

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND PLAYERS

RORY MCILROY

Rank: 2
Best Masters finish: 2 (2022)
Best finish this season: W (Dubai)

MATT FITZPATRICK

Rank: 15
Best Masters finish: T7 (2016)
Best finish this season: T7 (Sentry Tournament of Champions)

TYRRELL HATTON

Rank: 17
Best Masters finish: T18 (2021)
Best finish this season: 2 (Players)

SHANE LOWRY

Rank: 23
Best Masters finish: T3 (2022)
Best finish this season: T5 (Honda Classic)

TOMMY FLEETWOOD

Rank: 27
Best Masters finish: T14 (2022)
Best finish this season: T3 (Valspar)

SEAMUS POWER

Rank: 34
Best Masters finish: T27 (2022)
Best finish this season: T14 (Genesis Invitational)

JUSTIN ROSE

Rank: 36
Best Masters finish: 2 (2015, 2017)
Best finish this season: W (AT&T)

DANNY WILLETT

Rank: 91
Best Masters finish: W (2016)
Best finish this season: T18 (Genesis Invitational)

SANDY LYLE

Rank: 3,343
Best Masters finish: W (1988)
Best finish this season: N/A

MATTHEW McCLEAN

Rank: 69 (amateur)
Best Masters finish: This is his debut.
Best finish this season: No tour appearances. Won US Mid-Amateur Championship in 2022.

SIX REBELS

DUSTIN JOHNSON

Total Major wins - 2
Masters wins - 1
LIV's best hope - along with Cam Smith perhaps - of storming Augusta National with five top-10 finishes at The Masters.

PHIL MICKELSON

Total Major wins - 6
Masters wins - 3
Has won one Major in his 50s but two would be greedy - and highly unlikely. Extreme diet has left him looking unwell rather than fit.

PATRICK REED

Total Major wins - 1
Masters wins - 1
Thrives on controversy and confrontation so should be in his element back at Augusta, where he went to university.

SERGIO GARCIA

Total Major wins - 1
Masters wins - 1
Heading south fast. Has missed three Masters cuts out of four since winning the 2017 edition. Now languishing at No.161 in the world rankings.

BUBBA WATSON

Total Major wins - 2
Masters wins - 2
Wonderful shot shaper whose wedge wizardry from the woods brought play-off glory in 2012 but whose best days are behind him.

CHARL SCHWARTZEL

Total Major wins - 1
Masters wins - 1
South African won the inaugural LIV event last year in Hertfordshire but it would be surprising to see him contend in this company.

SIX LOYALISTS

SCOTTIE SCHEFFLER

Total Major wins - 1
Masters wins - 1
The record books warn against back-to-back winners at Augusta but the tee box hot stepper is world No.1 for a reason.

JUSTIN THOMAS

Total Major wins - 2
Masters wins - 0
The US PGA champion has dropped out of the world's top 10 for the first time in six years but is overdue at The Masters.

RORY MCILROY

Total Major wins - 4
Masters wins - 0
The world No.2 has sorted out his driver issues but today's first round is crucial after a series of slow starts at Augusta.

JORDAN SPIETH

Total Major wins - 3
Masters wins - 1
Missing cut last year was a surprising blot on an outstanding Augusta copybook with five top-three finishes in nine appearances.

JON RAHM

Total Major wins - 1
Masters wins - 0
Spain has a rich Masters history and Rahm has the game to follow in the footsteps of Jose Maria Olazabal, Seve Ballesteros and Sergio Garcia.

TIGER WOODS

Total Major wins - 15
Masters wins - 5
Sporting miracles are his staple but at 47 on a wrecked leg and with little competitive golf to his name, making the cut would be an achievement.



LIV win would give raspberry towards the naysayers

MAJOR ORDERS
Traditional Tours would prefer a loyalist such as Billy Horschel, left, to win

COLLISION COURSE

Rory has the right 'oomph' insists Faldo

FROM BACK PAGE
felt I learned a lot from Portrush. You have to learn from those challenges and from some of that scar tissue that's built up - I'm excited to have another crack at it." Sir Nick Faldo, below, believes McIlroy's strident opposition to LIV Golf has helped his strong form over the past year.



"Talking to Rory, it has motivated him," Faldo said. "It has helped him forget the past. It is a little bit of oomph that he needed." Ireland's Seamus Power amazingly made back-to-back holes-in-one in the par-three contest. The world No.34 spun his tee shot on the eighth back into the hole for an ace, and then repeated the feat at the last on the newly-renovated layout at Augusta National. Scheffler also made a bizarre hole-in-one, his shot on the ninth going straight into the cup after he and partners Tom Kim and Sam Burns had teed off simultaneously.

BUBBA WATSON claimed last week that animosity between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf is "media driven". The two-time Masters champion has clearly not been paying attention since the start of the Saudi-backed breakaway league.
THEY SAID IT:
FEBRUARY 2022 - Phil Mickelson on Saudi Arabia and LIV (from an interview he claimed was off the record)
"They're scary mother*****s to get involved with. We know they killed Jamal Khashoggi and have a horrible record on human rights. They execute people over there for being gay. Knowing all of this, why would I even consider it? Because this is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reshape how the PGA Tour operates."

WAR OF WORDS IN BITTER DIVORCE

RORY MCILROY on Mickelson: "I don't want to kick someone while he's down obviously, but I thought they were naive, selfish, egotistical, ignorant. Who's left? Who's left to go? There's no one. It's dead in the water in my opinion. I just can't see any reason why anyone would go."
MAY 2022 - Greg Norman on the murder of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi: "Look, we've all made mistakes."
JUNE 2022 - Norman on Jack Nicklaus: "One hundred percent truth? Jack's a hypocrite."
Norman on McIlroy: "Rory has been brainwashed."
GRAEME McDOWELL speaking before LIV London: "If Saudi Arabia want to use the game of golf as a way to get to where they want to be and they have the resources to be able to accelerate that experience then we are proud to help them on that journey using the game of golf and the abilities we have."
NOV 2022 - Rory on Greg Norman: "I think Greg needs to go."
JANUARY 2023 - Rory McIlroy on Netflix Full Swing: "F*** Phil Mickelson."
FEBRUARY 2023 - Sergio Garcia on his fallout with his former wedding usher Rory McIlroy: "It is very sad. I think that we've done so many things together and had so many experiences

that for him to throw that away just because I decided to go to a different tour, well, it doesn't seem very mature; lacking maturity, really."
MARCH 2023 - Fred Couples: "If you're giving Phil Mickelson \$200 million at age 52 to shoot 74 and 75, God bless you. He's a nutbag."
CAM SMITH - "For us, internally, it's kind of a pride thing. There's a lot of chatter going around about, 'These guys don't play real golf anymore'. It's BS to be honest. We just want to show people that."
JOAQUIN NIEMANN - "There is a big rivalry right now between the Tour and LIV. It's going to be more fun knowing that they hate us. Then go to the Majors and beat them."

AS battlegrounds go Augusta National must be the prettiest in the sporting world, but make no mistake there will be bloodstains among the azaleas.
Metaphorical ones hopefully - this is still golf after all - but the painful divide the game's civil war has opened up will be laid bare at this week's Masters.
It is LIV against the loyalists, a jarring clash fought on a luxuriant carpet of green against a backdrop of beautiful blossoms and polite applause.
Golf is traditionally an individual sport, and the Majors are about individual glory, but the team concept that looks so forced in the LIV series has, ironically, found a focus at Augusta.



Neil SQUIRES from Augusta
The 18 rebels are playing for themselves, sure, but also their organisation.
The next few days are a high-profile chance to prove LIV is not some knockabout pension-pot operation but the real deal.
If the Saudi-backed circus goes well, it will receive a valuable stamp of authenticity decked in green Masters livery.
If it goes badly, the sniping at LIV's relevance as a summer camp in shorts will only intensify.
The stakes are high as the splitters temporarily return

Loyalists and LIV rebels will fight it out this week

to the mainstream fold. Open champion and LIV star Cam Smith said: "I'd love to see one of us get to the top of the leaderboard and really give it a nice shot. There's a lot of chatter about, 'These guys don't play real golf, these guys don't play real golf courses'. "I'll be the first one to say the fields aren't as strong. "But we've still got a lot of guys that can play really serious golf and we compete against each other hard." The question of

LIV - for the money, stupid. His honesty earned a backlash that has reached him via social media.
While it stings, it also drives the American to prove himself this week.
"They used to write nice stuff but now it's just chaos," said Varner.
"Everyone thinks we suck, so I want to play great - it's not like Space Jam where they took our talents away."
If you have not seen the film, it features evil aliens stealing the powers of NBA basketball players.
LIV as the bad guys? It fits the narrative of the shameless sportswashers to ruin golf as we know it. There is bad news coming for the rebel series today with confirmation their players have lost the case against the DP World Tour over sanctions.
With no access to Europe or the PGA Tour, the world rankings of their combatants will slide more.
They are on the ropes but promising to come out fighting in the season's first Major.
Augusta National would prefer it if the uniquely odd ritual in the Butler Cabin ceremony on Sunday night sees Rory McIlroy or one of the other loyalists fitted with the Green Jacket.
A LIV winner would represent a resounding raspberry towards the naysayers and show us that golf's great disruptors are not going anywhere in a hurry.

TEE-OFF TIMES

- Tee-off times in the first and second rounds of The Masters (USA unless stated, all times BST)
(a) denotes amateur
1pm & 4.06pm Kevin Na, Mike Weir (Can)
1.12pm & 4.18pm Vijay Singh (Fiji), Scott Stallings, (a) Matthew McClean (NI)
1.24pm & 4.30pm Tilor Gooch, Jason Kokrak, Sandy Lyle (Sco)
1.36pm & 4.42pm Fred Couples, Russell Henley, Alexander Noren (Swe)
1.48pm & 4.54pm Kevin Kisner, Adrian Meronk (Pol), Louis Oosthuizen (SA)
2pm & 5.12pm Min-Woo Lee (Aus), Larry Mize, (a) Harrison Crowe (Aus)
2.12pm & 5.24pm Sergio Garcia (Spa), Kazuki Higa (Jpn), Keith Mitchell
2.24pm & 5.36pm Patrick Reed, Adam Svensson (Can), Sahith Theegala
2.36pm & 5.48pm Mackenzie Hughes (Can), Shane Lowry (Irl), Thomas Pieters (Bel)
2.48pm & 6pm Seamus Power (Irl), Bubba Watson, (a) Mateo Fernandez (Arg)
3.06pm & 6.12pm Abraham Ancer (Mex), Keegan Bradley, Chris Kirk
3.18pm & 6.24pm Viktor Hovland (Nor), Xander Schauffele, Tiger Woods
3.30pm & 6.36pm Patrick Cantlay, Kurt Kitayama, Adam Scott (Aus)
3.42pm & 6.48pm Jon Rahm (Spa), Justin Thomas, Cameron Young
3.54pm & 7pm Sung-Jae Im (Kor), Hideki Matsuyama (Jpn), Cameron Smith (Aus)
4.06pm & 1pm Cameron Champ, Jose Maria Olazabal (Spa)
4.18pm & 1.12pm Taylor Moore, Charl Schwartzel (SA), (a) Aldrich Potgieter (SA)
4.30pm & 1.24pm Bryson DeChambeau, Francesco Molinari (Ita), J. T. Poston
4.42pm & 1.36pm Bernhard Langer (Ger), Mito Pereira (Chi), (a) Ben Carr
4.54pm & 1.48pm Brooks Koepka, Danny Willett (Eng), Gary Woodland
5.12pm & 2pm Kyoung-Hoon Lee (Kor), Sepp Straka (Aut), Harold Varner III
5.24pm & 2.12pm Tom Hoge, Si-Woo Kim (Kor), Phil Mickelson
5.36pm & 2.24pm Harris English, Ryan Fox (Nzl), Billy Horschel
5.48pm & 2.36pm Jason Day (Aus), Zach Johnson, (a) Gordon Sargent
6pm & 2.48pm Brian Harman, Tyrrell Hatton (Eng), Joaquin Niemann (Chi)
6.12pm & 3.06pm Corey Conners (Can), Dustin Johnson, Justin Rose (Eng)
6.24pm & 3.18pm Matthew Fitzpatrick (Eng), Collin Morikawa, Will Zalatoris
6.36pm & 3.30pm Max Homa, (a) Sam Bennett, Scottie Scheffler
6.48pm & 3.42pm Sam Burns, Joo-hyung Kim (Kor), Rory McIlroy (NI)
7pm & 3.54pm Tony Finau, Tommy Fleetwood (Eng),