

COMPETITION UPDATES

2026



IMPORTANT

The following items are important updates to the Rules of Golf and TOUR regulations effective January 1, 2026.

Also included is other competition information for the 2026 season across our tours.

If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Rules Committee on your respective tour.





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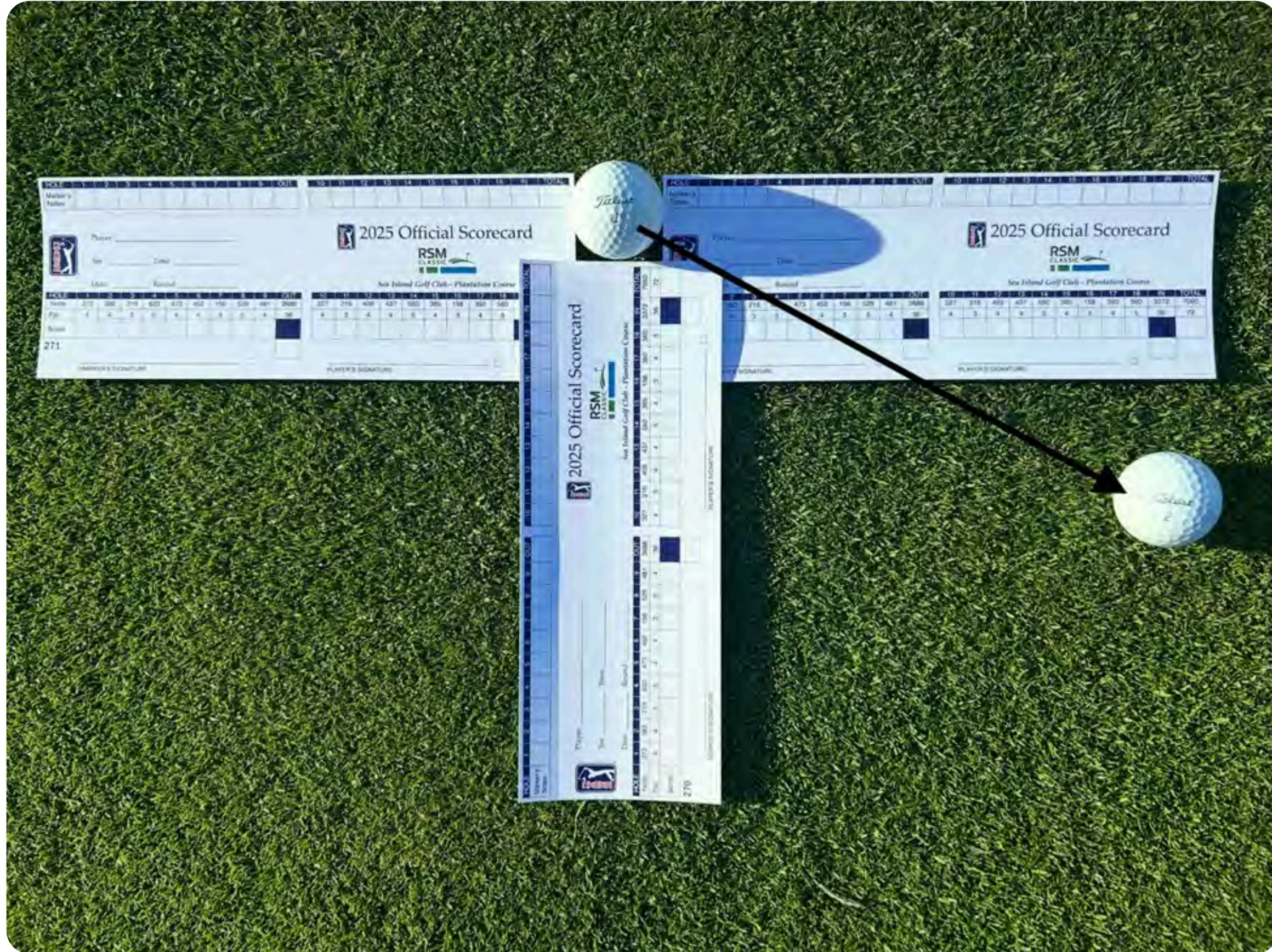
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Preferred Lies Modification

Reduction to a Scorecard Length



Preferred Lies
SCORECARD
LENGTH

- The relief area for placing a ball when using preferred lies has been reduced from a club-length to the length of a scorecard. This will be denoted by a green sticker on your scorecard.
- A **scorecard length** is used universally by other organizations and will provide fairer outcomes during competition as the ball will be played from closer to its original spot.
- The TOUR philosophy when preferred lies is used **does not change**. It is used only in cases of extreme mud throughout the golf course, when relief from temporary water takes a player outside the fairway, or when poor fairway conditions are likely to negatively impact the competition.
- If a ball is placed outside of the scorecard length by mistake, it can be corrected without penalty before the next stroke is made.

Local Rules Updates

As we move towards the start of the 2026 season across all Tours under the PGA TOUR umbrella, all players, caddies, and associated teams should be aware of these changes to the Local Rules used on TOUR.

Your PGA TOUR Rules Committees have been working with the USGA and R&A to modify and implement these Local Rule changes for the benefit of the competition.

All Local Rules used on TOUR are readily available on the 2026 PGA TOUR Local Rules Card (also known as the hard card), or on the weekly Notice to Players.



Local Rules Updates

BROKEN OR SIGNIFICANTLY DAMAGED CLUB - Player May Replace with Components Carried On-Course



When a player is allowed to replace a club under this Local Rule, he may do so by using a component carried in their bag (such as when a club-face cracks and they have a spare clubhead in their bag). The replacement club may also be made by using components carried in another player's bag or carried by any other person.

This change means a club may be replaced more efficiently if the component is readily available to the player. The 14-club limit remains unchanged.

The requirement under this Local Rule that the replacement club fits into the progression of the player's clubs in the bag remains unchanged.

Local Rules Updates

OBSTRUCTIONS CLOSE TO PUTTING GREENS MODIFICATION

Also known as 2&2 relief

- This Local Rule is typically used to provide line of play relief from immovable obstructions located close to putting greens. This relief procedure now includes any holes made by the removal of a movable obstruction when the hole is treated as ground under repair by the Committee.
- The criteria under the 2&2 Local Rule does not change. The condition must be within 2 club-lengths from the putting green, on the player's line of play, and the ball must be within 2 club-lengths of the condition. Both the ball and the condition must be in an area cut to fairway height or less.
- For example, if a TV microphone or a stake is removed leaving a hole, relief may be available from the hole under this Local Rule when it is on the player's line of play. Consult a Referee before taking relief from a hole under this Local Rule.



Local Rules Updates

INTERNAL OUT OF BOUNDS (OPTION) - Strokes From the Teeing Area Only

- Generally, internal out of bounds is installed to prevent safety concerns and to maintain the integrity of the design of a hole when tee shots are played into an adjacent fairway.
- A modification to this Local Rule now gives the Rules Committee an internal out of bounds option: all strokes played from the teeing area ONLY will be out of bounds, but other strokes played into this area on the same hole will not be out of bounds.
- This eliminates the possibility of a player whose tee shot ends up in a bad position, mistakenly playing a ball directly out of bounds, when this was their best option to continue play of the hole.
- This option will be implemented regularly, but be sure to consult the Notice to Players at the respective tournaments where internal out of bounds is in place.

PENALTY REDUCTION WHEN A PLAYER IS UNAWARE HIS BALL MIGHT HAVE MOVED

- When a player causes their ball to move, they must replace it before making their next stroke. If they fail to do so, they get two penalty strokes for playing from a wrong place. This is true even if the player was unaware that they moved their ball.
- This new Local Rule changes that outcome in a situation where the player is unaware, before making their next stroke, that their ball might have moved.
- When this happens, because the player has no reason to consider replacing the ball, the player will no longer get two penalty strokes, but they will be subject to one penalty stroke for causing their ball to move.

Local Rules Updates

EXTENDING EMBEDDED BALL RELIEF

- When a player's ball is embedded in the pitch-mark made by their previous stroke, relief is available in the general area (except in sand).
- This new Local Rule allows a referee to give free relief to a player when their ball is embedded in an area cut to fairway height or less, in an 'unrepaired' pitch-mark that was made by any player's stroke.
- Relief under this Local Rule is available only from a pitch-mark that has not been repaired in some way (see photo).
- Examples of when a pitch-mark is considered repaired in some way include when it has been pressed down by anyone or smoothed over by a mower; even if the repair is incomplete.
- The relief procedure under this Local Rule is the same as taking relief from your own pitch-mark.
- If a player is sure their ball is in its own pitch-mark, they don't need a referee, but in all other cases they should consult a referee to see if relief is available under this Local Rule.



New Regulation

Distance-Measuring Devices are NOT allowed on the PGA TOUR. However, PGA TOUR Champions, Korn Ferry Tour and PGA TOUR Americas will all use Distance-Measuring Devices during competition in 2026. The following new regulation across these tours restricts the type or style of device that may be used.

Limitations on Distance-Measuring Devices (DMDs)

Rule 4.3a(1) of the Rules of Golf allows the use of distance-measuring devices, unless the Rules Committee prohibits them in competition by adopting Model Local Rule G-5. Please refer to the 2026 Local Rules and Terms of the Competition (Hard card), item 14, which outlines the restrictions on each applicable tour.

The following term of the competition has been implemented by the PGA TOUR restricting the type of distance-measuring device used during competition: **All players and caddies must choose a traditional “rangefinder-style” instrument, which is used optically for measuring distance. Other distance-measuring devices such as wearables, mobile devices, tablets or any applications are not permitted.**

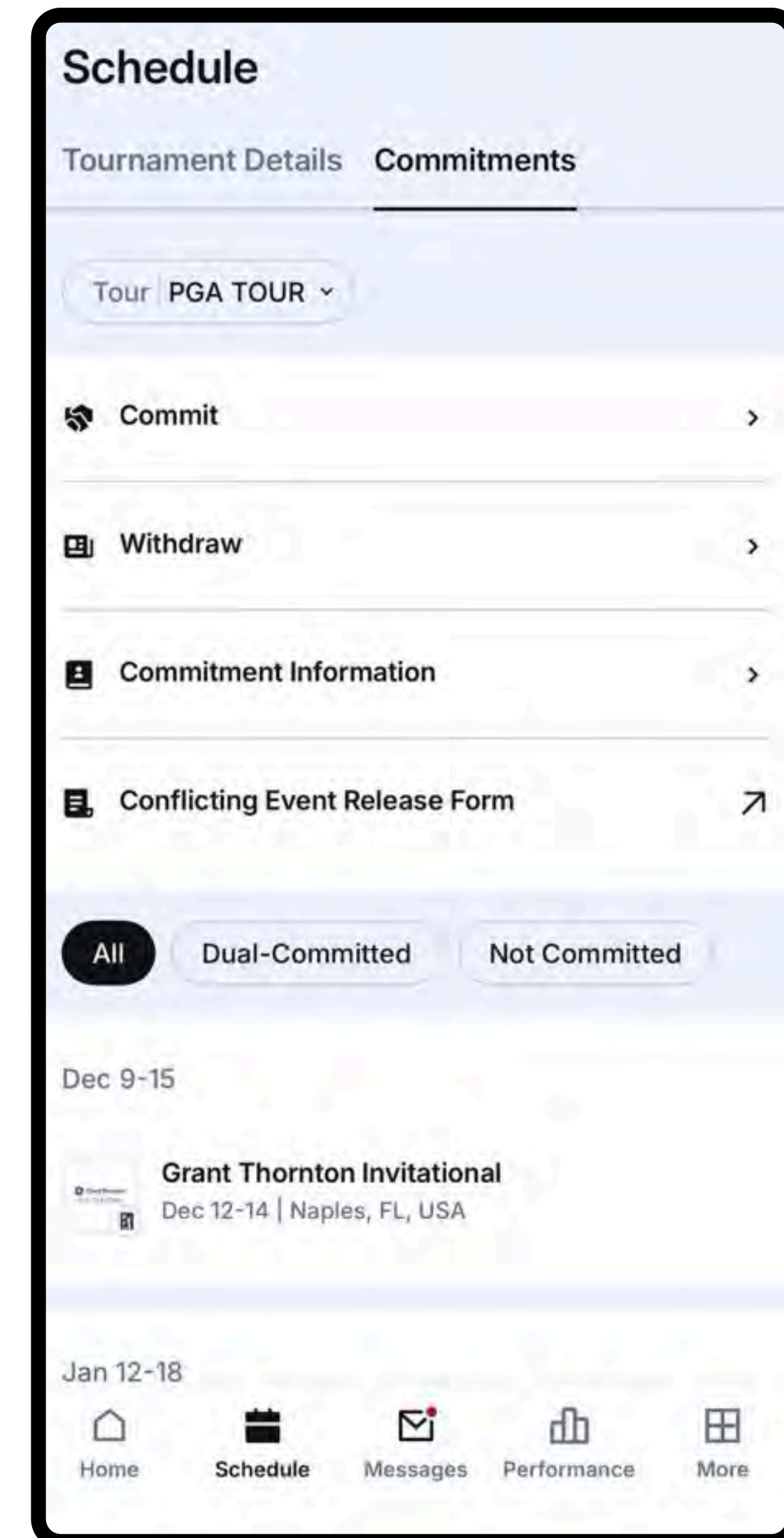
A player or caddie who does not comply with this term is subject to disciplinary action under Article VII. DISCIPLINE, PENALTIES & APPEALS, Section C: Conduct Unbecoming a Professional of the PGA TOUR Tournament Regulations, and the player may face disqualification from the competition under the PGA TOUR Code of Conduct policy.

Furthermore, under Rule 4.3a(1), features within a distance-measuring device such as measuring elevation or slope, wind speed, club selection advice or personal data input must not be used during competition. Model Local Rule G-11, Restricting Use of Green-Reading Materials is in effect on all tours under the PGA TOUR umbrella; hence course mapping features or green contour displays must not be used during competition. Penalties under the Rules of Golf will apply to any breach.

PGA TOUR CENTRAL

PERSONALIZED COMPETITION ITEMS

- Up-to-date tournament field status, Pro-Am information and messaging center.
- Commitment Tools
- Daily Hole Locations and Weather Forecasts.
- Personalized tournament video portals.
- Enhanced player data, statistics and analytics.

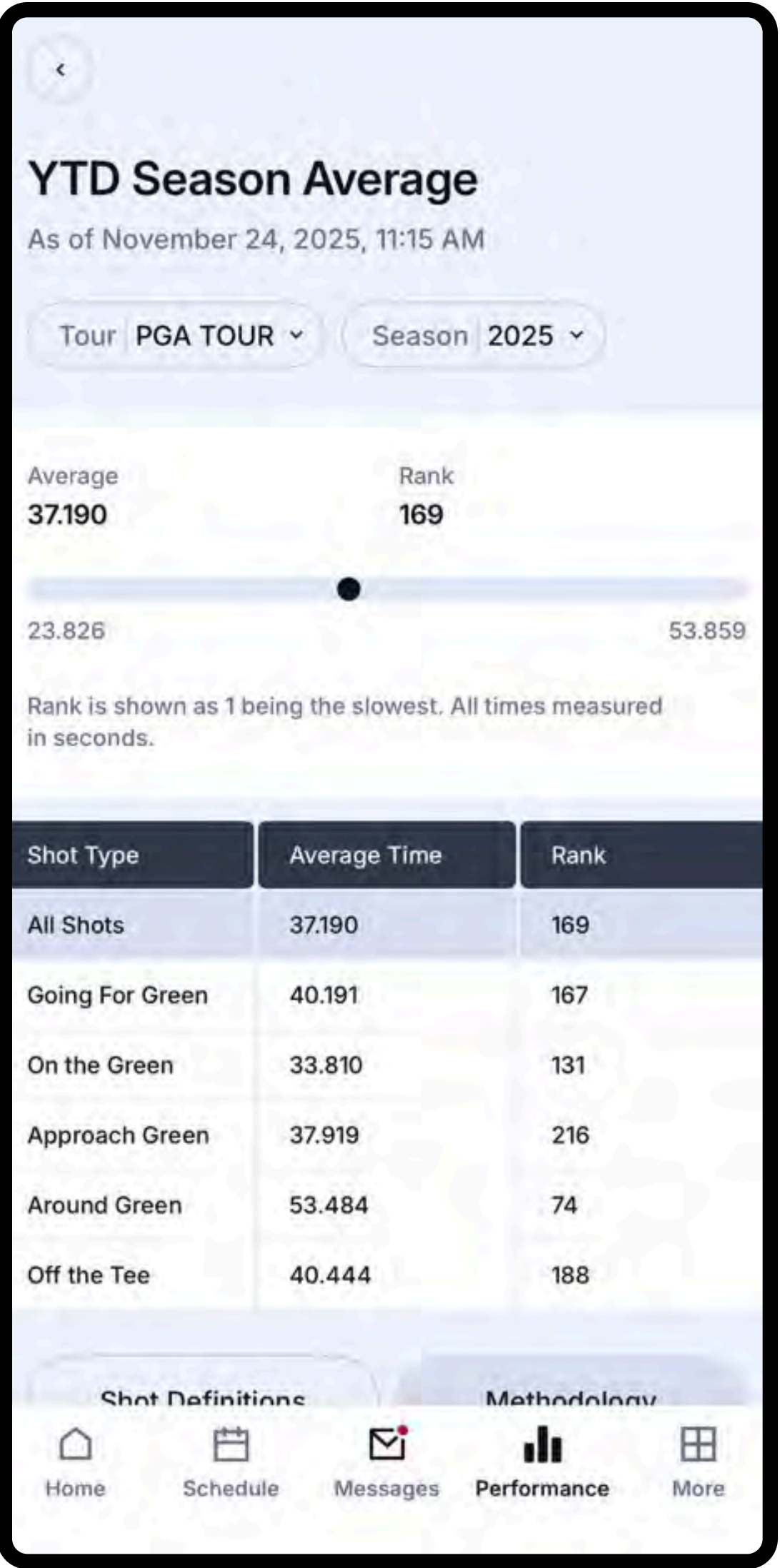
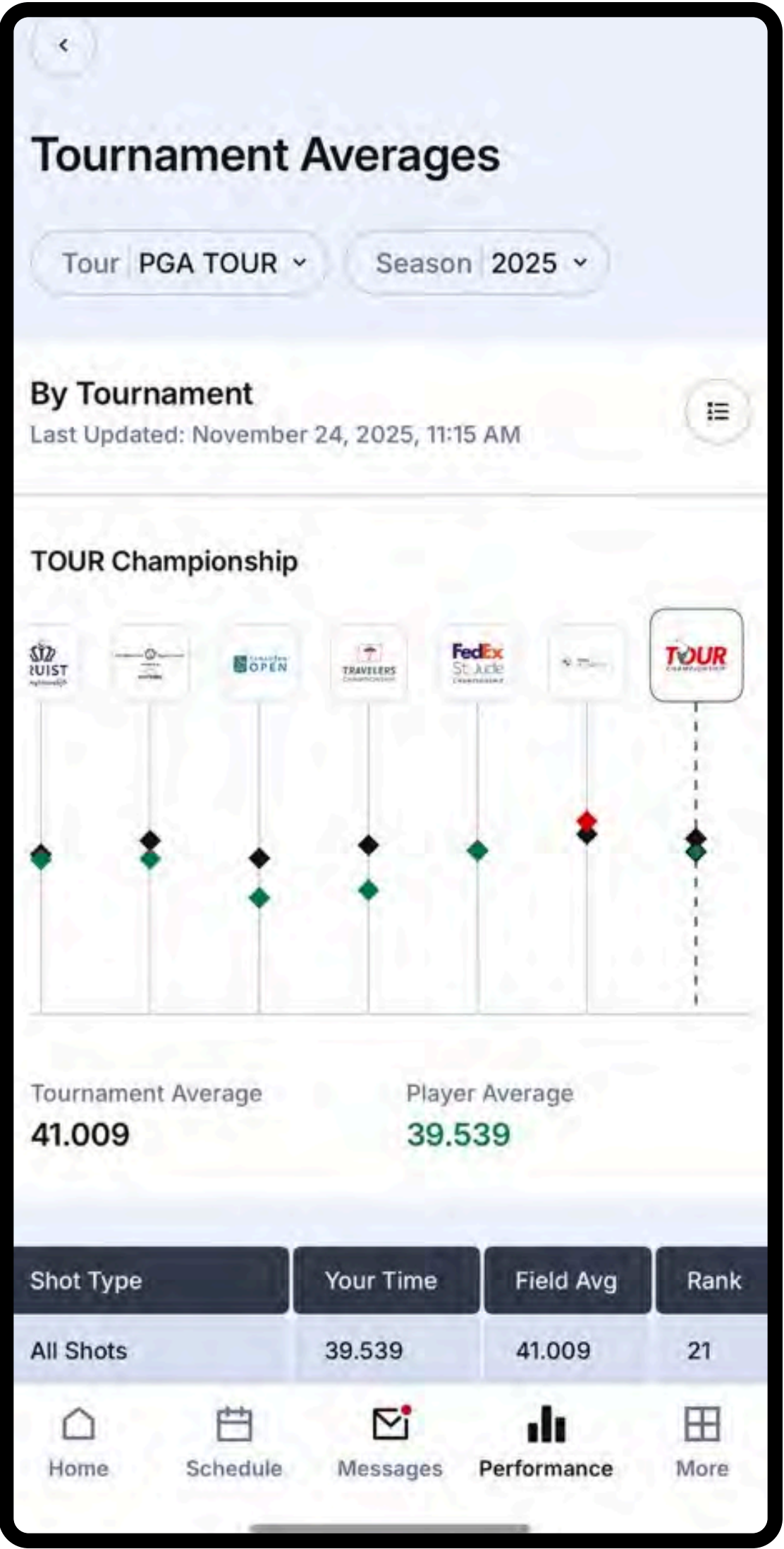


PGA TOUR CENTRAL

PGA TOUR & KORN FERRY TOUR

Pace of Play Information

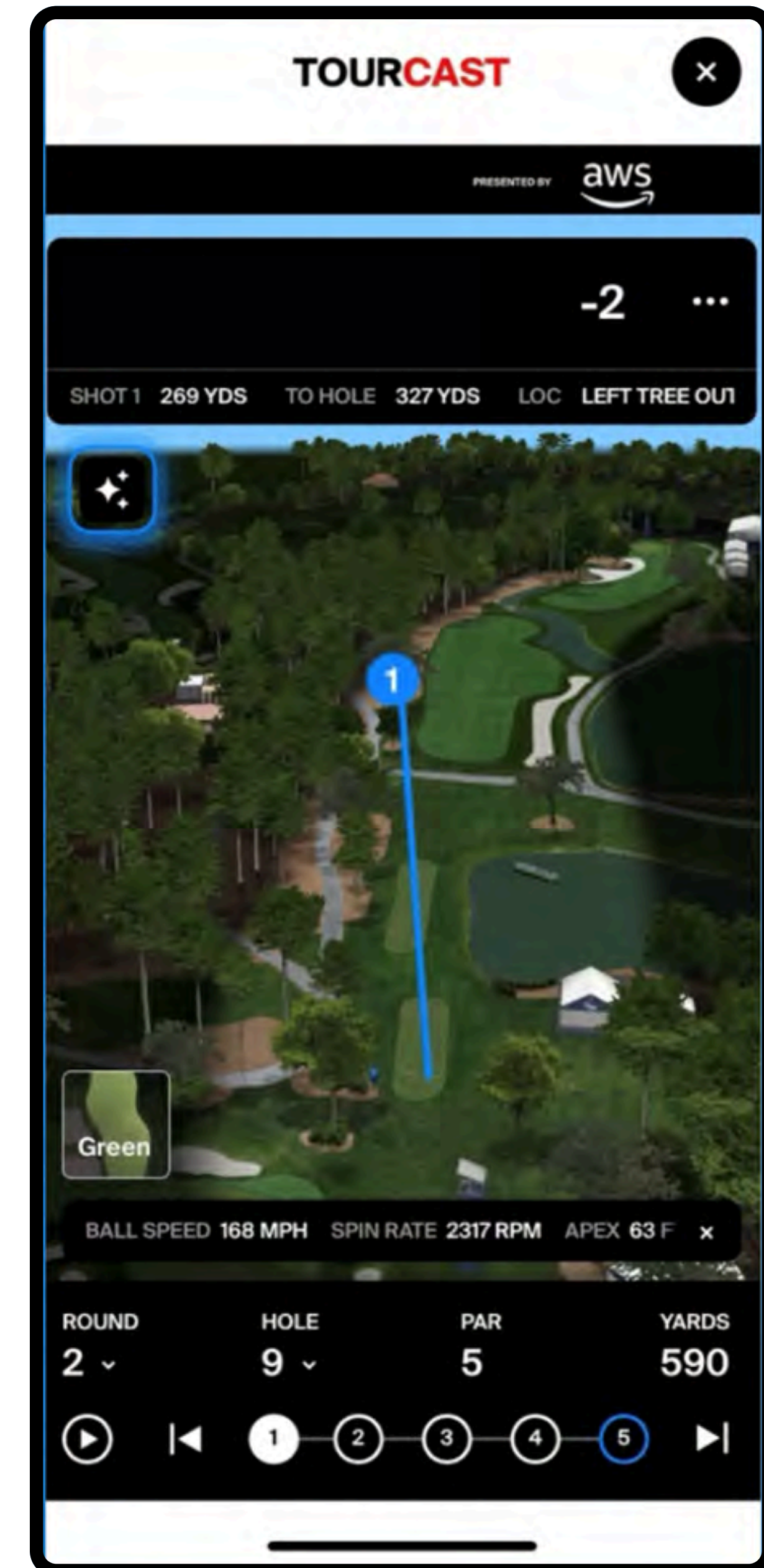
- Personalized ShotLink data such as Average Stroke Times (per round and per tournament). This includes live in-round and post-round data.
- Personalized Pace of Play policy information, such as accumulated timings, bad times, excessive stroke times, and average stroke time (AST) infractions during the season.



TOURCAST - Rules Reminders

Reminder to players and caddies that live use of TOURCAST is not allowed during a round as it displays a map/graphic of the course that would breach Model Local Rule G-11 (non-approved materials), and it also displays player information in breach of Rule 4.3 (ball speed, spin rate, etc.).

Furthermore, keeping handwritten notes of putting trails shown on TOURCAST is a breach of Model Local Rule G-11, if these notes are used in competition.



PGA TOUR Champions Competitions

2026 Pace of Play Policy Amendments

- For a group to be In Position on a par-4 hole, all players must have made a stroke from the teeing area before the hole is open and clear of play (previously only one player).
- When being timed, players will be given a reasonable time to find a yardage reference point (e.g. a sprinkler head) and then walk to their ball prior to the clock starting (this procedure is being used across our tours).
- Bad times incurred will be carried forward throughout the tournament (previously only carried forward throughout a round).

2026 Caddie Regulation Amendment

- Caddies, when unaccompanied by their player, may walk and roll balls on the putting greens during practice round days, so long as play is not disrupted. Caddies may not walk on putting greens on any day, at any time, after a Pro-Am or before and after official tournament rounds (previous regulation did not include after Pro-Am rounds).



CHAMPIONS



Korn Ferry Tour Competitions

- Distance-Measuring Devices (without the use of the slope feature) will be permitted for the 2026 season. Please note the restriction on the type of device permitted under the new regulation, Limitations on Distance-Measuring Devices.
- ShotLink stroke data that is reflected in the pace of play policy will now be collected at international events where it was not previously (seven additional events in 2026).
- Excessive Average Stroke Times will now be included among the offenses that are subject to double the fine structure the following season. Timings, Bad Times, Excessive Shot Times, and Average Stroke Times are already subject to this policy.
- As a continuation of the 2025 Speed of Play initiatives, the first offense of a Bad Time will result in a one (1) stroke penalty (without a warning). Bad Times being carried over throughout a given tournament remains unchanged.
- The PGA TOUR Policy Board is reviewing the fine amounts related to each type of pace of play offense, with an anticipated increases in fines forthcoming.
- Further changes to the pace of play policy and practice round policy should be reviewed within the Tour regulations.



PGA TOUR Americas Competitions

- Distance-Measuring Devices (without the use of the slope feature) will continue to be permitted for the 2026. Please note the restriction on the type of device permitted under the new regulation, Limitations on Distance-Measuring Devices.
- The Committee approved yardage books will be sold to caddies and players at registration. Previous years Committee approved books from the same site are also be allowed in competition, providing any notes are those of the player or the caddie.
- As a continuation of the 2025 Speed of Play initiatives, the first offense of a Bad Time will result in a one (1) stroke penalty, without warning. Bad Times being carried over throughout a given tournament remains unchanged.
- The 2026 PGA TOUR Local Rules and Terms of Competition card (also known as the hard card) and the Preferred Lies card will again be adopted on PGA TOUR Americas. The changes for 2026 are outlined in the previous pages.



