



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2024

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AdventHealth Championship announces exemptions for 2024 tournament

Four players with local ties feature in this year's exemption

Kansas City, Missouri – The AdventHealth Championship announced today their player exemptions for the 2024 AdventHealth Championship, hosted at Blue Hills Country Club the week of May 13-19, 2024. Joining the field of 156 professionals will be Chase Hanna, Robert Russell, Charlie Hillier, and Robert Streb. All four exempted players have local ties to Kansas City.

“We’re excited to welcome these four golfers, all with Kansas City ties, to the 2024 AdventHealth Championship,” said AdventHealth Championship Tournament Director Rick Amos. “These professionals were selected from a long list of professionals seeking entry to this year’s event. As Kansas Citians, we are blessed to have AdventHealth as a host organization and a host facility in Blue Hills Country Club to welcome 156 of the top golfers in the world to our city each year.”

Robert Russell, winner of the 2023 Watson Challenge, joins the field through the automatic exemption. The Joplin, Missouri, native is the head PGA Professional at Nicholas Golf Club at LionsGate and played collegiate golf at Kansas City Kansas Community College and UMKC. The 50-year-old played professionally for eight years, participating in tour events with the Professional Golfers' Association, the PGA Nationwide Tour, and the National Golf Association Hooters Pro Golf Tour. In 1999, Russell qualified for and played in the U.S. Open, a tournament ranked among the world's most prestigious. Robert won the 2023 Watson Challenge on his home course, with a winning score of –9.

“It means the world to me to win the Watson Challenge,” Russell said. “I have been close several times, but never got it done. I got in position last year, and finally got it done. It’s super special to do it at my own place, and with all the members there.”



“I was there (at LionsGate) when we hosted the event and never wanted anything more than to play a Korn Ferry Tour event in my town. That’s icing on the cake.”

Chase Hanna, a Blue Hills Country Club Member, is presently competing on the DP World Tour, with his most recent stops in Japan and China. The Leawood, KS, native won 12 tournaments during his high school years, leading his team, Shawnee Mission East High, to three regional championships in 2011, 2012 and 2013. After a successful high school career, he took his talents to Lawrence, playing golf at the University of Kansas. During his time at KU, he was named the 2017 Big 12 Conference individual champion. The 29-year-old turned pro in 2017 and has previously participated in the Challenge Tour and the PGA Tour Latinoamérica.

Charlie Hillier has conditional status on the Korn Ferry Tour this year. A native of Te Puke, New Zealand, Charlie played golf at the University of Kansas and turned pro in 2021. In 2014 he was named the Junior World Golf Champion. Previously competing in the PGA Tour Latinoamérica, the 27-year-old won the JHSF Brazil Open title in April 2023 by making a six-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole at Fazenda Boa Vista. Hillier ranks No. 1 in the KU records books for career even or under par rounds (78) and career rounds in the 60s (29).

Robert Streb joins the field for his 8th season of the Korn Ferry Tour, most recently participating in the Corales Punta Canta Championship. The 27-year-old Chickasha, Oklahoma, native played collegiate golf at Kansas State University before turning professional in 2013. In his 2nd PGA TOUR season, Streb earned his first PGA TOUR win at the 2014 McGladrey Classic on St. Simons Island, Georgia. He had six other top-10 finishes including a playoff loss at the Greenbrier Classic and an 18th place finish on the 2015 FedEx Cup Standings. In November 2020, Streb won the RSM Classic giving him his second PGA TOUR victory.

The AdventHealth Championship is a 72-hole competition featuring 156 players from around the world. Debuting in 2009, the AdventHealth Championship has enjoyed more than a decade of success in the Kansas City area. In 2019, the tournament moved to Blue Hills Country Club where University of Oklahoma product Michael Gellerman edged Kansas City’s own Harry Higgs for his first victory. The 2021 winner Cameron Young was named the 2022 PGA TOUR Rookie of the Year after finishing 19th in the FedEx Cup Standings with five top 5 finishes. Last year’s winner, Grayson Murray, currently sits at No. 42 in the FedEx Cup Rankings, recently winning the Sony open in Hawaii in February.



The AdventHealth Championship is a cornerstone Kansas City event utilizing professional golf to positively impact the KC Heartland and those charities supported. The 2024 AdventHealth Championship will take place May 13-19 at Blue Hills Country Club. For more information about the AdventHealth Championship, please visit www.AdventHealthChampionship.com.

About Korn Ferry Tour

Founded (1990), owned and operated by the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour identifies and develops golf's next stars, preparing them to compete and win on the game's biggest stage. The Korn Ferry Tour, which has served as a path to the PGA TOUR since its inception, began providing 50 PGA TOUR cards annually in 2013. Starting in 2023, the top 30 players secure PGA TOUR cards via the Korn Ferry Tour's full season 26 event season. With more than 590 PGA TOUR titles, 25 major championships and six FedEx Cup Champions, Korn Ferry Tour alumni make up over 75 percent of the PGA TOUR's current membership. To learn more about the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour and to follow the season-long quest for a PGA TOUR card, visit PGATOUR.COM or follow the Korn Ferry Tour on social media.

About AdventHealth Championship

The AdventHealth Championship, a PGA TOUR sanctioned event on the Korn Ferry Tour, is conducted annually at Blue Hills Country Club in Kansas City, Missouri. This four-day, 72-hole competition features 156 players from around the world vying for a total purse of \$1,000,000. As the path to the PGA TOUR, the Korn Ferry Tour features some of the most talented professional golfers who are ready to compete and win on golf's biggest stage.

About AdventHealth in Kansas City

With a sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ, AdventHealth is a connected system of care for every stage of life and health. A focus on whole-person health and commitment to caring for the body, mind and spirit unify the system's nearly 50 hospital campuses and hundreds of care sites in diverse markets throughout almost a dozen states. AdventHealth in Kansas City includes AdventHealth Shawnee Mission in Merriam, KS; AdventHealth Lenexa; AdventHealth South Overland Park; AdventHealth Centra Care and AdventHealth Medical Group. Visit AdventHealthKC.com for more information.