) and Jeeno Thitikul (69.87), are in a tight race for the Vare Trophy, with only .37 separating the two.

Erika Hara won the Louise Suggs Rolex Rookie of the Year with her T17 result last week at The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge. The win makes Hara the fourth Japanese player to win the award since its induction and the third straight Japanese winner, joining Miyu Yamashita (2025) and Mao Saigo (2024). For an in-depth breakdown of the award, click here.

The Rolex LPGA Awards on Tuesday is one of the many events hosted to kick off the 2026 CME Group Tour Championship. Award winners like Nelly Korda (Rolex Player of the Year and Rolex ANNIKA Major Award), Jeeno Thitikul (Founder's Award), Alison Lee (Heather Farr Perseverance Award) and so many more will be honored that evening for their accomplishments this season.

### Shake-Up on the All-Time Money List

Two other players have the chance to claim the top spot on the all-time money list, thanks to the $11 million purse and $4 million winner's check.

CME ambassador Lydia Ko and World No. 1 Nelly Korda both sit less than $220,000 behind Sorenstam.

Korda - $161,077 needed (top-6 finish or better)

Ko - $215,629 needed (top-5 finish or better)

**One of the Strongest Fields All Year**
The CME Group Tour Championship is a week full of celebrating players and their accomplishments this season. The field brings out the best of 2026 and is comprised of players who made headlines – five Rolex First-Time Winners, major champions Nelly Korda and Haeran Ryu, four rookies, 11 members competing for the first time in this historic event, and 40 of the top 50 in the Rolex Rankings.

**Players Who Moved into the Field**
Lindy Duncan made the biggest jump after her win last week at The ANNIKA driven by Gainbridge, moving from No. 74 to No. 34 in the Race to the CME Globe. In addition to the win, Duncan had one of the busiest weeks on Tour.

Duncan flew from Japan after a T46 finish at the TOTO Japan Classic, took part in several meetings as an LPGA Player Director, and then became a Rolex First-Time winner in her 222nd start on the LPGA Tour. At 35, the win also makes her the oldest first-time winner on the LPGA Tour since Leta Lindley in 2008.

Rookie Julia Lopez Ramirez will join Duncan as the only other player to get into the CME Group Tour Championship field based on their result at The ANNIKA. Lopez Ramirez finished fifth last week, capping off an impressive three tournament stretch at the end of the year, recording a T9 finish at the Maybank Championship and T11 finish at the BMW Ladies Championship in her previous two starts.