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GOLFER'S LIFE

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I'm sure you've all been engrossed over the last month or so with the Olympic Games in Tokyo, keeping an eye on golf alongside the other events.

EDITOR'S CHOICE



Xander Schauffele dedicates gold medal to his fatherGolf gold medalist Xander Schauffele reveals the personal significance behind his big win.

Forward

Dear readers,

Take regards from The Golf House.

I'm sure you've all been engrossed over the last month or so with the Olympic Games in Tokyo, keeping an eye on golf alongside the other events.

I've enjoyed every moment of this sporting extravaganza and never felt for a moment that the show was going on without fans.

Golf, the game we love so much and the game we live our lives around, had a second consecutive appearance in this biggest sporting carnival that took place in Japan in July-August. Like the eventual medal count, it was the United States who dominated the golfing event, with Xander Schauffele and Nelly Korda scooping the top rewards.

We take an in-depth look at the two winners and the people behind their success in this special Olympic issue. We also recap the British Open as well as who's hot and who's not in the world of golf.

Enjoy our offerings.

Nazrul Hosen Ayon
Editor

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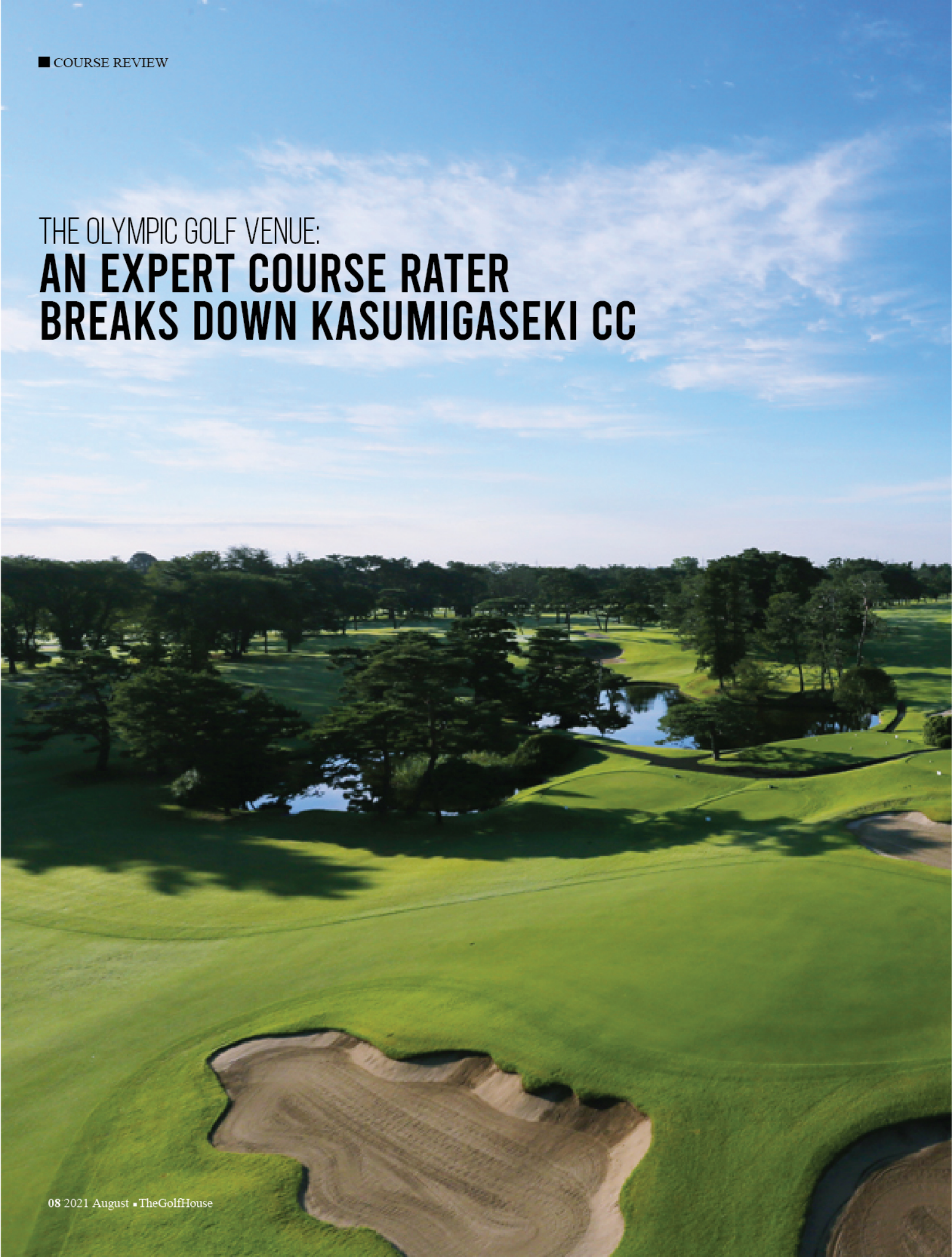
THE OLYMPIC GOLF VENUE:

AN EXPERT COURSE RATER BREAKS DOWN KASUMIGASEKI CC





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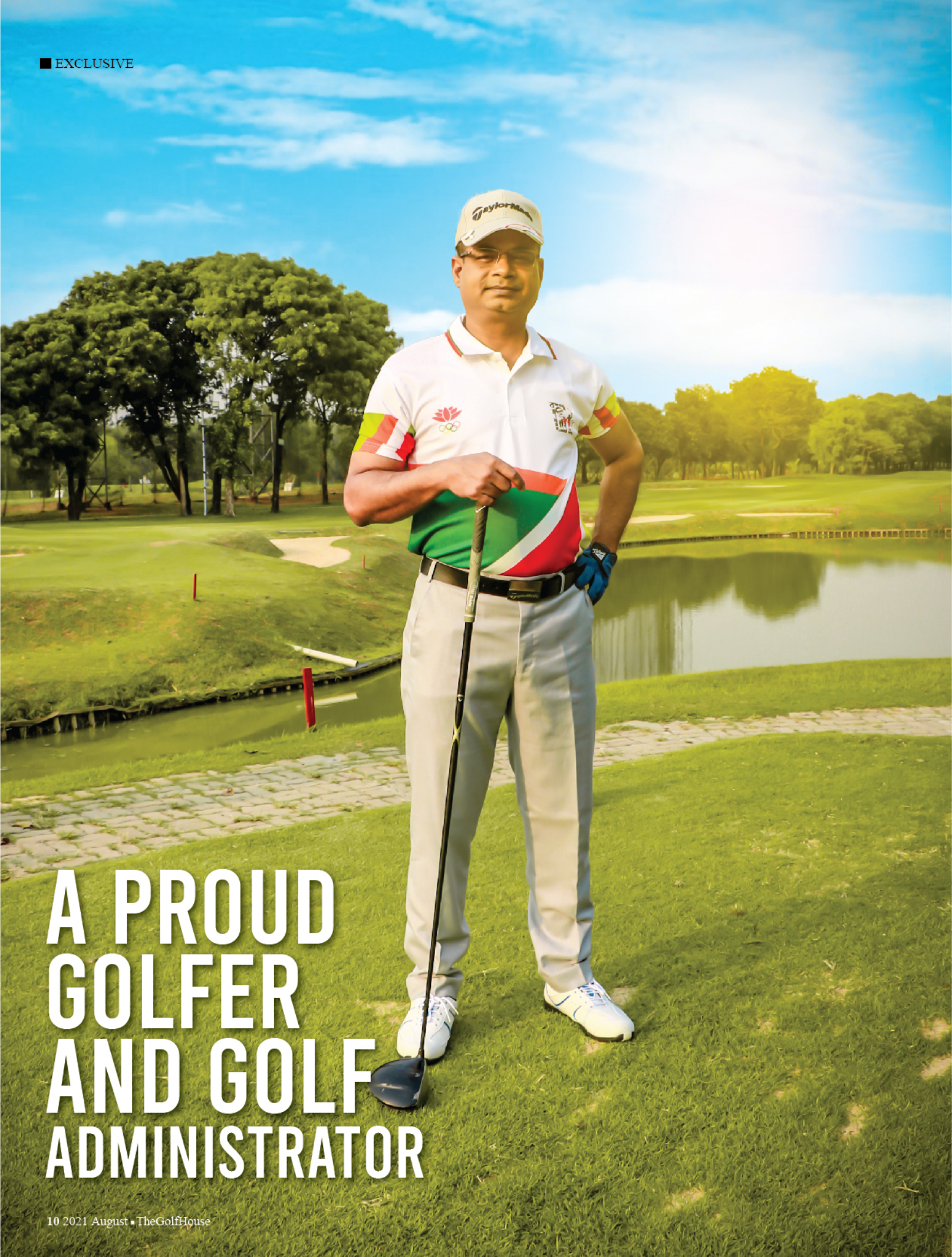

A PROUD GOLFER AND GOLF ADMINISTRATOR



MAJOR GENERAL SHAKIL AHMED, SPP, NSWC, AFWC, PSC IS THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH GOLF FEDERATION. ASSUMING THIS POSITION AT A CHALLENGING TIME OF THE PANDEMIC, THE SVP'S FIRST TASK WAS TO ORGANISE THE GOLF EVENT OF BANGABANDHU 9TH BANGLADESH GAMES, AND IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE SAW THE EVENT BEING CONDUCTED SMOOTHLY AND WITHOUT A GLITCH. THEGOLFHOUSE SPOKE TO THE SVP ABOUT THE CHALLENGES HE FACED IN ORGANISING THE MEGA EVENT AS WELL AS IN MAINTAINING THE OVERALL ACTIVITIES OF THE BGF.

YOU HAVE BEEN APPOINTED AS THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH GOLF FEDERATION RECENTLY. WHAT OBJECTIVE HAVE YOU SET FOR YOURSELF DURING THIS TENURE?

THE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH GOLF FEDERATION (BGF) SO KINDLY APPOINTED ME AS THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT OF BGF AND GIVEN ME THE GREAT RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER THE ACTIVITIES OF GOLF IN BANGLADESH IN GENERAL AND AFFILIATED CLUBS OF BGF IN PARTICULAR. I HAVE TAKEN THE RESPONSIBILITY OF SVP WHOLEHEARTEDLY. I HAVE SET FORTH THE OBJECTIVE FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GOLF IN BANGLADESH, SUCH AS:

A. EXTENDING GOLF FACILITIES IN BANGLADESH AND MAKING GOLF AFFORDABLE TO MEMBERS.

B. TO PROMOTE THE GAME OF GOLF, FOSTER AND MAINTAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF GOLF IN BANGLADESH.

C. TO ARRANGE BANGLADESH AMATEUR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIP, LNTER-CLUB COMPETITION FOR JUNIORS, FALDO SERIES ASIA, ASIAN DEVELOPMENT TOUR AND ASIAN TOUR IN BANGLADESH.

D. LOOK AFTER THE TRAINING OF GOLFERS AT GRASS ROOT LEVEL FOR DEVELOPMENT OF GOLFING SKILLS OF JUNIOR GOLFERS AND CONDUCT TRAINING FOR MEMBERS ON GOLF RULES AND ETIQUETTES THROUGH BANGLADESH GOLF ACADEMY.



Q&A

GOLF HAS ALMOST COME TO A HALT DURING THE PANDEMIC. HOW CAN WE OVERCOME THIS CHALLENGE?

We know that golf has been highly affected due to Covid-19 pandemic. We have tried to resume golfing as and when situation was improving. We have opened golf courses for elderly members from December 2020 and subsequently for other age groups. We have also permitted professional golfers to practise twice a week. We have maintained proper corona discipline and addressed health issues during this period.

WHAT MEASURES HAS BGF TAKEN TO HELP THE LOW-INCOME GOLFERS AND CADDIES/BALL BOYS DURING THIS TOUGH TIME?

The most affected are the poor caddies and ball boys. They have virtually no income source other than golf. That's why we are constantly trying to help from military and civilian patrons in terms of cash and kinds. Here, I must acknowledge and thank all those organizations, persons and other entities who sympathetically came forward to help the needy ones. There are a good number of golfers who also extended support individually.



ORGANISING THE BANGABANDHU 9TH BANGLADESH GAMES WAS A CHALLENGE IN THIS SITUATION. BUT YOU HAVE SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISED IT. HOW WAS IT POSSIBLE?

Organising the Bangabandhu 9th Bangladesh Games (golf event) was indeed a challenge. With the guidelines, suggestion and advice of the respected President of the BGF, we met the challenge squarely and conducted the tournament in a befitting manner. Our efforts were appreciated by all. We must mention that corona discipline was strictly observed.

MOST OF THE GOLF CLUBS OPENED IN DECEMBER AND THERE WERE SMALL TOURNAMENTS HELD TOO BUT A SECOND LOCKDOWN IS IN PLACE NOW. SO WHEN CAN WE EXPECT TO SEE THE CLUBS OPENING AGAIN AND TOURNAMENTS BEING HELD AGAIN?

We always endeavour to keep the golf facilities open. We did it whenever it was possible. But again we had to close down when situation so dictated. However, it is expected that the situation will improve in near future and we will start the game again.

HOW DID YOU GET INTRODUCED TO GOLF?

One needs to be in golf and enjoy it if he or she really wants to pass a quality leisure time. Seeing and listening from golfers, I gradually grew interest and started playing. I really enjoy the game.
Do your family members play golf too?
No, but they love it. Soon my son will be introduced.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE LESSON?

I am really proud to be a golfer and I play regularly.
Do you have any message for golfers?
All golfers may feel proud to be a golfer, enjoy golfing and be kind to all members associated with golf. Everyone must endeavour to keep the golf course clean and beautiful.


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SCHAUFFELE SHINES WITH GOLD



Xander Schauffele steadied after a late wobble to clinch gold for the United States at the Olympic golf on Sunday with a one-stroke victory, while Rory Sabbatini claimed an unlikely silver for adopted nation Slovakia.

Taiwan's CT Pan claimed the bronze in a playoff, eliminating American Collin Morikawa on the fourth extra hole on a scorching day at Kasumigaseki Country Club.

"Man, it feels good," said Schauffele, who claimed the title with a final round 67 for an 18-under total of 266.
"I kind of wanted this one more than any other.

"Everyone is back home watching. I was feeling the love from San Diego and Las Vegas this whole time."

Overnight leader Schauffele, who started the final round a stroke ahead of home favourite Hideki Matsuyama, needed to scramble hard through a nervous back nine as his driving went to ruin.
South Africa-born Sabbatini, who took Slovakia citizenship at the end of 2018 after marrying wife Martina, had stormed home with birdies on 17 and 18 in an Olympic record 61 to finish 17-under and put pressure on Schauffele.

The 27-year-old American stumbled with a bogey on the 14th to fall back to a share of the gold medal position with Sabbatini, who was waiting nervously in the clubhouse.

It took an eight-foot birdie putt on the 17th for Schauffele to break clear by a stroke but more nerves were to come as he slashed his drive into the deep rough on 18.

Hitting his recovery into the fairway, Schauffele composed himself and landed a sparkling iron shot four feet from the pin, allowing him to knock in the title-winning par.

Schauffele brought his swing coach father Stefan to the Games, nearly 40 years after the former decathlete's dreams of representing Germany at the Olympics were crushed when a car crash left him blind in one eye.

Earlier, Schauffele had a flying start with four birdies in his first eight holes, but came under pressure as Sabbatini scored 10 birdies and an eagle on the par-four sixth as his caddie-wife shrieked in celebration.

The strain finally told on Schauffele as he sliced his tee-shot into the trees on the right of the par-five 14th, forcing a penalty drop.

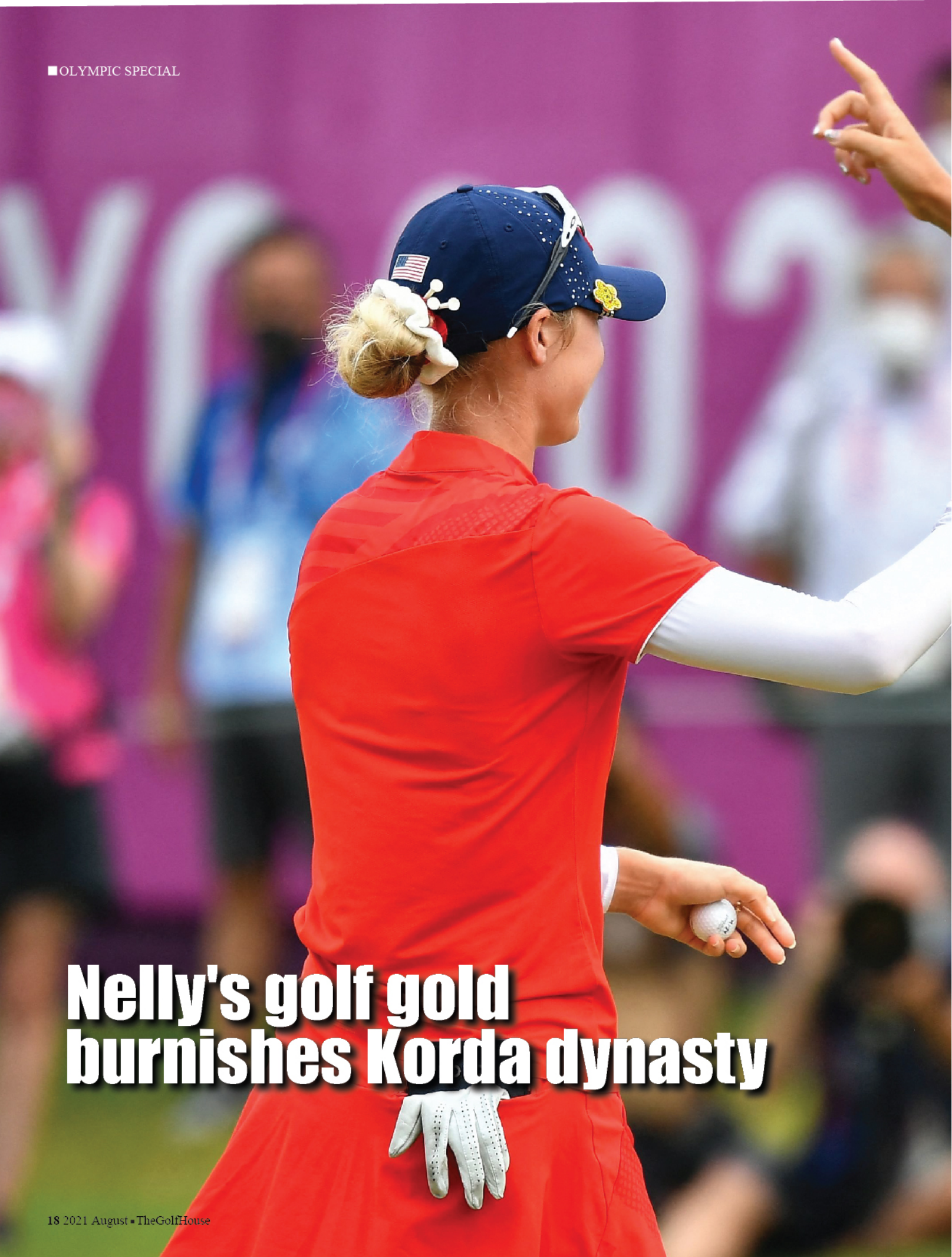
He recovered well to limit the damage to a bogey and hung tight for the title as his playing partner Matsuyama fell away. Masters champion Matsuyama (69) and Ireland's Rory McIlroy (67) each finished 15-under to battle their way into an unwieldy seven-man playoff for bronze along with Chilean Mito Pereira, Colombia's Sebastian Munoz and Briton Paul Casey.

Matsuyama, who was ill with COVID-19 in the leadup, was knocked out with Casey at the first playoff hole, while McIlroy fell after the third with the South Americans. Morikawa's bronze hopes were crushed on the 18th when his ball plugged deep into a greenside bunker.

Pan, on safer ground, drained a putt for par for the medal and was doused in water on the green by thrilled Taiwan team mates.







Nelly's golf gold burnishes Korda dynasty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Golfer Nelly Korda's gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics on Saturday has turned a special sporting 2021 for her talented family into a glittering year.

As older sister Jessica ran to Nelly and embraced her to celebrate, it was just the latest stunning success for one of the world's most impressive sporting families. A month earlier, tennis-playing brother Sebastian, 21, reached the fourth round of Wimbledon for the first time and then cracked the world's top 50.

The parents were not too bad on the tennis court either. Father Petr Korda won the 1998 Australian Open while mother Regina Rajchrtova was also a professional, both representing their native Czech Republic.

But their children are all American. Jessica, 28, has six LPGA Tour wins, including this year's Tournament of Champions, and is currently ranked 14th. But it is world number one Nelly who is fast putting the rest of her family in the shade.

The 23-year-old rose to the top of the global rankings for the first time after winning her maiden major at the Women's PGA Championship in June.

Six weeks later she has added Olympic gold, and she will be looking to continue her phenomenal run of three wins in her past five starts at the Scottish Open and British Open over the coming weeks.

Nelly was a successful amateur before turning pro as a teenager in 2016 on the second-tier Symetra Tour, where she won a tournament to earn an LPGA Tour card.

Her first main tour win came in 2018 in Taiwan. A year later she won the Women's Australian Open to complete a "family slam" Down Under, adding to Petr's 1998 Australian Open, Jessica's 2012 Women's Australian Open and Sebastian's 2018 Australian Open boys' singles.



The Kordas are only the third pair of sisters in history to both win LPGA titles, joining Thailand's Moriya and Ariya Jutanugarn and Sweden's Charlotta and Annika Sorenstam.

They even won consecutive tournaments earlier this year.

Jessica triumphed at the Tournament of Champions in January this year and the following month it was Nelly's turn at the Gainbridge LPGA.

The sisters have become inseparable as they travel the world.

"I don't know what I would do without Jess," said Nelly this week. "I think we had a conversation like a couple days ago "I was like 'so you're going to be playing until the end of my career too, right? You're not going to leave me?' I'm just super-grateful to have her, honestly, every step of the way," added Nelly.

Jessica was grateful to have her sister join her on tour, saying it had rekindled her own passion for the game.

"It's really lonely and it's really hard to be out here on your own," said Jessica, whose rookie year on the LPGA Tour was back in 2011.

"It's just been really fun. I have a younger brother and a younger sister, so it's not like my parents could come out every week and travel with me, so I did a lot of it on my own.

"Then just having her come out, it really refreshed a lot of the love of the game and the love for the tour and kind of just like wanting to be out here and doing this with her."

---AFP



Golden Schauffele hails father



Xander Schauffele's triumph at the Tokyo golf on Sunday was especially emotional for his swing coach father Stefan, whose own Olympic dreams were crushed nearly 40 years ago.

Stefan Schauffele had hoped to represent Germany in track and field but a car crash left him blind in one eye, a blow that took him years to get over.

Decades later, his son qualified for Tokyo and the pair flew out together to share the Olympic moment.

On Sunday, Xander won the gold with a tense one-stroke victory over Slovakia's silver-winning Rory Sabbatini at Kasumigaseki Country Club.

"This is going to take a while to settle in," said Stefan, joking that he needed a towel to hide his tears.

"I got choked up. I describe today as definitely needing a towel moment. I am very, very proud.

"This is a meaningful (win). It's the most meaningful one so far, just below the majors if you will. It's a great achievement."

Xander became the second United States golfer to win Olympic gold in the men's event, following Charles Sands in Paris in 1900. Golf returned to the Olympics in Rio in 2016 after a long hiatus.

Some of his father's swing lessons may have fallen by the wayside as the 27-year-old Californian struggled off the tee in a nervous back nine.

But he struck a sweet iron shot to four feet from the 18th pin to make sure of the gold.

"For me, I really wanted to win for my dad. I am sure he is crying somewhere right now. I kind of wanted this one more than any other," said Xander, who has relatives in Japan from his Taiwanese mother's side.

"First up, you are trying to represent your country to the best of your ability and then you add family stuff on top of that."



ICE-COOL MORIKAWA WINS BLAZING HOT BRITISH OPEN



American debutant Collin Morikawa produced an ice-cool final round to win the British Open by two strokes on a blazing hot afternoon at Royal St George's on Sunday.

The 24-year-old began the day a stroke behind Louis Oosthuizen but played picture-perfect golf in a four-under round of 66 to overhaul the South African and resist resurgent fellow American Jordan Spieth in a three-way battle.

Morikawa barely missed a fairway all day as he made four birdies and dropped no shots, showing incredible composure late on as Spieth applied pressure down the stretch.

He never looked like cracking though and his fourth sub-par round of the week saw him finish on 15-under 265 -- his remarkable consistency borne out by the astonishing statistic of only four bogeys all week. Spieth, who was bidding to win his fourth major and first since the 2017 Open, started his final round badly with two bogeys in his first six holes but an eagle at the seventh launched a gallant chase of Morikawa.

The packed galleries, enjoying a memorable finale after last year's cancellation, roared on Spieth but despite a return to his best, he was unable to catch Morikawa, finishing 13 under, left to rue his bogey-bogey finish the night before.

Oosthuizen ended in a tie for third with Spain's U.S. Open champion Jon Rahm, four shots back after a storming finish. He led from round one and posted the lowest-ever Open total for 36 holes but wilted and finished with a one-over 71.

Morikawa had the luxury of a two-shot lead as he teed off from the 18th tee before striding down the fairway and two-putting for a victory that never looked in doubt to become the first player to win two majors on debut, having also claimed the 2020 PGA Championship.

"This is by far one of the best moments of my life. Look at all these fans, let's hear it for you guys," Morikawa said after receiving the Claret Jug. To see some of the best crowds I have ever seen I'm looking forward to making my trip every year."

The last debutant to win the Open was American Ben Curtis in 2003, although whereas Curtis was ranked 396th at the time, Morikawa is the world number four. He only turned pro in 2019 but the University of California graduate has now won two of his first eight majors.

"I've had belief in myself since day one that I turned professional. I do my homework Monday to Wednesday to


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make sure I know what I need to do," he said.

The finale to a riveting 149th Open was beautifully poised as clear blue skies and light winds provided the perfect conditions for a duel under the sun.

Morikawa collected six successive pars to climb into a share of the lead after Oosthuisen bogeyed the fourth.

Spieth bunkered his tee shot at the par-three sixth and dropped his second shot of the round before an eagle at the seventh flicked the switch.

Morikawa tapped in a birdie at the seventh, but for playing partner Oosthuizen that was where everything went wrong.

His second shot went into a greenside bunker, his third into another bunker, before flying his escape across the green, eventually limiting the damage with a bogey six.

That put Morikawa two shots clear and he turned the screws with birdies at eight and nine to briefly go four clear.

Spieth was not giving up the chase but Morikawa was nerveless, saving par on the 10th with a long putt.

Oosthuizen briefly came alive with a birdie at the 11 after almost holing his tee shot, but Morikawa was relentless.

His poor shots were as rare as trees on the coastal links, and even when he did play one, as he did with his second to the 15th, nothing could knock him out of his stride.

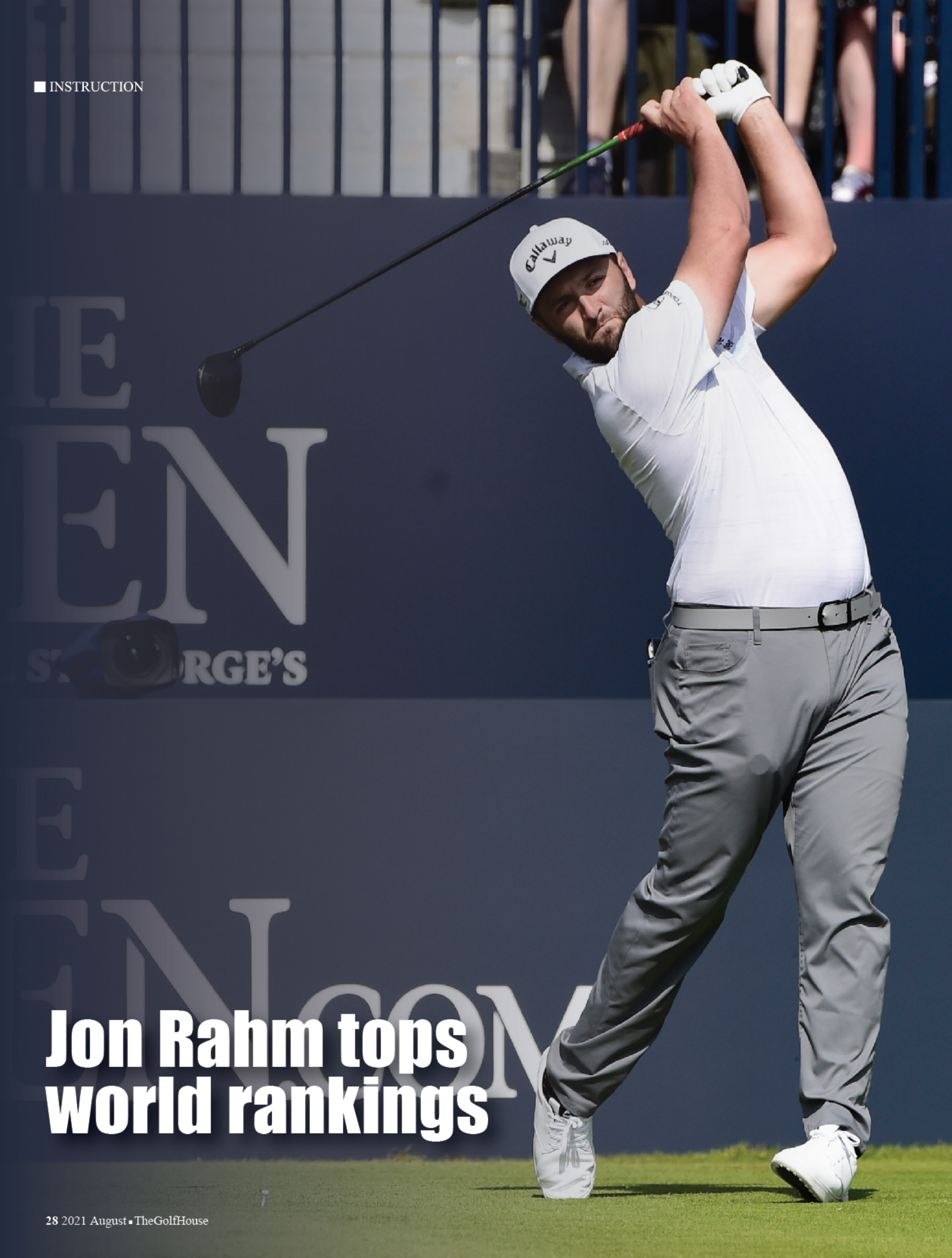
With Spieth just two behind, Morikawa was in trouble in the rough next to the downward sloping green, but the Californian made a sensational up-and-down to save par and he kept Spieth at arm's length thereafter.

"I needed a break, and I didn't get it from (Collin)," Spieth said. "I did all I could. So I'm upset because I really felt like I played well enough to win and made a couple of really dumb mistakes that possibly, if I had maybe played the week before, wouldn't have made."

American four-time major winner Brooks Koepka carded the day's joint best score, a 65 taking him to a tie for fifth while his arch-rival Bryson DeChambeau ended an eventful week with a 65 also, although he was never in contention.

Shane Lowry's admirable defence of the trophy he won in 2019 saw him finish in a tie for 12th after a final round 69.

---Reuters



Jon Rahm tops world rankings



Winning the 149th Open Championship helped Collin Morikawa move up one spot to a career-best third overall in the Official World Golf Ranking on Monday.

Morikawa, 24, recorded his second major title on Sunday after carding a 15-under-par 265 at Royal St. George's in Sandwich, Kent, England. He also won the 2020 PGA Championship in his home state of California.

Jon Rahm officially reclaimed the No. 1 spot from Dustin Johnson on Monday after the latter moved past the former last week.

Rahm briefly held the spot twice in 2020, after winning the Memorial and after tying for 13th at the PGA Championship. Both stints lasted only one event, however, although Rahm has not been outside of the top three since.

Johnson once again is second in the ranking, with Morikawa's rise pushing Justin Thomas down to fourth.
Xander Schauffele, Bryson DeChambeau, Brooks Koepka and Patrick Cantlay remained in their respective Nos. 5-8 slots, while South African Louis Oosthuizen moved up from 13th to ninth after tying for third place at The Open.

Harris England entered the top 10 for the first time in his career on Monday. Norway's Viktor Hovland, England's Tyrell Hatton and Patrick Reed rank Nos. 11-13, respectively, while Jordan Spieth vaulted nine spots to No. 14 following his runner-up finish at The Open.

Northern Ireland's Rory McIlroy, who had been as high as seventh in late May, dipped to No. 15 after tying for 46th place at The Open.

--- Agencies







It's older than Augusta National. It's one of the most revered courses in Japan, host to many of the nation's premier events. But for the majority of players at this week's Olympic golf event, Kasumigaseki Country Club is a mystery. Here's a look at this year's host venue.

The history of Kasumigaseki:
Kasumigaseki dates to 1929, and has long been the province of Japan's elite. Designed by members who had been inspired by courses in the American Northeast, the club comprises two courses, East (site of the Olympic event) and West. Prior to a recent redesign, the course actually featured two greens per hole, each seeded with different grass to accommodate different seasons.

The Japanese government halted all golf during World War II, and seized part of the West Course for the military. After the U.S. requisitioned the club for seven years following World War II, the club reclaimed the original East Coast property in 1952 and opened a new West Course in 1954.

Japan's love affair with golf began at Kasumigaseki in 1957, when what was then called The Canada Cup took place on the club's East Course. Thirty two-man teams did battle on the course, where the Japanese team had a decided advantage thanks to the unpredictable greens.

"The grain of the grass grows hectically in every direction," Herbert Warren Wind wrote in Sports Illustrated, "like the extra rough beard featured in shaving cream commercials."

The Japanese duo of Torakichi Nakamura and Koichi Ono won a nine-shot victory over a field that included Americans Sam Snead and Jimmy Demaret. Nakamura also won the individual title by seven shots, defeating Snead and a 21-year-old Gary Player. The victories helped kickstart golf's popularity throughout Japan, a passion that continues to this day.

More recently, the club served as a launching pad for defending Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama, the first male Japanese player to win one of golf's majors. Matsuyama won the 2009 Japan Junior and 2010 Asia-Pacific Amateur at Kasumigaseki, and he's a hero in his homeland for his Masters win.

Behind the doors of Kasumigaseki:
Given its rich history, it's no surprise that Kasumigaseki was chosen to host the Olympic golf event. Even so, some of the club's operations after it won the honor in 2013 drew notice, and concern. Most notably, the club did not have any female members — and, in defending that policy, used arguments similar to those of male-only clubs from Augusta to the Open Championship rota.

"Rather than wondering what to do because of outside pressure, this could be a chance to really think about the issue," Kasumigaseki board member and public relations committee chairman Shigeki Sugita said in early 2017. "Culture and ways of thinking don't change overnight. It will take time."

"Time" ended up being about two months; the club announced in March 2017 that it had changed its policy, and within a year it had admitted its first three female members.

The club remains an exclusive, members-only venue. As of 2017, the club had about 1,270 full members, and another 1,800 family and weekday members. At that time, an annual family membership was about $36,000, while a full membership was about $91,000.

If you're fortunate enough to know someone who can get you on the course — and you can wait the months necessary to secure a tee time — you'd better dress correctly.

"Dressing to reflect the club's values and heritage means taking care not only with colours, patterns, and designs but also in the way you wear your outfit," the club notes.

Blazers are required for gentlemen upon arrival, except during the summer months. You can't wear shorts to walk in the front door, though you can wear them on the course … as long as you also have knee-high socks. Tuck in your shirts, leave your metal spikes at home, and always remember this:

"In the heat of the summer players are asked to have the courtesy to change their shirt and trousers before entering the dining room, to prevent leaving a damp seat for the next guest."

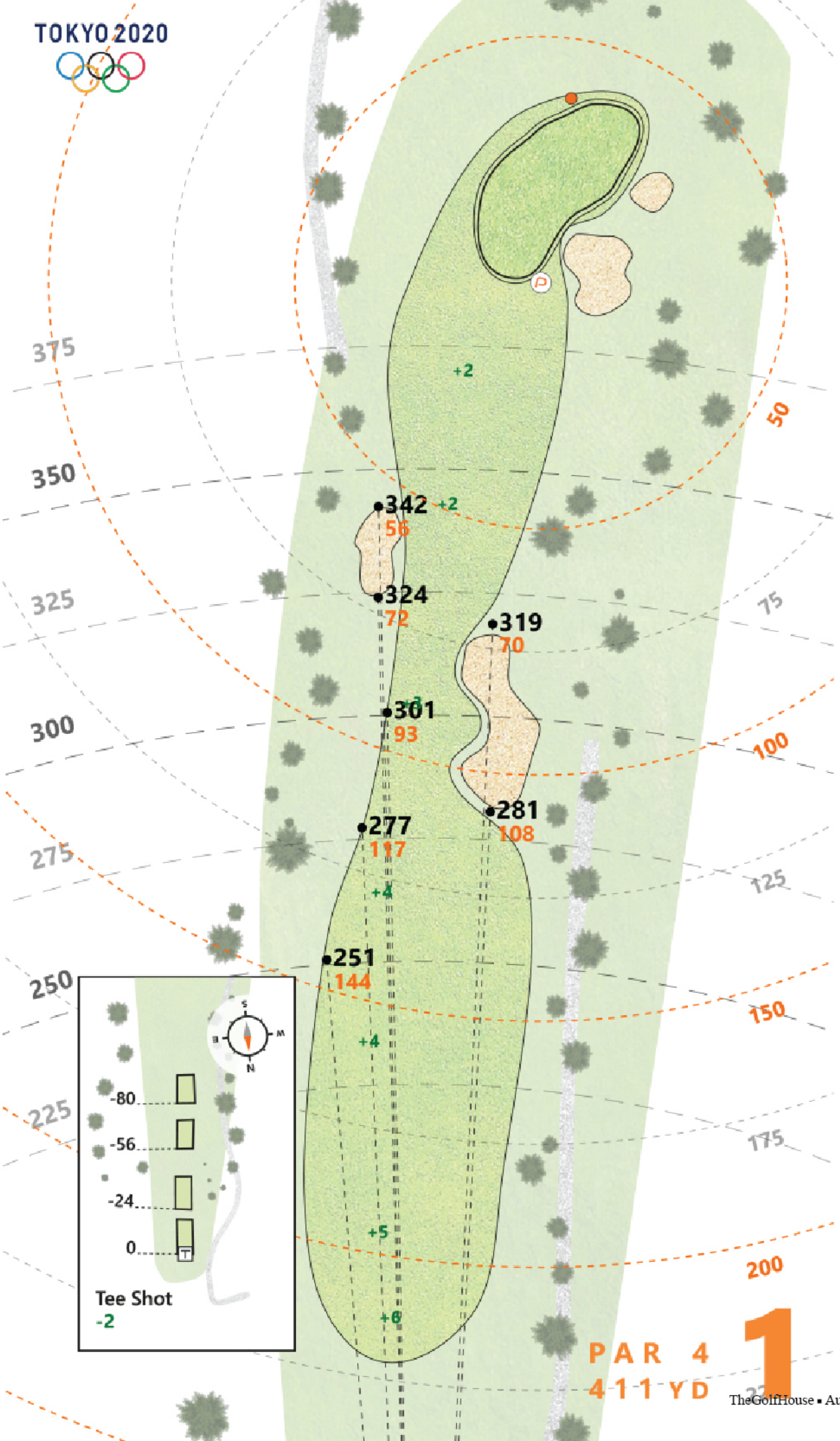
The Olympics: A new challenge:
In preparation for the Olympics, Kasumigaseki's East Course underwent a complete renovation in 2016. The team of Tom and Logan Fazio added 500 yards to the course, rolling the fairways and deepening the bunkers.

"Great golf course. Great condition," Ireland's Shane Lowry said earlier this week. "It's got a wide variety of holes, long, short. It's pretty straightforward, the scoring is there in front of you. I think the scoring is going to be low."

There's little in the way of comparison to go on with Olympic golf, since the event has only been played once in the last 117 years — and that, in Rio in 2016. Still, players don't expect a U.S. Open-style challenge; birdies are likely to fly in abundance.

"I think it will fit everyone's eye," Lowry said. "There's quite a few bunkers. I think it will suit the longer hitters, surprisingly – like most golf courses we go and play these days. There's quite a few bunkers at 300, 320 (yards') carry that they can take out of play. But the only thing is if you don't hit on the fairway it can be tricky."

The men's tournament begins July 29, while the women's tournament will begin Aug. 4.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319
70
301
93
281
108
277
117
+4
251
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+5
+6
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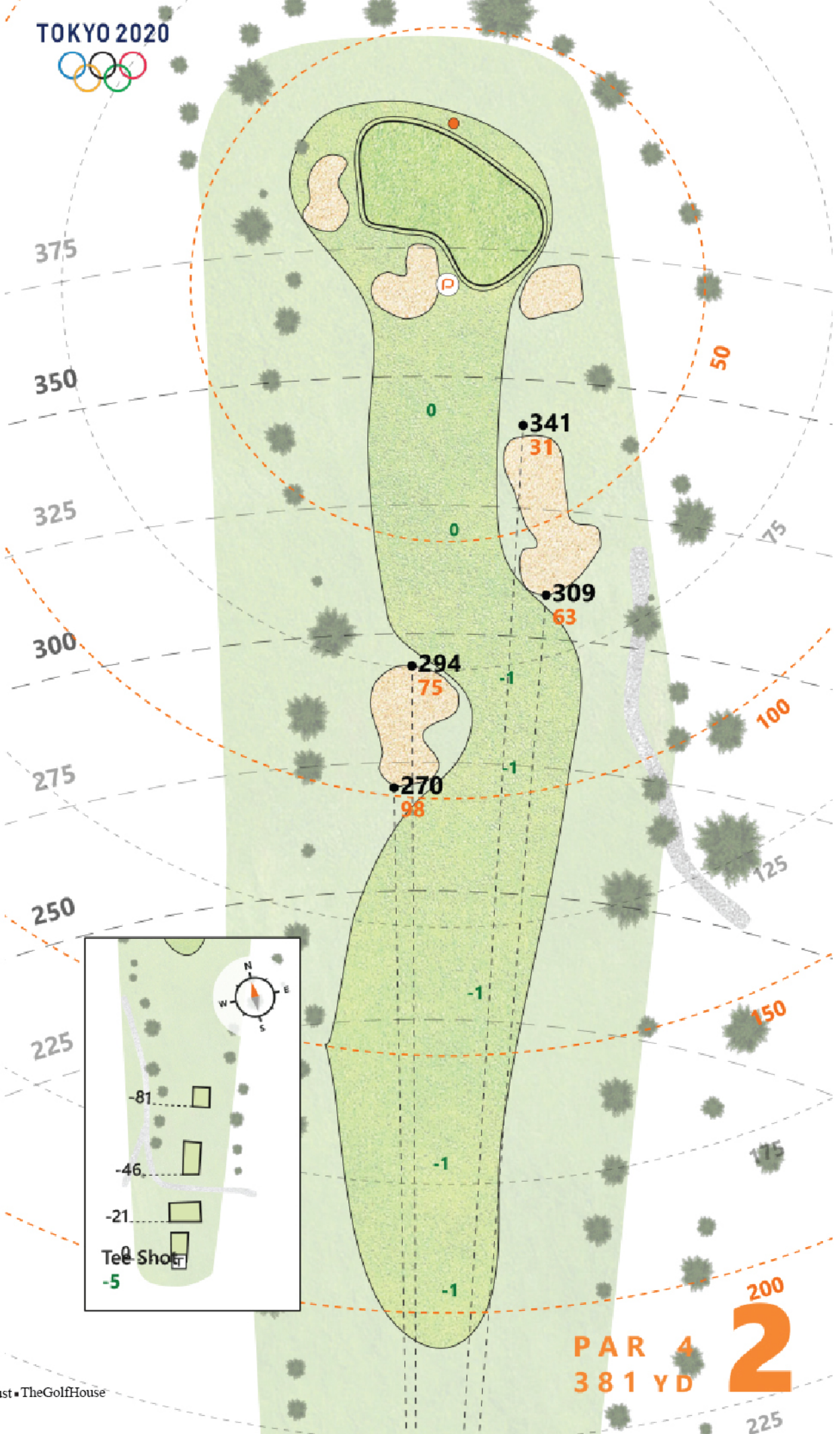
-2
PAR 4
411 YD
1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-1
-1
-1
341
31
309
63
294
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E
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W
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-46
-21
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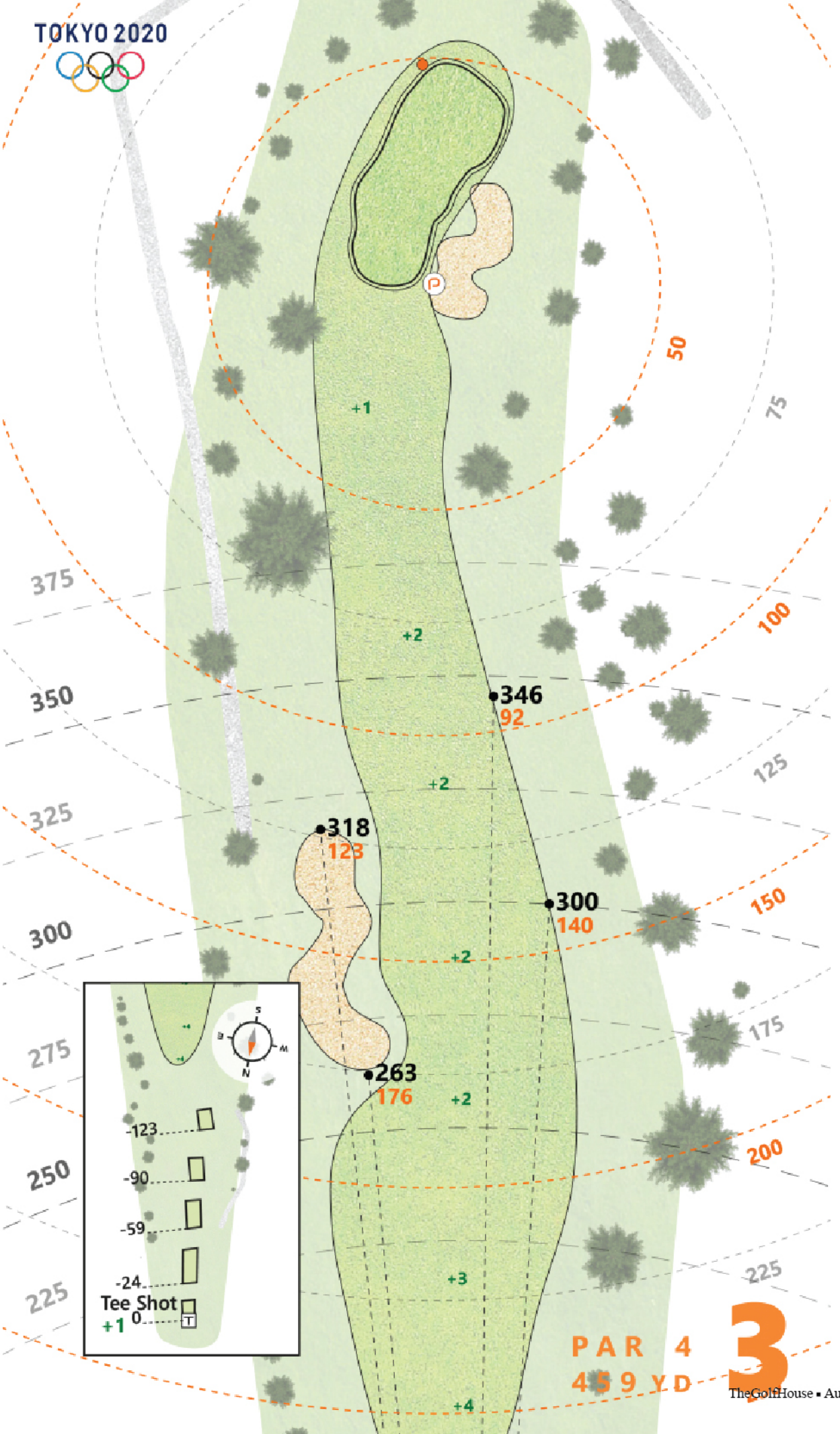
-5
PAR 4
381 YD
2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+2
+3
+4
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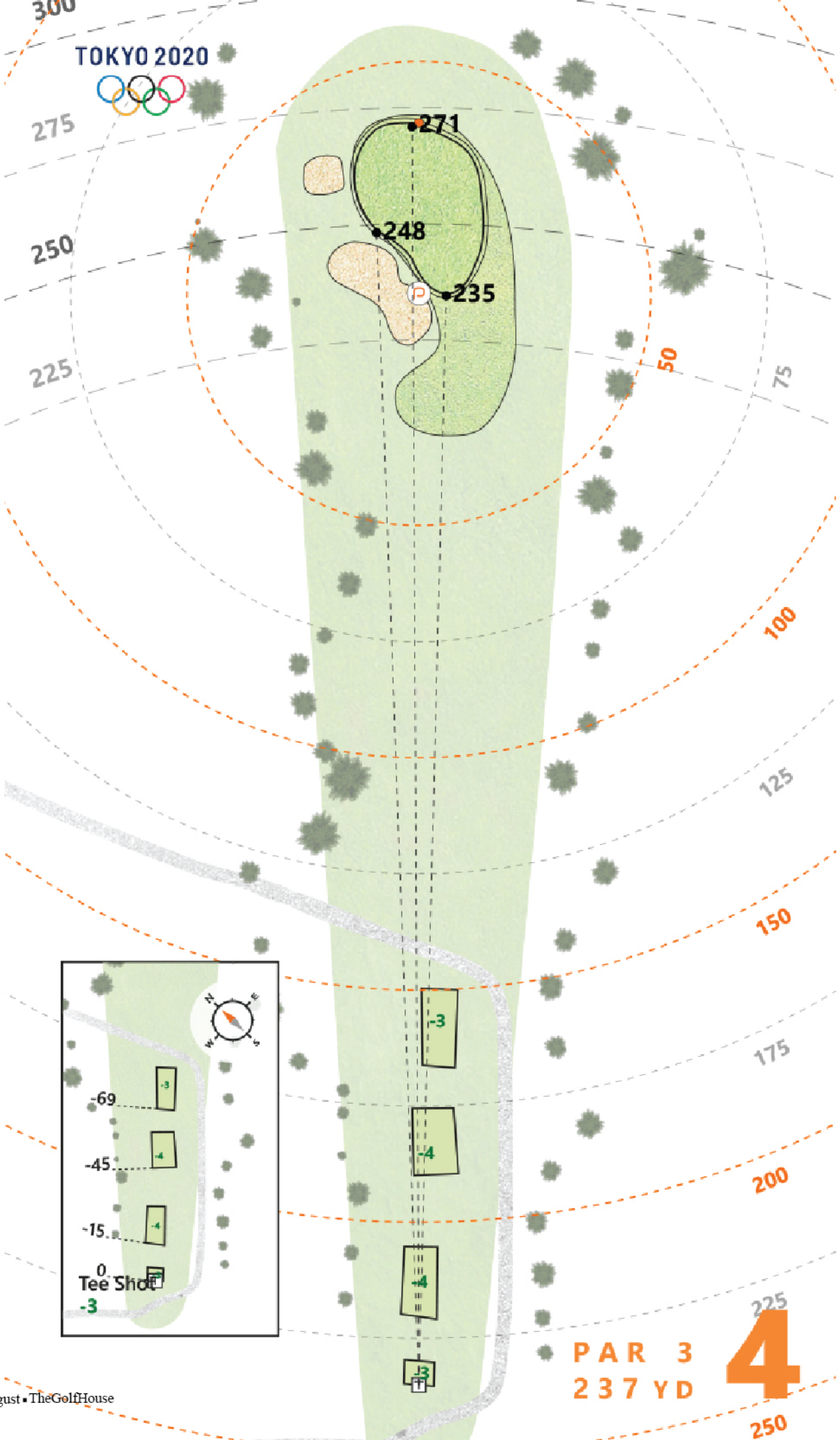
PAR 4
459 YD
3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-4
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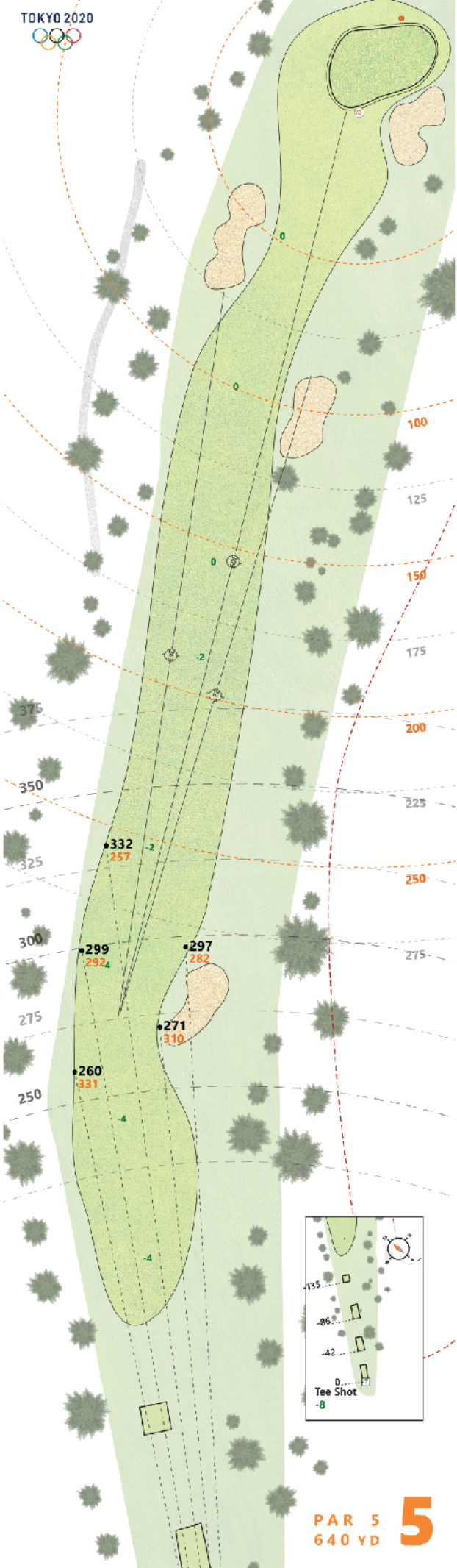
-3
N
E
S
W
PAR 3
237 YD
4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292
297
282
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-4
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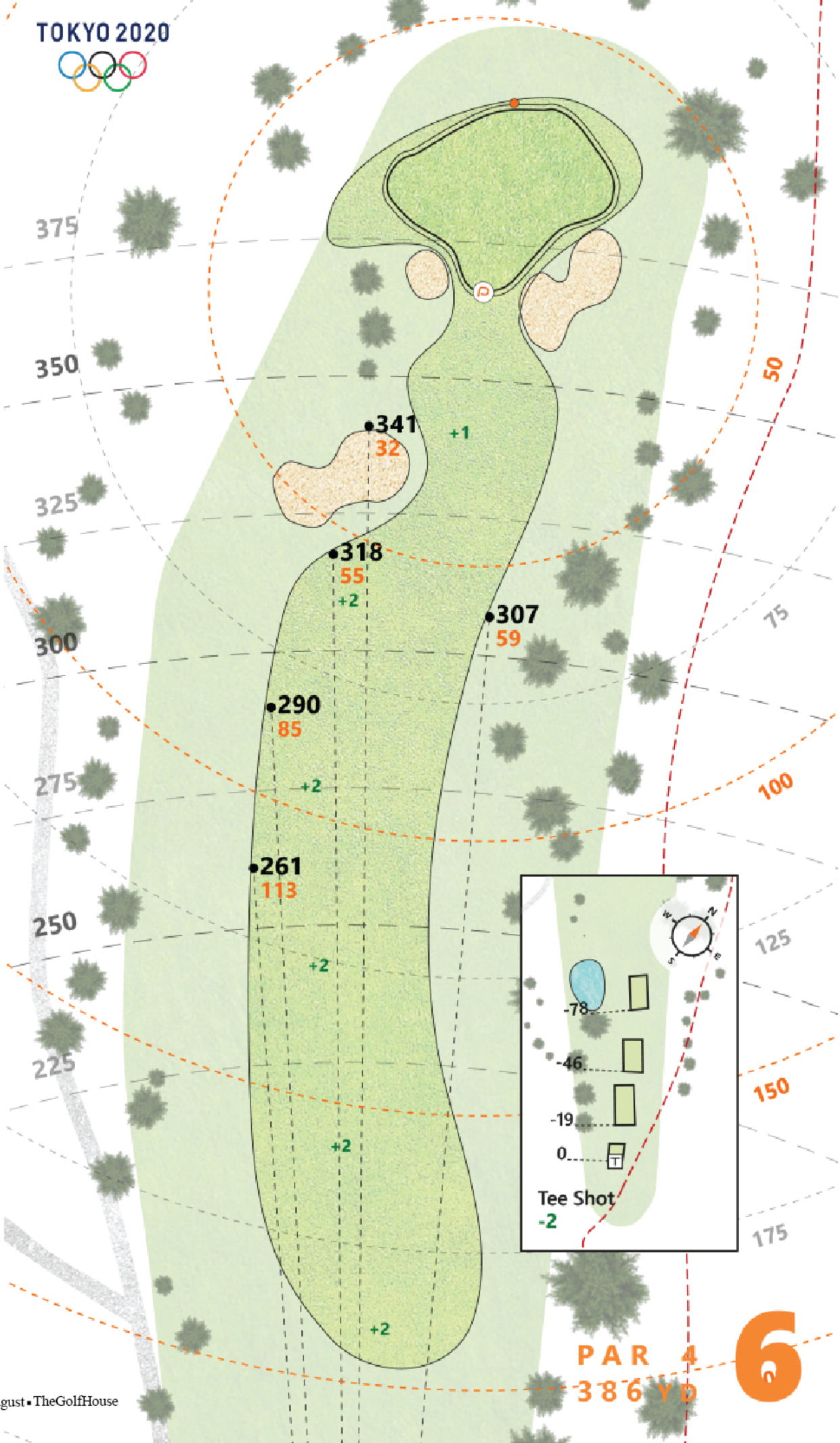
-8

PAR 5
640 YD
5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+2
307
59
290
85
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+2
+2
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-19
0
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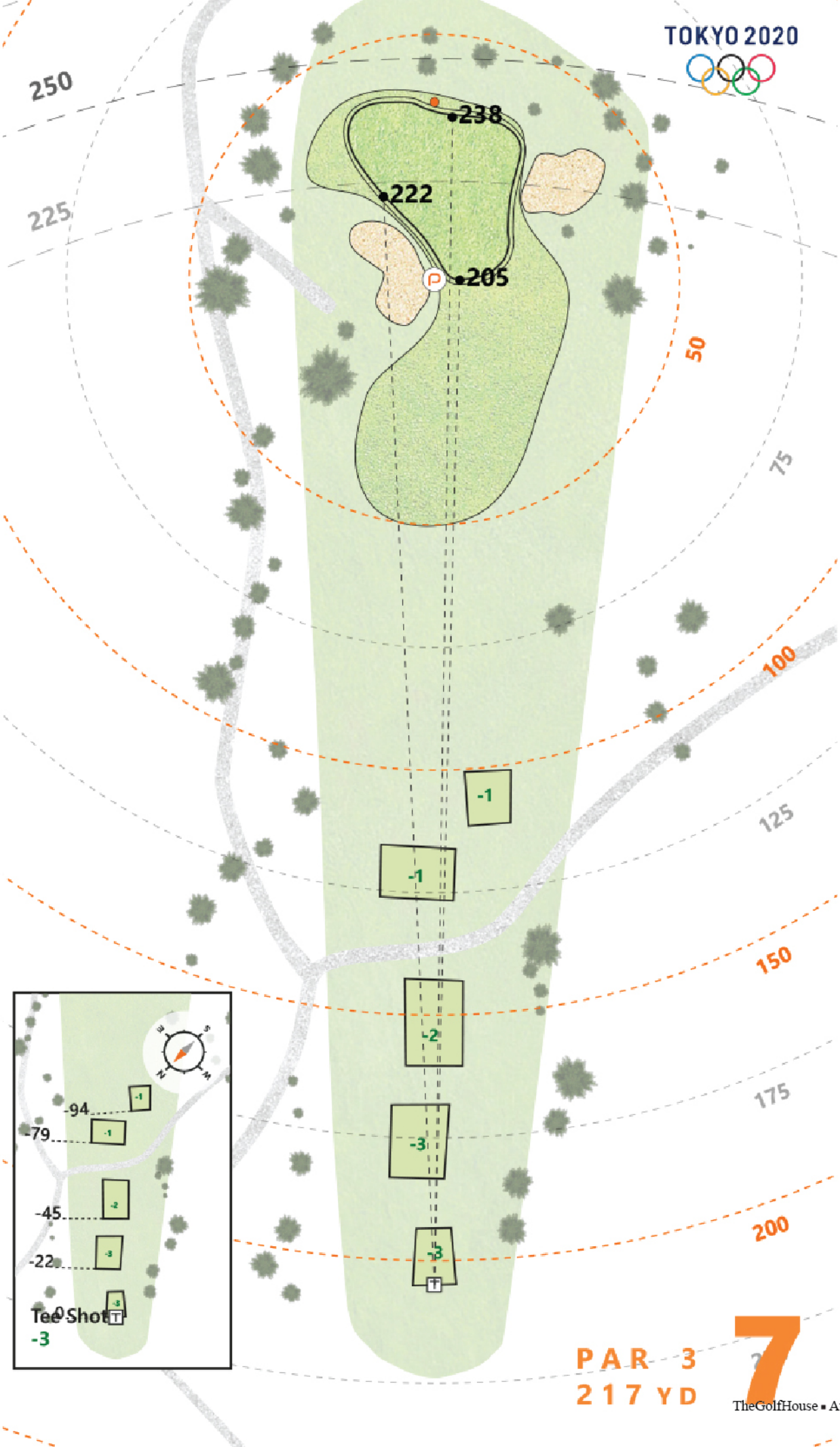
-2
PAR 4
386 YD
6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150
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22
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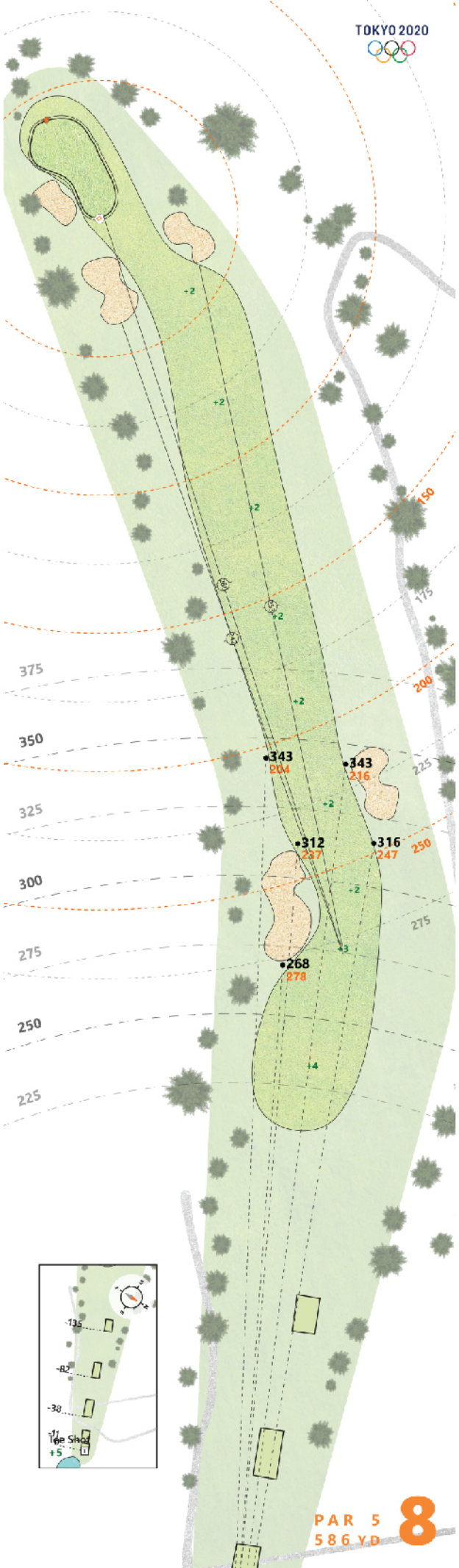
-3
PAR 3
217 YD
7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+2
+3
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300
275
250
225
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316
247
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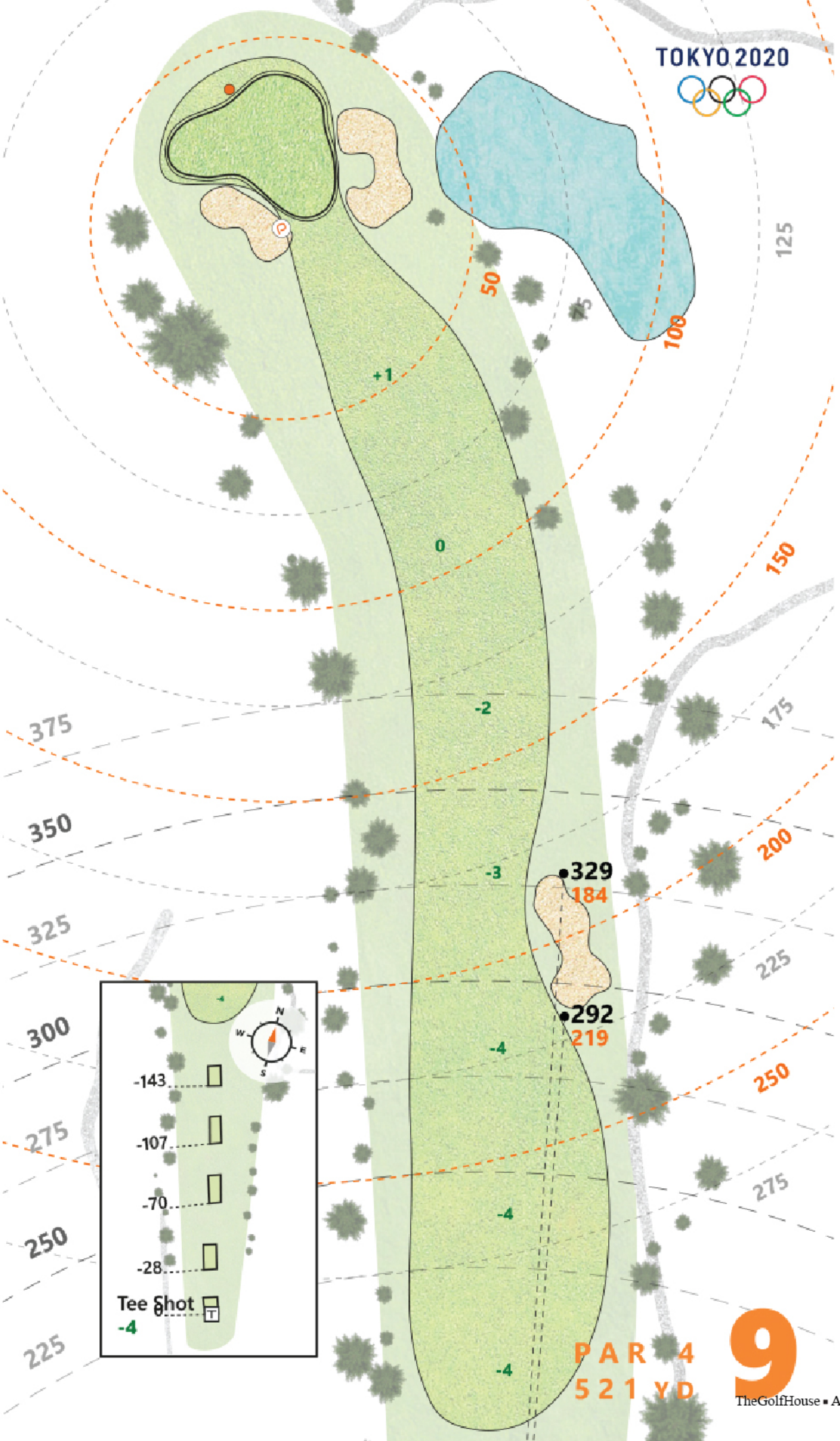
38
17
Tee Shot
+5
PAR 5
586 YD
8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219
300
-4
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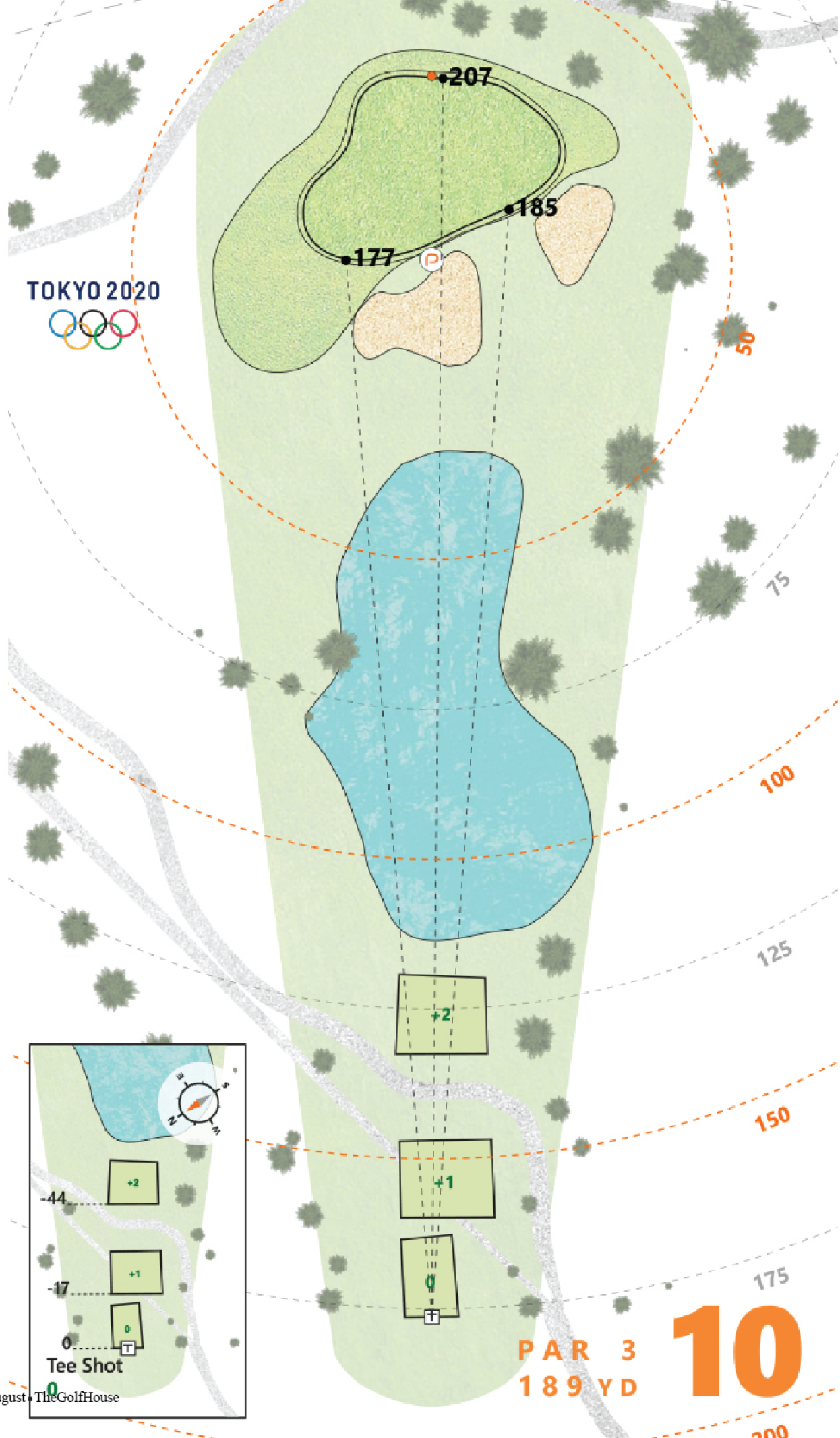
-4
250
275
-4
-4
PAR 4
521 YD
9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PAR 3
189 YD
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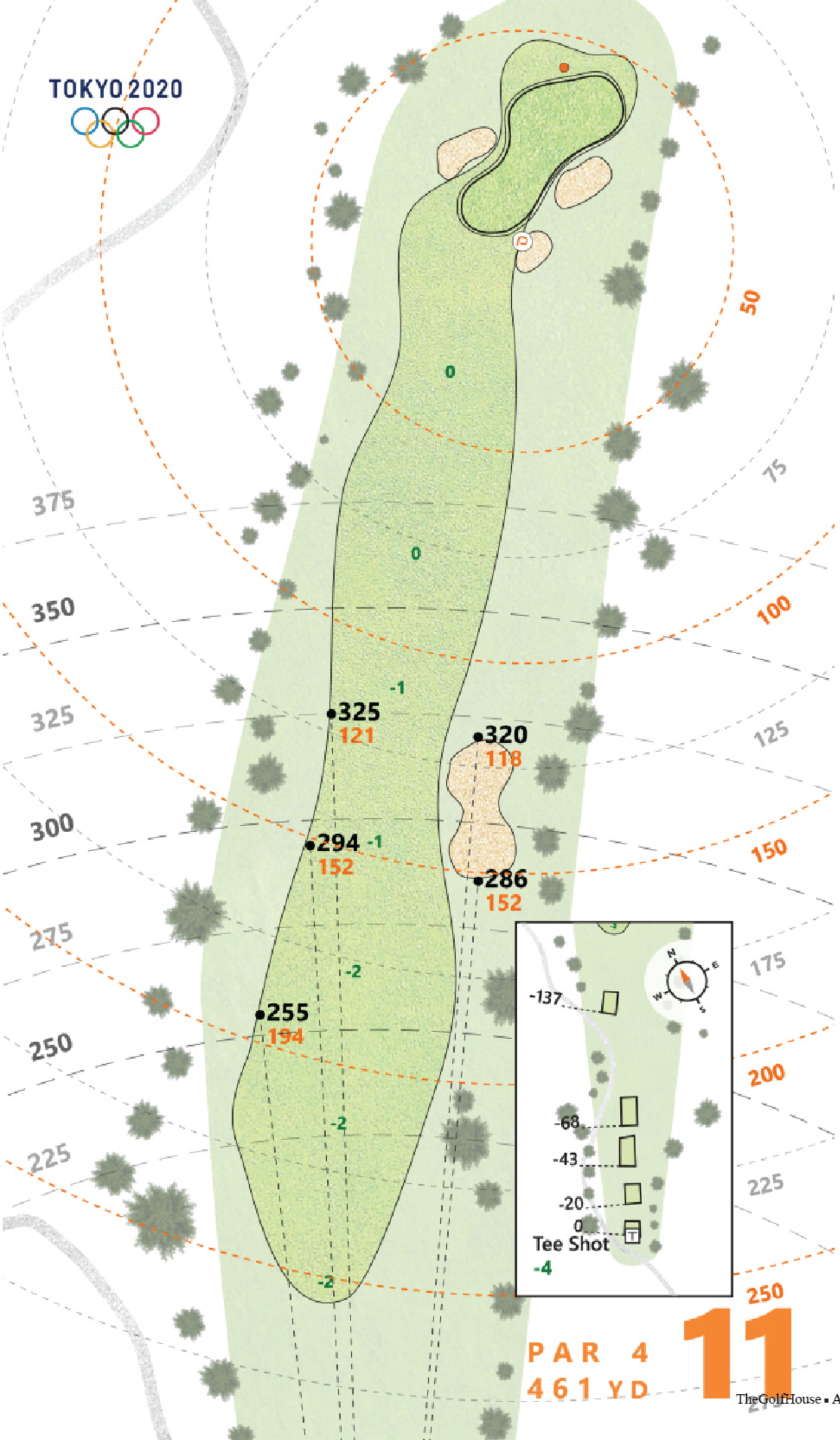
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-2
-2
-2
325
121
320
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294 -1
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-4
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461 YD
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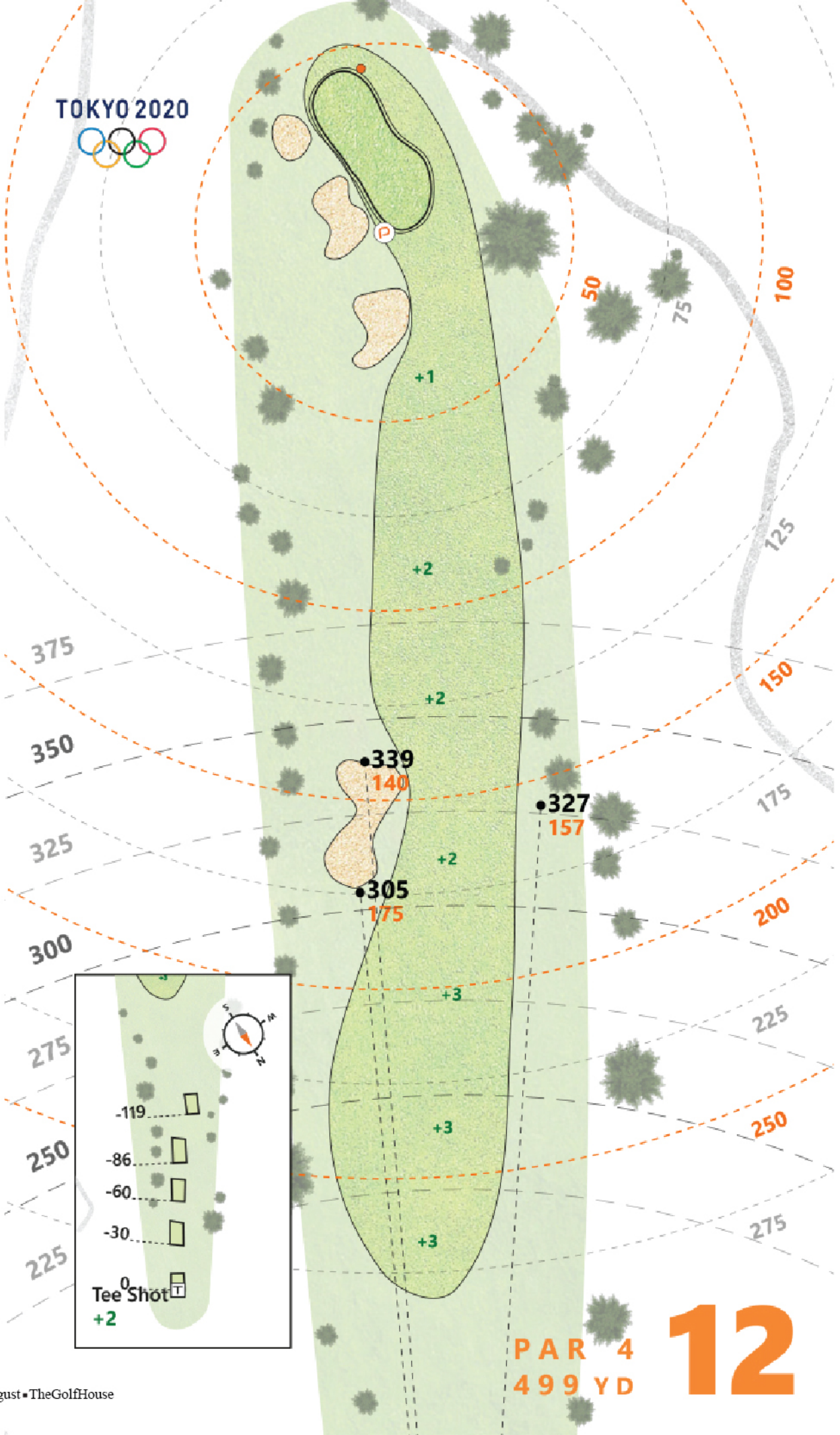
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+3
+3
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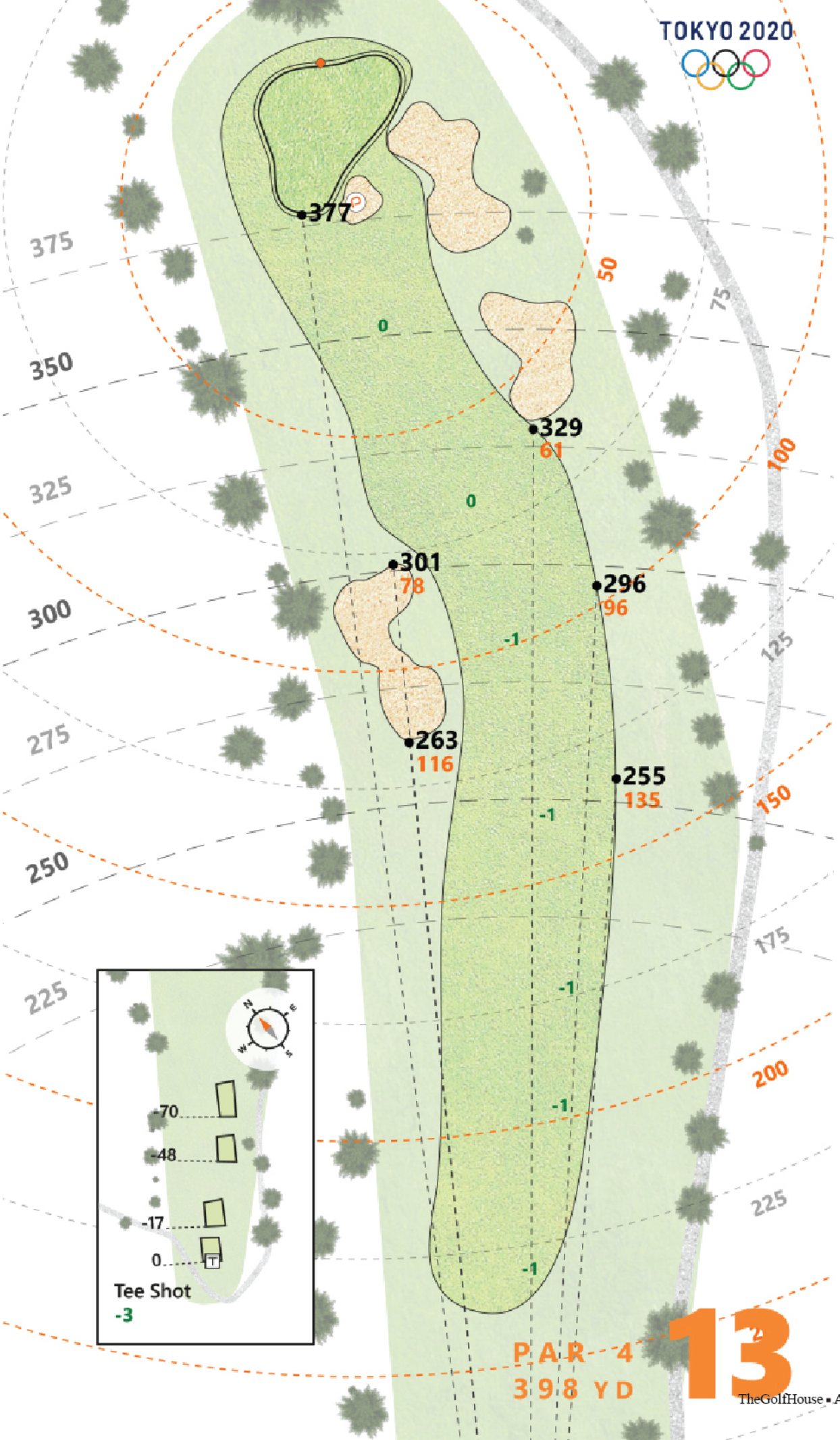
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150
175
200
225
0
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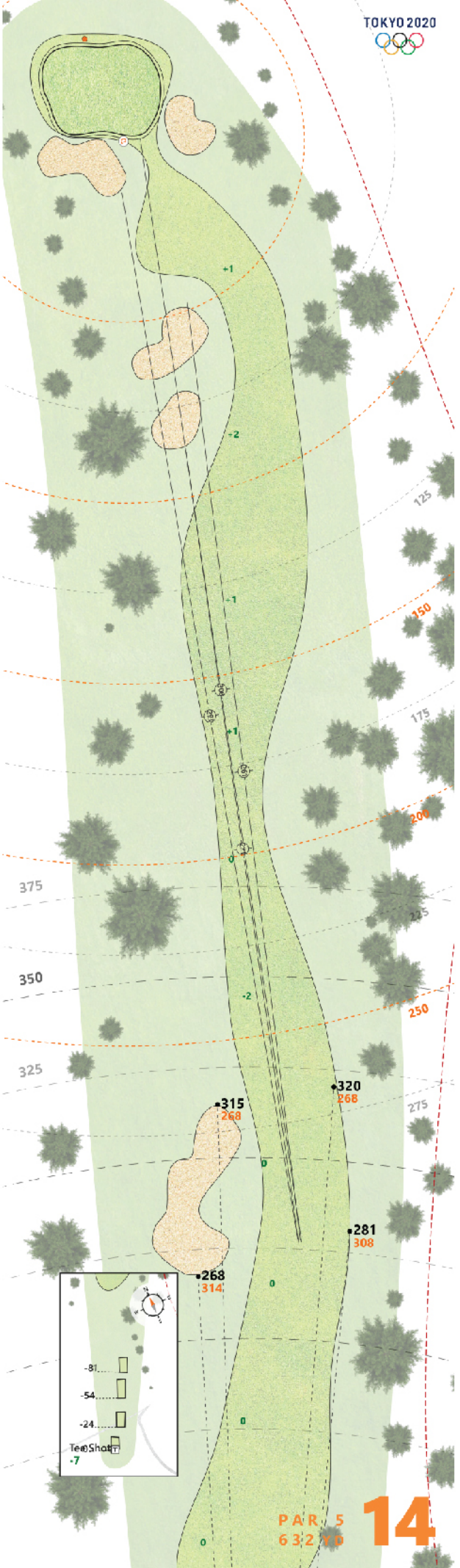
PAR 4
398 YD
13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320
268
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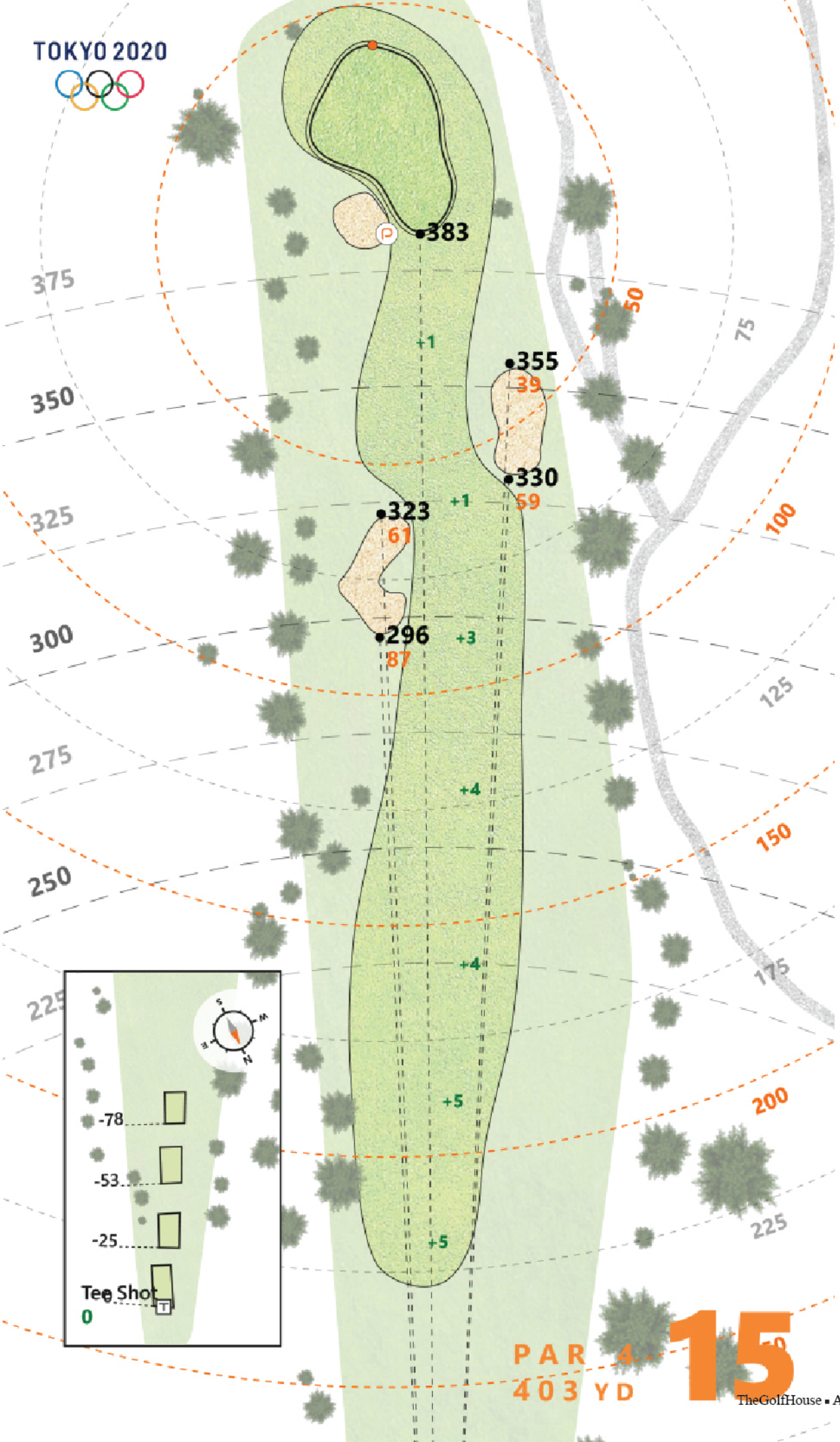
632 YD
14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+5
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350
325
300
275
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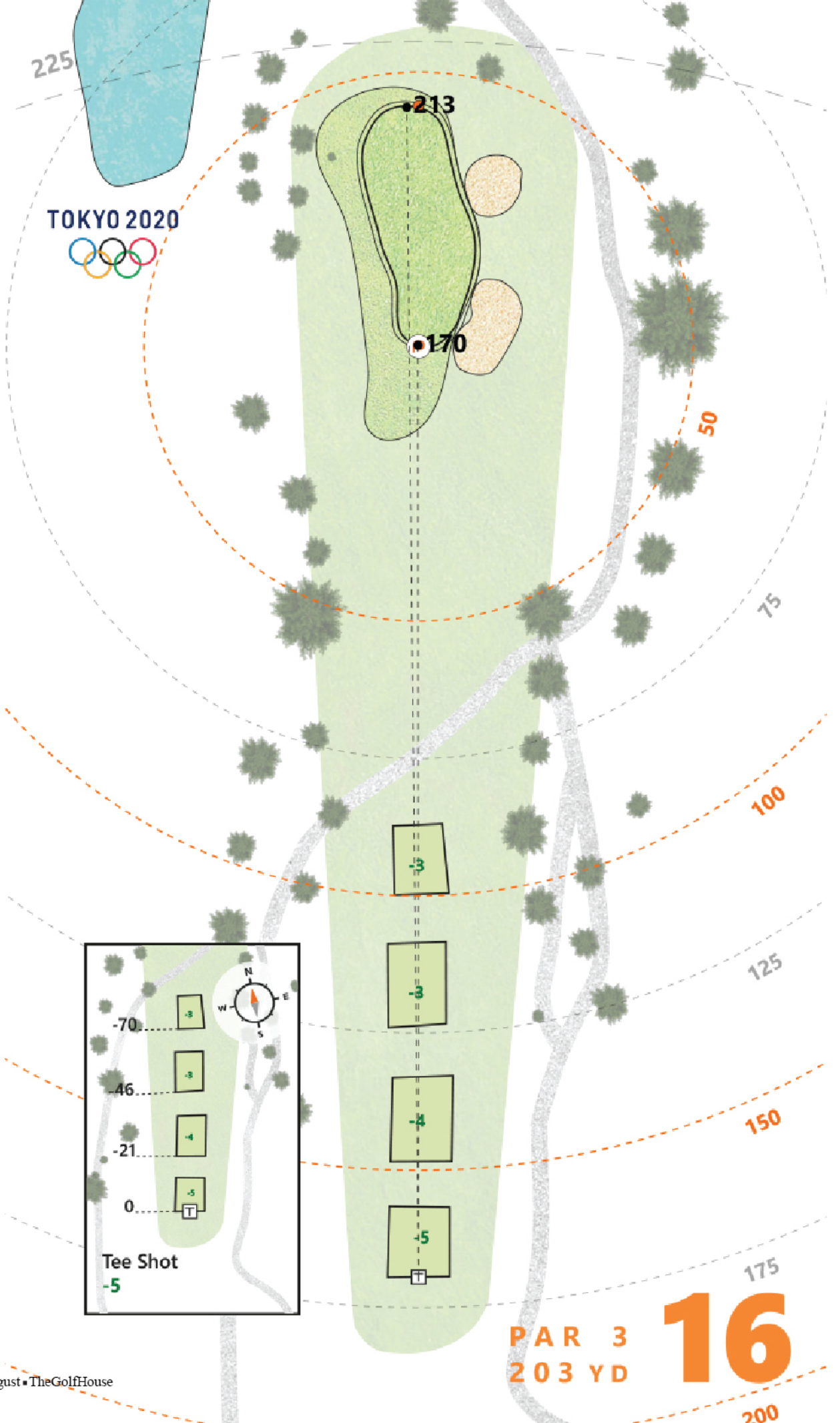
PAR 4
403 YD
15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-3
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E
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W
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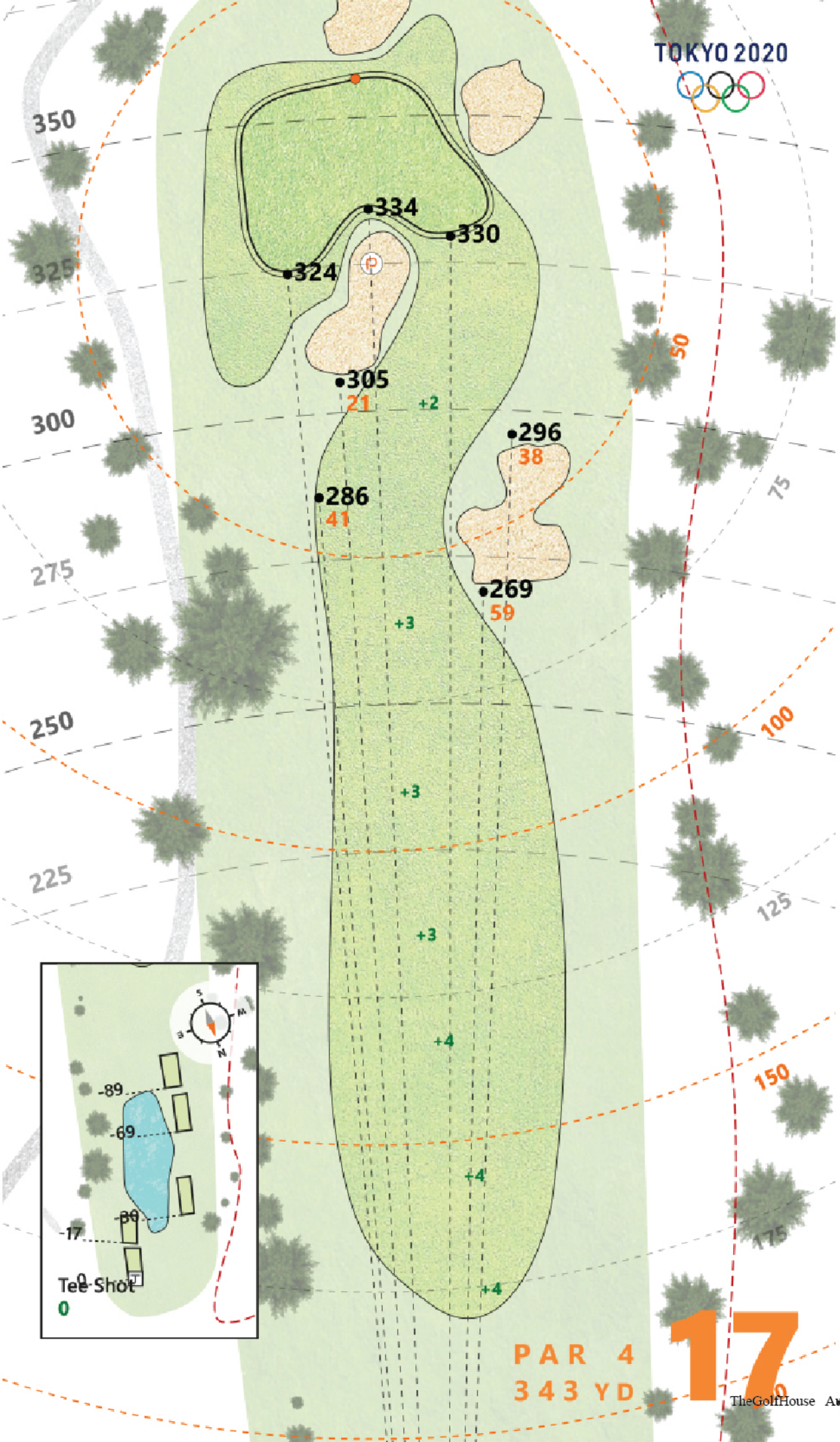
PAR 3
203 YD
16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+2
296
38
286
41
269
59
+3
+3
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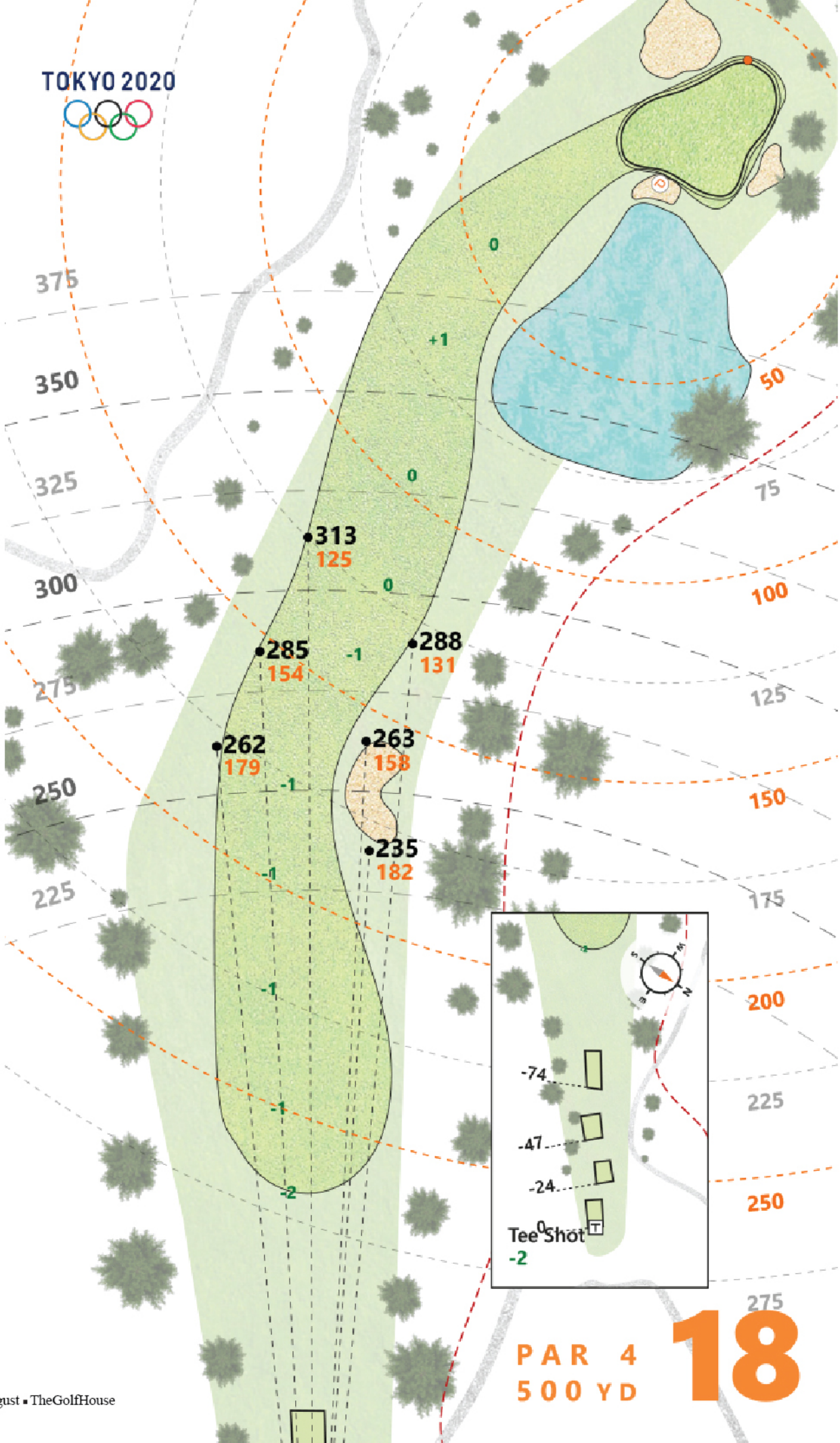
0
PAR 4
343 YD
17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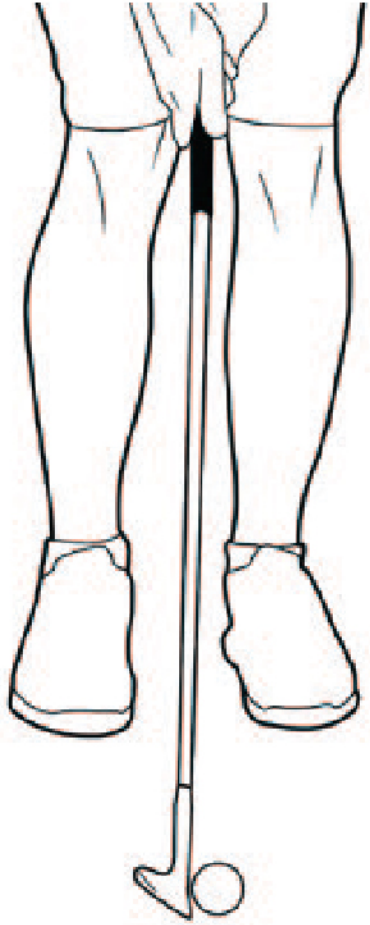
PAR 4
500 YD
18



CONTROL WEDGE PLAY WITH A SIMPLE SYSTEM

REDUCING YOUR HANDICAP CAN COME DOWN TO A SIMPLE QUESTION. HOW GOOD ARE YOU BETWEEN 30 AND 80 METERS FROM THE GREEN?

For most golfers, 30 to 80 meters is the distance you will pitch a ball with one or all of your wedges. There are different ways in which golfers attempt to hit the ball these distances:

GOLFER 1

Uses the same club for all distances and tries to gauge it by looking at the hole and trying to hit it the distance he believes he is from the flag.

GOLFER 2

Gets an accurate distance and then selects the same club for all his short game shots and tries to hit it the given distance.

GOLFER 3

Gets an accurate distance and uses a pre-determined swing and club to hit the ball that distance.

Which golfer do you think has the greatest chance of hitting the ball the correct distance? Normally, golfer 3 will be able to hit the ball closest to the hole. Not surprisingly, this is the technique most often used by professionals.

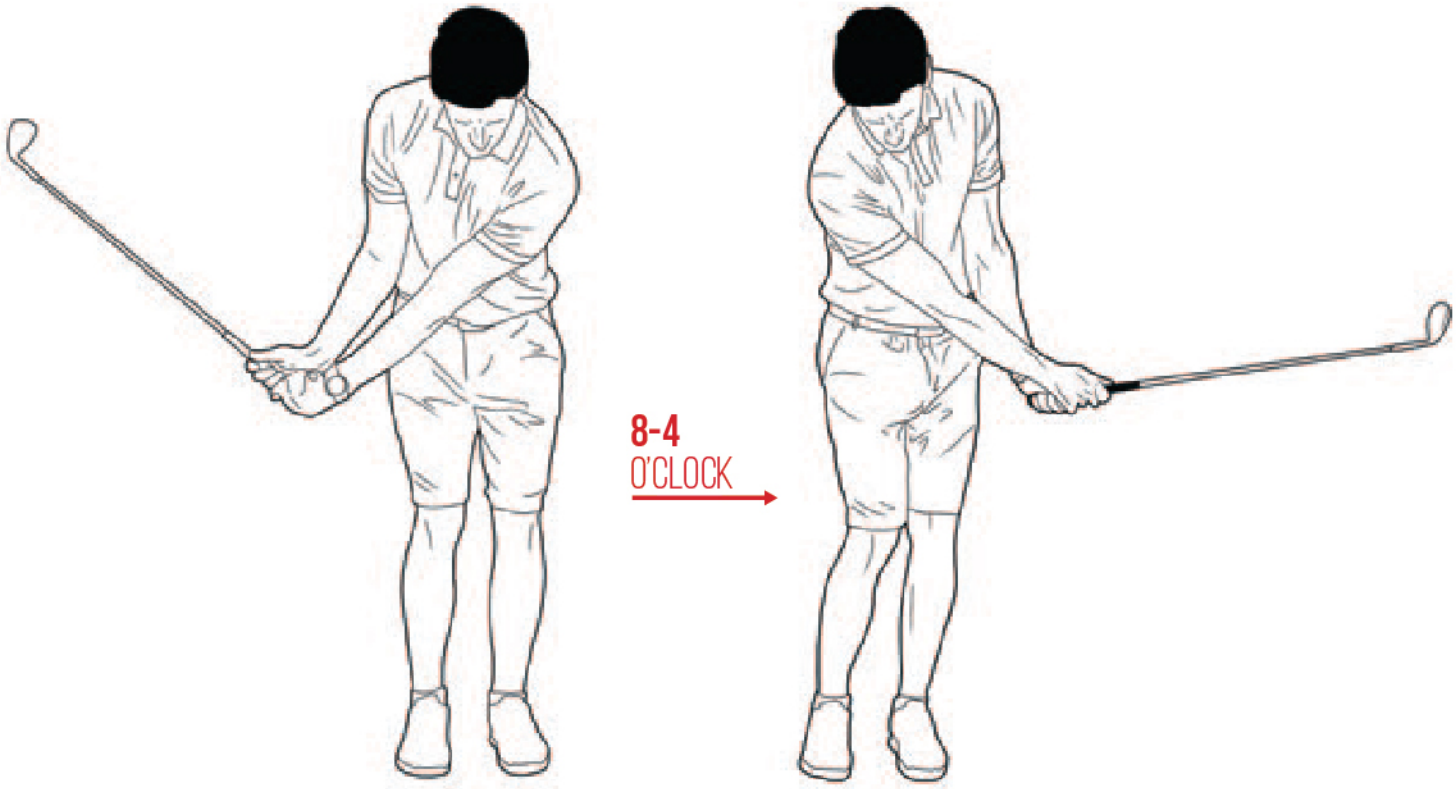
So what is a predetermined swing? If you think of a clock face, this will help you imagine different swing lengths.

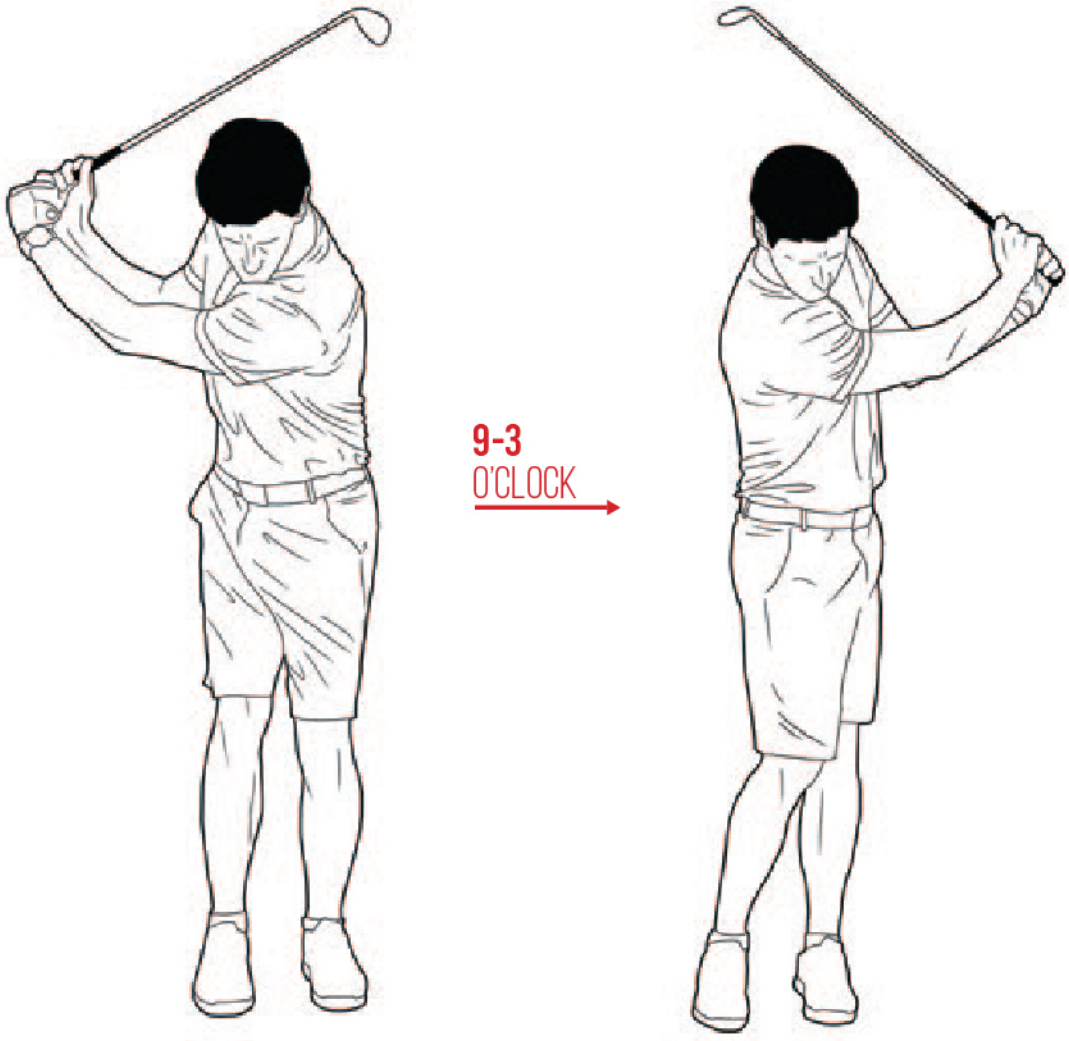


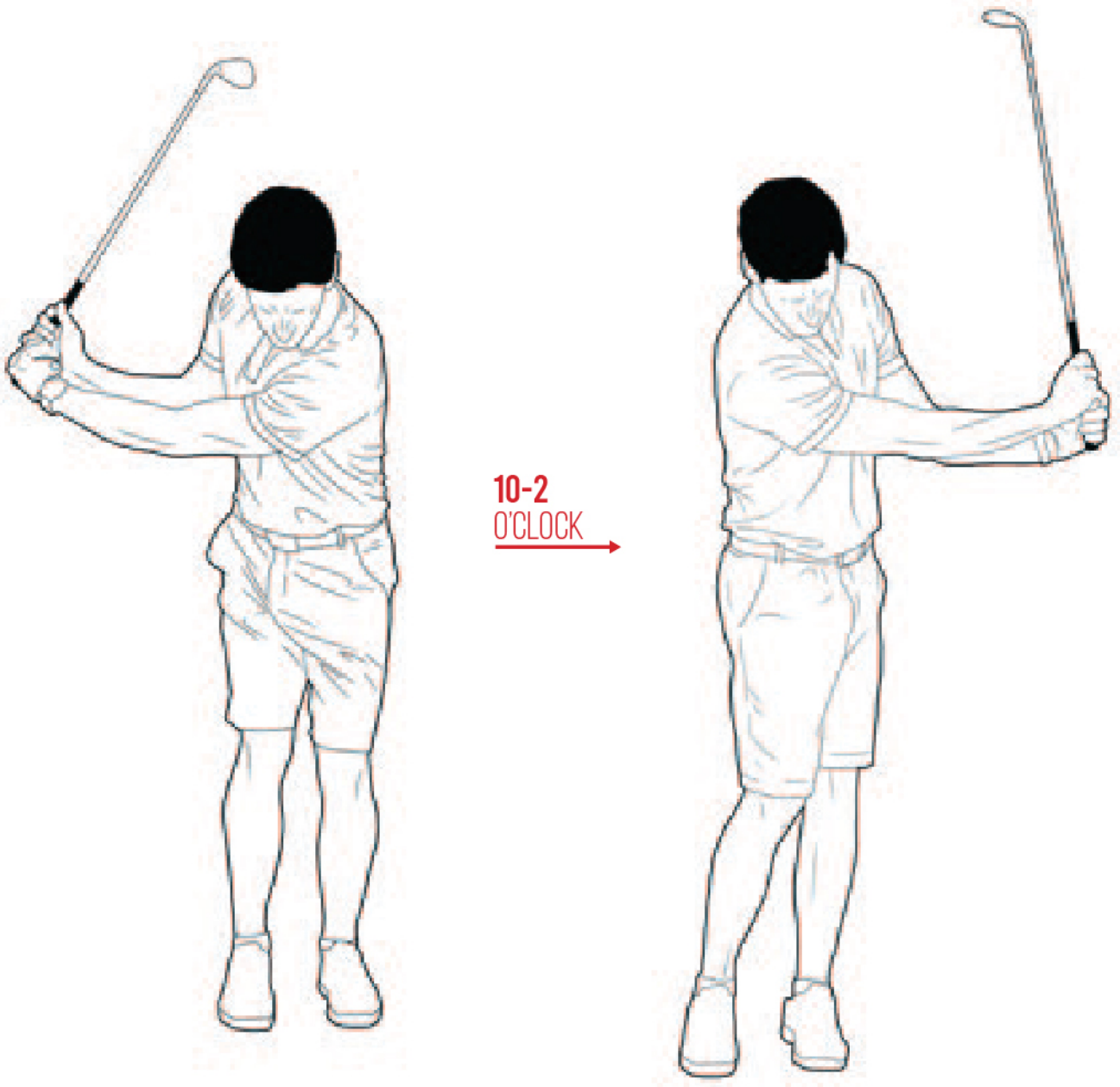
THE CLUB IS POINTING AT 6 O'CLOCK

We have four different swing lengths 8-4 o'clock, 9-3 o'clock, and 10-2 o'clock. I haven't included 7 o'clock because this shot is too short. Beyond 10 o'clock you have a full swing. These four swings will produce four different distances. On average, a golfer carries three wedges: SW, PW, Lob wedge or gap wedge. For a golfer with three wedges, with these four different swings we can now create 12 different distances. The table below shows an example of a tour players' swings based on the clock system:

	8-4	9-3	10-2	Full
Sand Wedge	20m	35m	55m	80m
Gap Wedge	30m	50m	75m	100m
Pitching Wedge	40m	65m	90m	110m


8-4
O'CLOCK


9-3
O'CLOCK



Imagine that the length of your swing is from your left arm on the backswing and your right arm on the follow through. If you need to increase or decrease the distance you can reduce or add length to your left arm swing. This will give you 36 different distances from using this simple system. Practice this at the driving range to work out how far each swing goes before taking it to the course. Good luck!

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