

Hole of the



■ Hole No. 5
Tournament Club of Iowa
Polk City, Iowa

Month

Picture Perfect

The fifth hole at the Tournament Club of Iowa in Polk City is where golfers stop to have their pictures taken on the course. As a result, it's one of the most trafficked areas on the course, leaving the soil underneath the tee surrounds hard and compacted – or at least they would be if special maintenance attention wasn't paid to them.

"That's the most challenging maintenance issue on this hole," says certified superintendent and general manager Pat Franklin. "We have to aerify frequently to keep the turf soft up here."

Franklin gives credit to his assistant superintendent Scott Thayer for keeping this picturesque hole in good shape, adding that the crew has also started topdressing with crumb rubber to help combat the compaction.

As for playing the hole, there's a 70-foot drop between the tee and the 10,000 square-foot green.

Franklin says golfers would be wise to take their time selecting a club.

Especially if you want to hit a picture-perfect shot.

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