

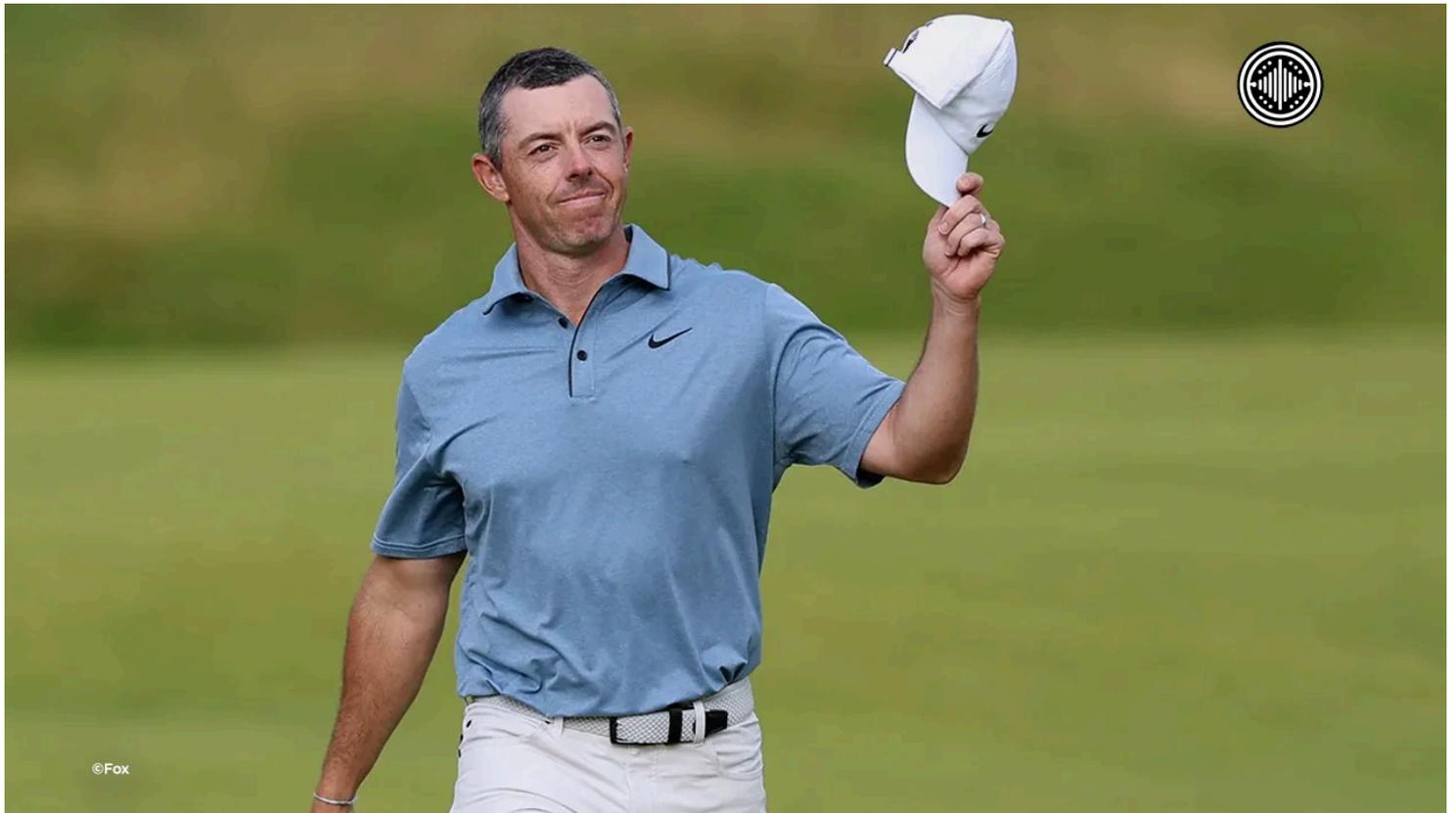
# OpenVoiceNews Australia

Transparent. Unbiased. Yours.

## McIlroy Skips PGA Playoffs Opener in Memphis

August 6, 2025

– Categories: General News



Rory McIlroy, currently ranked world No.2, has elected not to participate in this week’s FedEx Cup postseason opener the St. Jude Championship in Memphis, Tennessee citing his intention to reduce workload and focus on upcoming international events including the Ryder Cup and fall tournaments. Despite the event’s \$20million prize pool, his high position in the FedEx Cup standings renders his attendance non—essential for qualifying advancement.

Under the new format adopted in 2025, all players in the Tour Championship begin at level par eliminating prior advantages for higher-ranked players which lessens McIlroy's incentive to compete in early playoff rounds.

McIlroy's absence leaves the St. Jude Championship field with just 69 participants instead of the usual 70

. PGA Tour Policy Board player director Peter Malnati described the decision as "very concerning," indicating that rule changes may be under consideration to discourage similar absences by top-ranked players in future seasons.

Another board director, Webb Simpson, defended McIlroy's right to set his own schedule, noting that professional golfers traditionally have autonomy over participation though he acknowledged it is a rare move. Simpson referenced his own past tournament decisions as context for supporting player choice.

McIlroy had previously signalled his decision months in advance, referencing a poor finish at the 2024 St. Jude event as justification for skipping it this year. In early 2025, he also claimed the Masters title completing a career Grand Slam and won The Players Championship, making him one of the most dominant golfers of the season.

While this move is notable, McIlroy is expected to return for the BMW Championship and Tour Championship events later in August. His absence sparks discussion about balancing star player freedom with the tour's desire for competitive integrity and sponsor value.