

About the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

Commonly referred to as THE OPTIMIST, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is one of the largest and best-known junior golf tournaments in the world. Each year, more than 650 golfers participate in THE OPTIMIST. Former champions and top finishers of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships include Beth Bauer, Jonathan Byrd, Jason Day, Bill Haas, Brittany Lincicome, Jeff Overton, Stacy Prammanasudh and Jennifer Rosales.

2011 Divisions and Age Limits

Boys 10-11 Ages 10 & 11 as of July 25, 2011	Girls 10-12 Ages 10, 11 & 12 as of July 25, 2011
Boys 12-13 Ages 12 & 13 as of July 25, 2011	Girls 13-14 Ages 13 & 14 as of July 25, 2011
Boys 14-15 Ages 14 & 15 as of July 25, 2011	Girls 15-18 Ages 15, 16, 17 & 18 as of July 31, 2011
Boys 16-18 Ages 16, 17 & 18 as of July 31, 2011	

Golfers are permitted to “play up” one division, but must qualify in the higher division. Nine-year olds may “play up” into the Boys 10-11 or Girls 10-12 division. At large and exempt applicants may apply to a higher division and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Player Eligibility and Age Verification

To be eligible, golfers may not have already attended college. Golfers who qualify and register for the championships will be required to submit a copy of their birth certificate, baptismal record or passport.

Tournament Format

Boy 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 and Girls 10-12, 13-14: Competition is a 54-hole stroke play tournament with rounds on July 23, 24 and 25. One practice round on July 22 is included in the registration fee.

Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18: Competition is a 72-hole stroke play tournament. Rounds 1, 2 and 3 are on July 28, 29 and 30. The top 50 boys and top 35 girls advance to the final round on July 31. Golfers who miss the cut may play in the Sunday consolation tournament. One practice round on July 27 is included in the registration fee.

Courses and Yardages

Golfers will play on the courses at PGA National as follows. Yardages are approximate and course assignments are subject to change.

- Boys 10-11.....Haig course (5,645 yards)
- Boys 12-13.....Palmer course (6,000 yards)
- Boys 14-15.....Champion course (6,500 yards)
- Boys 16-18*.....Champion & Palmer courses (6,800 yards)

- Girls 10-12.....Squire course (4,975 yards)
- Girls 13-14.....Haig course (5,500 yards)
- Girls 15-18**.....Haig & Squire courses (6,000 yards)

*Boys 16-18 play 2 rounds on the Champion and 1 round on the Palmer. Final round on the Champion.

**Girls 15-18 play 2 rounds on the Haig and 1 round on the Squire. Final round on the Haig. Girls 15-18 may play only the Haig pending final number of entries.

Rankings

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is included in the *Junior Golf Scoreboard* and *Golfweek* junior rankings (16-18 divisions only for *Golfweek* rankings).

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

For a detailed schedule of events, go to golf.optimist.org

THURSDAY, JULY 21	Arrivals and tournament registration (Boys 10-15; Girls 10-14)
FRIDAY, JULY 22	Official Practice rounds Opening Ceremony & Orientation
SATURDAY, JULY 23	Tournament Play - Round 1
SUNDAY, JULY 24	Tournament Play - Round 2
MONDAY, JULY 25	Tournament Play - Round 3 Awards Ceremony
TUESDAY, JULY 26	Departures (Boys 10-15; Girls 10-14); Arrivals and tournament registration (Boys 16-18; Girls 15-18)
WEDNESDAY, JULY 27	Official practice rounds Opening Ceremony & Orientation
THURSDAY, JULY 28	Tournament Play - Round 1
FRIDAY, JULY 29	Tournament Play - Round 2
SATURDAY, JULY 30	Tournament Play - Round 3
SUNDAY, JULY 31	Final round (top 50 boys & top 35 girls) Sunday consolation tournament Awards Ceremony Departures (Boys 16-18; Girls 15-18)

Exemptions Awarded

Top finishers of the 2011 OPTIMIST will be exempt from having to qualify for the 2012 championships as follows: Boys 16-18 & Girls 15-18 (top 10); Boys 14-15 & Girls 13-14 (top 8); Boys 12-13 & Girls 10-12 (top 6); Boys 10-11 (top 4).

The 2011 OPTIMIST is also included in the AJGA's Performance Based Entry system. Top finishers in certain age divisions are eligible for AJGA exemptions or earn Junior All-Star exempt status. For more information, go to www.ajga.org.

And, the champions of the Boys 16-18 & Girls 15-18 divisions will be considered for the 2011 Jr. Orange Bowl International Championship.

Rules and Regulations

The championships will be played in accordance with all USGA and local course rules. Local rules will be covered at player orientation. All participants are responsible for following the Optimist Golf Code of Conduct, which is available at golf.optimist.org and will be sent to all accepted golfers. A spectator code of conduct will also be in effect for all non-participants.

Carts, Pull Carts and Caddies

Electric carts and caddies are prohibited in all divisions. Pull carts are permitted only in the Boys 10-11, 12-13, Girls 10-12, 13-14 divisions, however golfers in these divisions must use a pull cart provided by Optimist International. A rental fee will apply. Golfers may not use their own pull carts. Spectator carts are not available. No exceptions. District Chairs are empowered to make their own decisions on the usage of pull carts for all levels of qualifying.

Distance Measuring Devices

Distance measuring devices (Skycaddies, Bushnells, etc.) are permitted at the 2011 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Devices allowed may measure distance only. Devices that measure slope, wind, etc. are not allowed even if the other functions are disabled. District Chairs are empowered to make their own decisions on the usage of DMDs for all levels of qualifying.

How to Qualify

In order to play in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, golfers must meet one of the following qualifying methods:

(1) *District Qualifying Tournaments:* Optimist Districts in the US and Canada conduct official qualifying tournaments. These events are organized by Optimist volunteers and Clubs in the District and are overseen by a District Chairperson. A limited number of golfers in each division qualify for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. To view a list of qualifying tournaments and more details, go to golf.optimist.org. Contact the District Chairperson listed for qualifying tournament details, application information and questions.

(2) *Exemptions:* Optimist International offers a limited number of exemptions into the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. For a complete list of exemptions, please visit golf.optimist.org.

(3) *Special Invitees:* Optimist International will accept a very limited number of special invitees into the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Special invitees must meet strict criteria to be considered. For details, please visit golf.optimist.org.

(4) *US/Canada At Large Application:* Golfers in the Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12, 13-14 divisions who live in an Optimist District that does not offer a qualifying tournament or does not offer their division may submit an application directly to Optimist International. All golfers who live in an Optimist District **MUST** play in his/her District's qualifier if his/her age division is offered and will not be permitted to submit an At Large application. This method is **NOT** an option for golfers in the Boys 14-15, 16-18 & Girls 15-18 divisions. For more information and to download an application, go to golf.optimist.org.

(5) *International Golfers:* Optimist International has relationships with several national governing bodies. Golfers who live and attend school in these nations must contact their nation's organization for details. Golfers from other nations may apply directly to Optimist International. For a list of national governing bodies who work with Optimist International and to download an application, go to golf.optimist.org.

Financial Assistance

Each participating District sponsors the first place winner in the Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18 divisions from their own District to the championships. Sponsorship includes the all-inclusive registration fee. If funds allow, Districts may pay for travel, lunches and incidental costs and may sponsor winners of other divisions. If a junior golfer qualifies outside of his/her home District, we cannot guarantee the golfer's registration fees will be paid should they win the event. Restrictions apply. Check with you District Chairperson for details.

Championship Awards

For the international championships, trophies will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in each division. In case of ties, there will be a sudden-death playoff for 1st place only. 2nd and 3rd place ties will be determined by a scorecard playoff. Trophies will also be awarded for the lowest score on the last day of play. Special prizes will also be awarded for the Sunday tournament for ages 16-18.

Accommodations and Registration

PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, FL, USA is the host golf and hotel facility of the championships. All tournament and hotel registrations are handled by Optimist International. Please **DO NOT** call PGA National directly to book reservations.

Registration fees are all-inclusive. All fees include the tournament entry fee for the golfer, 5 nights lodging for the golfer and all guests, 5 breakfasts and 4 dinners for the golfer and guests, and access to all Optimist functions and special events for the golfer and all guests. Due to the exclusive nature of the event, golfers are required to stay at PGA National and pay the inclusive registration fee. Guests are not required to stay at PGA National, but are encouraged to do so. Optimist staff & volunteers and paid security will be on site for the duration of the event to serve as chaperones. A parent or guardian must accompany golfers in the Boys 10-11 and Girls 10-12 divisions.

Golfer Only - \$695 US (housed with roommate(s) at PGA National)

Family One-Room Options

*Housed in appropriately sized room in main resort**

Golfer & 1 Guest - \$1,175 US

Golfer & 2 Guests - \$1,415 US

Golfer & 3 Guests - \$1,655 US

Family Two-Room Options

*Housed in 2 appropriately sized rooms in main resort or one club-cottage**

Golfer & 3 Guests - \$2,135 US

Golfer & 4 Guests - \$2,375 US

Golfer & 5 Guests - \$2,615 US

Golfer & 6 Guests - \$2,855 US

Golfer & 7 Guests - \$3,095 US

**Each family is limited to a maximum of two hotel rooms or one club cottage. Optimist Junior Golf reserves the right to house players and their guests at an offsite property should a need arise. Rollaway beds are utilized as necessary. All District winners receive a \$70 discount from the listed prices. All golfers who register for the championships via an exemption, international application or at large application must pay an additional \$35 non-qualifier surcharge.*

Early Arrival and Late Departure

Rooms may be available for early arrival and late departure. Cost is \$114 (standard room) or \$228 (club cottage) per night. Contact Optimist International for details and reservations. Availability is limited.

Meals

All registered golfers and guests will receive a meal badge valid for 5 breakfasts and 4 dinners. These meals will be served daily, buffet-style, at PGA National. Lunch is **NOT** included in the registration fee. Participants and guests may purchase lunch vouchers during the registration process or may pay cash for lunch. There are also several restaurants located on site at PGA National.

Commuters

Optimist Junior Golf offers commuter status only to players who reside and attend school in the Florida counties of Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin and Broward. The registration fee is \$335 (Boys 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 & Girls 10-12, 13-14) and \$360 (Boys 16-18 & Girls 15-18). The commuter fee includes practice round, tournament rounds and access to all Optimist functions and special events.

Questions or Inquiries

All questions should be directed to the Optimist Junior Golf office. Please e-mail golf@optimist.org or call (314) 881-1309 or toll free (800) 500-8130, ext. 209. Or, visit golf.optimist.org for details.