

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.

Divisions and Age Limits

- Boys & Girls 10-11: ages 10 & 11 as of July 26, 2010
- Boys & Girls 12-13: ages 12 & 13 as of July 26, 2010
- Boys & Girls 14-15: ages 14 & 15 as of July 26, 2010
- Boys & Girls 16-18: ages 16, 17 & 18 as of August 1, 2010

Golfers are permitted to “play up” one age division, but must qualify in the higher division. Golfers who are nine years old may “play up” into the 10-11 division. At large applicants and exempt golfers are permitted to 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 be enrolled in 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

*Ages 10-11, 12-13 & 14-15:* Competition is a 54-hole stroke play tournament with rounds on July 24, 25 and 26. One official practice round on July 23 is included in the registration fee.

*Ages 16-18:* Competition is a 72-hole stroke play tournament. Preliminary rounds are on July 29, 30 and 31. The top 50 boys and top 35 girls advance to the final round on August 1. Golfers who miss the cut may play in the Sunday consolation tournament. One official practice round on July 28 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 10-11.....Squire course (4,795 yards)
- Girls 12-13.....Squire course (5,100 yards)
- Girls 14-15.....Haig course (5,500 yards)
- Girls 16-18.....Haig course (6,000 yards)

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

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 [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf)*

- THURSDAY, JULY 22**.....Arrivals, hotel check-in and tournament registration for ages 10-11, 12-13,14-15
- FRIDAY, JULY 23**.....Official practice rounds  
Opening Ceremony & Orientation
- SATURDAY, JULY 24**.....Tournament Play - Round 1
- SUNDAY, JULY 25**.....Tournament Play - Round 2
- MONDAY, JULY 26**.....Tournament Play - Round 3  
Awards Ceremony
- TUESDAY, JULY 27**.....Departures for 10-11, 12-13, 14-15  
Arrivals, hotel check-in and tournament registration for 16-18
- WEDNESDAY, JULY 28**....Official practice rounds  
Opening Ceremony & Orientation
- THURSDAY, JULY 29**.....Tournament Play - Round 1
- FRIDAY, JULY 30**.....Tournament Play - Round 2
- SATURDAY, JULY 31**.....Tournament Play - Round 3
- SUNDAY, AUGUST 1**.....Final round (top 50 boys & top 35 girls)  
Sunday consolation tournament  
Awards Ceremony  
Departures for 16-18 divisions

Exemptions Awarded

Top finishers of the 2010 OPTIMIST will be exempt from having to qualify for the 2011 championships as follows: Boys & Girls 16-18 (top 10); Boys & Girls 14-15 (top 8); Boys & Girls 12-13 (top 6); Boys & Girls 10-11 (top 4).

The 2010 OPTIMIST is also included in the AJGA's Performance Based Entry system. For 2010, the following AJGA exemptions will be awarded: Boys 16-18 - Champion (fully exempt), Top 5 (3 exemptions), Top 10 (2 exemption), Top 15 (1 exemption); Girls 16-18 - Champion (fully exempt), Top 3 (3 exemptions), Top 5 (2 exemptions), Top 10 (1 exemption); Boys & Girls 14-15 - Top 10 (AJGA Junior All-Star exempt); Boys & Girls 12-13 - Top 5 (AJGA Junior All-Star exempt). For more information, go to [www.ajga.org](http://www.ajga.org).

And, the champions of the Boys & Girls 16-18 divisions will be considered for the 2010 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 [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf) and will be sent to all accepted golfers. A spectator code of conduct will also be in effect for all non-participants.

# Optimist International Junior Golf Championships - 2010 Fact Sheet

## Carts, Pull Carts, Caddies and Distance Measuring Devices

Electric carts, caddies and distance measuring devices are prohibited in all divisions. Pull carts are permitted only in the 10-11 divisions, however golfers in this division who choose to use a pull cart 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 carts, caddies and 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 qualifying tournaments 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 offered qualify for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. To view a list of qualifying tournaments and more details, go to [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf). Contact the District Chairperson listed for qualifying tournament details, application information and questions.

(2) *Exemptions:* Optimist International offers several exemptions into the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. For a complete list of exemptions, please visit [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf).

(3) *US/Canada At Large Application:* Golfers in the boys & girls 10-11 and 12-13 division only 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 & girls 14-15 and 16-18 divisions. For more information and to download an application, go to [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf).

(4) *International Golfers:* Optimist International has relationships with several different 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 [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf).

## Financial Assistance

Each participating District will sponsor the first place boy and girl winner in the 16-18 age division from their own District to the championships. Sponsorship includes payment of 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 players in the 10-11 division.

**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 \$109 (standard room) or \$218 (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

Due to the inclusive nature of the event, 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 (ages 10-15) and \$360 (ages 16-18). The commuter fee includes practice round, tournament rounds and access to all Optimist functions and special events.

## Optimist International Tournament of Champions

All Optimist International Junior Golf Championships participants will be invited to apply for the annual Optimist International Tournament of Champions (November 2010 at location that is to be determined).

## Questions or Inquiries

All questions should be directed to the Optimist Junior Golf office. Please e-mail [golf@optimist.org](mailto:golf@optimist.org) or call (314) 371-6000 or toll free (800) 500-8130. Or, visit [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf) for details.