



BOEING CLASSIC

Ernie Els to Play in Boeing Classic Korean Air Pro-Am

SEATTLE – World Golf Hall of Fame member Ernie Els will play as a special guest of The Boeing Company in the Boeing Classic Korean Air Pro-Am August 22-23 at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge.

A winner of four majors, Els, 48, will take part in the tournament's Opening Event on August 21, then participate in both days of the Korean Air Pro-Am. Boeing is a longtime sponsor of the South African. In fact, Els started his association with Boeing in 2012, becoming the first professional athlete to sign an endorsement deal with the company, and has since proudly worn the Boeing logo on his golfing apparel.

"I'm very much looking forward to playing at Snoqualmie Ridge next month," commented Els. "I know from talking to some of the guys that have played there in recent years that it's always a really enjoyable week, a beautiful golf course, and Boeing clearly do a wonderful job there. For me personally, it's an honor to represent such an iconic company, a name that is known and respected all around the world. I must also take this opportunity to express my thanks to the team at Boeing for its support of The Els for Autism Foundation in recent years. We really appreciate everything that they've done for us."

"We are so pleased to host Ernie here for the Korean Air Pro-Am and experience the Boeing Classic," said Ihssane Mounir, Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing, Boeing Commercial Airplanes and Services.

The Korean Air Pro-Am is a unique opportunity for sponsors and partners to play the championship-caliber course at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge with a PGA TOUR Champions Professional prior to him competing for the Boeing Classic title.

In 2011, Els was inducted to the World Golf Hall of Fame, and in 2015 he was presented the Payne Stewart Award for his devotion to improving the lives of those with autism spectrum disorder, having established The Els for Autism Foundation in 2009. His philanthropic efforts also include development of junior golfers in South Africa through The Ernie Els & Fancourt Foundation which proudly boasts former members such as Louis Oosthuizen and Branden Grace.

"Ernie Els is a true champion of this great game," said Boeing Classic Executive Director Brian Flajole. "Golf fans know of his magic on the greens and fairways, and his philanthropic efforts are known to families, friends and medical professionals around the world. This will be a thrilling opportunity for our community to witness one of the greats up-close."

Els owns 70 professional titles around the globe, including a pair of U.S. Open and Open Championship crowns. His first major came as a 24-year-old in a three-way playoff at Oakmont in 1994. He won the U.S. Open again in 1997, by one stroke. In 2002 Els claimed his first Open Championship following a four-way playoff at Muirfield, and 10 years later he came from behind, birdying 18 to win by one shot at Royal Lytham and St Annes. Els is also sixth on the all-time PGA TOUR career money list.

The 14th annual Boeing Classic will be played at The Club at Snoqualmie Ridge from August 24-26.

For Boeing Classic tickets and more information, visit BoeingClassic.com.

About Boeing Classic

Boeing Classic is a PGA (Professional Golf Association) TOUR Champions event. Now in its fourteenth year, the charitable event has raised nearly \$7 million over the last 13 years in support of Virginia Mason Foundation-funded health initiatives, like Benaroya Research Institute. For more information, visit BoeingClassic.com. For media relations assistance, contact Frank MacDonald (Frank@BoeingClassic.com).

About The Boeing Company

The Boeing Company, Washington's largest private employer, has been the title sponsor of this tournament since it began in 2005. Nearly half of Boeing's global workforce is in Washington state and Boeing Classic is part of the company's ongoing commitment to giving back to the communities where its employees live and work. For more information, visit Boeing.com/Washington.

About Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason

Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason (BRI) is committed to eliminating autoimmune diseases such as type 1 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease and multiple sclerosis, and immune system diseases such as allergies and asthma. An internationally recognized medical research institute, BRI accelerates discovery through laboratory breakthroughs in immunology that are then translated to clinical therapies. BRI is a leader of collaborative initiatives through the Immune Tolerance Network, Type 1 Diabetes TrialNet and other major cooperative research programs. For more information, visit BenaroyaResearch.org.

About PGA TOUR Champions

PGA TOUR Champions is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older, including 35 members of the World Golf Hall of Fame. The Tour's mission is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back and generate significant charitable and economic impact in tournament communities. In 2018, the PGA TOUR Champions schedule includes 27 tournaments across the United States, Scotland and Canada, with purses totaling more than \$56 million. The Charles Schwab Cup, which includes the Regular Season and the Charles Schwab Cup Playoffs, is used to determine the season-long

champion. All events are televised in the United States, with most receiving complete coverage on Golf Channel, the exclusive cable-television partner of PGA TOUR Champions. Internationally, telecasts air in excess of 190 countries and territories, reaching more than 330 million potential households. Follow PGA TOUR Champions online at PGATOUR.com, [Facebook](#), [Twitter \(@ChampionsTour\)](#) and [Instagram \(@pgatourchampions\)](#).