

Koepka Applies for PGA Tour Membership After Leaving LIV

BY DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

Five-time major champion Brooks Koepka, just over two weeks after defecting from Saudi-funded LIV Golf, has applied to have his PGA Tour membership reinstated.

The next step belongs to the tour, which has suspended players for joining the rival league, even if they never had PGA Tour membership.

Two people with knowledge of Koepka's application confirmed Friday he has started the process to rejoin the tour. They spoke on condition of anonymity because it has not been made public. Koepka's manager at Hambric Sports, Blake Smith, said he would not have a comment at this time.

ESPN first reported Koepka's application. With one year left on his LIV contract, the Saudi-backed league announced Dec. 23 that he would no longer be part of the LIV Golf League and his captaincy of Smash had been turned over to Talor Gooch.

"Brooks is prioritizing the needs of his family and staying closer to home," said Scott O'Neil, the CEO of LIV Golf, who described the departure as amicable



Peter Morrison / AP photo

Brooks Koepka, of the United States, acknowledges the crowd on the 5th green during the first round of the British Open golf championship at the Royal Portrush Golf Club in Northern Ireland, July 17, 2025.

and mutual.

The tour policy has been players having to sit out one year from their last LIV appearance, but that was only for nonmembers, such as Laurie Canter. The Englishman was a part-time LIV player, and he qualified for The Players Championship last March one year and a month after last playing a LIV event in Las Vegas.

Brian Rolapp, who took over as CEO of PGA Tour Enterprises last summer, will face one of his first early decisions on a pathway back for LIV Golf players wanting to return. His case will be reviewed by Rolapp, along with the policy board and player directors. That includes Tiger Woods, who

chairs the Future Competition Committee.

Koepka, and other PGA Tour members who left for LIV and were seen as damaging the tour, presumably would face any number of penalties. But the tour's longtime policy has been to never publicize discipline.

The application comes one day after Rolapp sent a memo to players that the Player Equity Program is being expanded to include current year performance. Koepka already was with LIV when the tour began its first-of-a-kind program, with equity grants first being awarded in April 2024.

Koepka's departure in June 2022 was one of the biggest surprises, mainly

because he was at a corporate function the week before he bolted for LIV encouraging the top players to rally around support for the PGA Tour.

But he also was at a crossroads in his career, hampered by injuries in his knees and his left hip. Koepka got his health in

order and he won in Saudi Arabia later in 2022, then became the first LIV player to win a major at the 2023 PGA Championship.



Freeman's Towing LLC is in possession of a vehicle that will be sold at auction on January 12th 2026. Seller reserves the right to bid.

2008 Ford F350
VIN 1FTWW33R28EA31513
Registered to: Timothy M. Szika
5234 Honeycutt Rd. Unit A
Fort Sill OK 73503

Auction will be held at:
Freemans Towing LLC
1828 East 9th Street
Hopkinsville KY 42240

The said property listed of Sean Williams, 2007 Suzuki GSX-R 600 Vinn # JS1GN7DA362116814 Will be sold at JPM Performance Powersports, 5376 ft. Campbell Blvd., Hopkinsville Ky 42240, Phone# 270-855-5200. On February 2nd 2026.

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