



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 should choose a traditional “rangefinder-style” instrument, which is used optically for measuring distance. Other distance-measuring devices such as wearables, watches, 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 Rule 1.2 of the Rules of Golf, Standards of Player Conduct.

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 on any device must not be used during competition. Penalties under the Rules of Golf will apply to any breach.

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