

2012 District Manual



Optimist Junior Golf Program

**International Championships at PGA National Resort & Spa
Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, USA
July 19-29, 2012**

Revised November 2011

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SUMMARY OF 2011-12 CHANGES

The following is a summary of the changes to the Optimist Junior Golf Program effective November 2011. Please make note of these important changes. The changes are also included in the contents of this manual.

District Chaperone Fees (page 21)

Changed the fee for District chaperones and volunteers to: \$88 US per night (hotel room); \$195 US per night (cottage); \$17 US per breakfast ticket; \$33 per dinner ticket.



**THE OPTIMIST
JUNIOR GOLF
PROGRAM**





PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Optimist Junior Golf Program is an exciting way for volunteers to promote the sport of golf to the young people of their communities. Each year, more than 4,000 boys and girls compete in Optimist qualifying tournaments. The best of these golfers advance to the annual Optimist International Junior Golf Championships which offers a week of golf, the opportunity to meet new friends, top competition and a great deal of fun.

PGA National Resort & Spa, located in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, is the home of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Combined with a dedication to junior golf that few golf destinations can match, PGA National is the perfect location for the event. Besides being the International headquarters of the PGA of America, the resort's championship golf courses have hosted the PGA Championships, the PGA Seniors' Championships, the Ryder Cup, the Grand Slam of Golf, the World Big Tour Match, the PGA Club Professional Championship and the PGA Jr. Championship. And, PGA National is the current host of the PGA TOUR's Honda Classic. In addition, Palm Beach County is rated as having more golf courses than any county in the United States.

Mission Statement

The Optimist Junior Golf Program's mission is to build positive values in young people through participation in Optimist District and international junior golf events.

Vision Statement

Optimist Junior Golf will be recognized as one of the largest and most prestigious junior golf programs in the world.

Objectives

- To promote the sport of golf among young people.
- To provide an opportunity for junior golfers to participate in Optimist Club, District and International Tournaments.
- To share the philosophies of Optimism with the junior golf community.

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

District Qualifying Tournament

Tournament from which junior golfers advance to Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

Pre-Qualifying Tournament

Any club, zone or regional tournament below the District level.

District Winners

First place boy and girl in each age category in a District qualifying tournament.

District Qualifiers

Participants in a District qualifying tournament who have met the established scoring criteria and are eligible to advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.



2011-12 OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF COMMITTEE

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OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF DEPARTMENT

The Junior Golf Department at Optimist International provides promotional materials such as logo sheets, press releases, fact sheets, and qualifying tournament posters. We also maintain direct contact with all Districts and are responsible for the general promotion of the Optimist Junior Golf Program. The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is publicized in many junior golf newsletters and national publications. Since golfers often call the International office in search of qualifying tournament information, it is imperative that we have up-to-date information about your District's upcoming tournament.

The Junior Golf Department is also responsible for coordination of the at-large field, made up of golfers in any District who do not have a qualifying tournament in which to play as well as international participants. These at-large golfers must go through an official application process, and should be directed to contact the Junior Golf Department for more information.

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THE OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF DISTRICT CHAIR

Optimist Junior Golf District Chairpersons are the central points of contact, information, and coordination for all of the Optimist-sponsored junior golf events that take place in their District. District Chairs coordinate the promotion of Club, Zone, and District events and generate interest in the Optimist Junior Golf Program. They should attend quarterly District board meetings to report and solicit support for upcoming events.

It is essential that Optimist Junior Golf District Chairs keep in close contact with the Optimist Junior Golf Department. Junior golfers frequently contact the International office seeking information on how to qualify for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort & Spa. It is critical that Districts supply the Junior Golf Department with the most current information about their qualifying tournaments. Please return all forms by stated deadlines and notify the office of any changes in your tournament structure or location as soon as possible.

Districts should tailor their golf program to suit the specific needs of their localities. Some Districts hold a series of Club or Pre-Qualifying (Zone or regional) tournaments as “feeders” for the District tournament when there is an expansive geographical area or a large number of participants. Other Districts hold one qualifying tournament by accepting direct applications from players. Districts may also combine efforts with other junior tournaments instead of organizing their own events.

Optimist Junior Golf District Chairpersons should encourage all Clubs in their District to participate in the program by either conducting pre-qualifying tournaments or by sponsoring local golfers in District tournaments. Clubs should also be encouraged to conduct junior golf fundraisers and provide volunteers on the days of District tournaments.



IMPORTANT 2012 DATES

- January 31** Deadline for District Chairs to submit qualifying tournament logistics to Optimist International.
- February 10** Optimist International begins to accept at-large and international at-large applications
- April 20** At large and international at large application deadline
- May 4** Registration opens for 2012 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships
- June 30** Deadline for submission of all District report forms; player and volunteer registration deadline for Optimist International Junior Golf Championships
- July 5** Extended registration deadline for alternates only

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS 2012 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- July 19** Arrivals and check-in for Boys 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 and Girls 10-12, 13-14 age divisions
- July 20** Practice Rounds; Volunteer Orientation; District Chair Meeting; Opening Ceremony & Player Orientation
- July 21** Tournament Round 1
- July 22** Tournament Round 2
- July 23** Tournament Round 3
- July 24** Departure for Boys 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 and Girls 10-12, 13-14 age divisions; Arrivals and check-in for Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18 divisions
- July 25** Practice Rounds; Volunteer Orientation; District Chair Meeting; Opening Ceremony & Player Orientation
- July 26** Tournament Round 1
- July 27** Tournament Round 2
- July 28** Tournament Round 3
- July 29** Final Tournament Round (top 50 boys and top 35 girls advance); Consolation Tournament; Departure for Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18 divisions

OFFICIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES



OFFICIAL POLICIES & PROCEDURES

District Qualifying Tournaments

Participants in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships are determined through Optimist District qualifying tournaments. When eligible junior golfers contact Optimist International, they are referred directly to the Optimist Junior Golf District Chairperson in their area.

It is the official policy of Optimist Junior Golf that players are allowed to qualify for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships only through Optimist District qualifying tournaments unless they are eligible for an exemption or live in a District that does not offer their age division or does not offer a qualifier. If a junior golfer is unable to play in his/her District qualifying tournament due to a conflict of schedule, that golfer may play in any other District qualifying tournament. Districts may hold up to two District qualifying tournaments.

Only when Districts do not sponsor qualifying tournaments are participants allowed to submit at-large applications. See also page 18.

Age Divisions

The age divisions for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships age are as follows:

Boys 10-11 Age Division*

Ages 10 and 11 and does not celebrate his 12th birthday on or before July 23, 2012.

Boys 12-13 Age Division

Ages 12 and 13 and does not celebrate his 14th birthday on or before July 23, 2012.

Boys 14-15 Age Division

Ages 14 and 15 and does not celebrate his 16th birthday on or before July 23, 2012.

Boys 16-18 Age Division**

Ages 16 and 18 and does not celebrate his 19th birthday on or before July 29, 2012.

Girls 10-12 Age Division*

Ages 10, 11 and 12 and does not celebrate her 13th birthday on or before July 23, 2012.

Girls 13-14 Age Division

Ages 13 and 14 and does not celebrate her 15th birthday on or before July 23, 2012.

Girls 15-18 Age Division**

Ages 15, 16 and 18 and does not celebrate her 19th birthday on or before July 29, 2012.

*Golfers who are 9 years old as of July 23, 2012, may “play up” into the Boys 10-11 or Girls 10-12 division.

**18-year-old golfers may only participate in both a District qualifier and the International Championships if they are currently in high school or are a 2012 high school graduate.

Playing Up

Golfers may “play up” one division, but they must qualify in the higher division. Requests to play up two or three divisions will require a special request to Optimist International. A golfer who intends to “play up” at the championships must “play up” at all levels of qualifying.

Caddies, Carts and Push/Pull Carts

Caddies and electric carts are not allowed in the international championships. Push/pull carts are permissible for golfers in the Boys 10-11, Boys 12-13, Girls 10-12 and Girls 13-14 divisions only.

Distance Measuring Devices

Distance measuring devices (Skycaddies, Bushnells, etc.) are permitted at the international championships. Devices may measure distance only. Devices that measure slope, wind, etc. are not allowed even if other functions are disabled.

District Chairs are empowered to make a decision on pull cart and DMD usage at their qualifiers. The use of pull carts and DMDs is left to the discretion of the Chair based on host site restrictions, course layout, weather conditions, etc.

Age Verification/Birth Certificates

District Chairs are responsible for verifying the ages of players participating in Club, Zone and District events. Participants should be required to provide their birth certificate as proof of age.

All international championships participants will be required to submit a copy of a birth certificate, baptismal record or passport to Optimist International prior to the international championships.



QUALIFYING CRITERIA

Scoring Requirement

In order to qualify for the international championships, all golfers must shoot at or below an established target score in the District qualifier. The target scores by age division are listed below. All scores are in relation to par and are for 18-hole tournaments. For multiple-round tournaments, increase the amount over par accordingly. Refer to the table below to determine the exact scoring criteria based on the golf course's established par.

	Boys 10-11	Boys 12-13	Boys 14-15	Boys 16-18
	24-over-par	18-over-par	11-over-par	6-over-par
Par 68	92	86	79	74
Par 69	93	87	80	75
Par 70	94	88	81	76
Par 71	95	89	82	77
Par 72	96	90	83	78
Par 73	97	91	84	79
Par 74	98	92	85	80

	Girls 10-12	Girls 13-14	Girls 15-18
	24-over-par	20-over-par	13-over-par
Par 68	92	88	81
Par 69	93	89	82
Par 70	94	90	83
Par 71	95	91	84
Par 72	96	92	85
Par 73	97	93	86
Par 74	98	94	87

District Qualifying Spots

Each District will be granted a set number of qualifying spots in each age division. The number of qualifying spots granted to a District are based on the number of junior golfers who participated in that District's qualifier during the year prior. The outline below explains how the qualifying method works:

(1) "Target numbers" for each division were es-

tablished that will maximize participation levels at the international championships but allow the championships to be completed using only a morning wave of tee times.

- (2) The total number of golfers participating in 2011 qualifiers throughout all Optimist Districts was logged. This exercise was completed in all age divisions.
- (3) A District's percentage of overall 2011 participation was calculated. Again, this was completed in all age divisions.
- (4) The number of spots granted in 2012 (in each division) will be calculated using the percent participation figure in Step 3 above.

Please refer to the **2012 DISTRICT QUALIFYING COVER SHEET** that accompanies this booklet for details on the exact number of qualifying spots (by age division) for your District.

Age Division Winners

All age division winners are required to shoot at or below the established target score (see information to left) in order to attend the international championships.

Ties

A tiebreaker should be used to determine the District winners, ties for the last qualifying spot, and ties for alternate spots. District Chairs are encouraged to use the USGA-recommended procedure for breaking ties. A hole-by-hole playoff is the preferred method, but District Chairs may also implement the method of matching scores over the last nine, last six, last three or last hole. The District Chair should announce the tiebreaking method to be used before the competition starts. Please consult the pro at your host course for assistance.

Out-of-District Golfers

If golfers from other Districts participate in your qualifying tournament, their participation will not eliminate any District residents from qualifying.

For all District qualifiers, a maximum of one (1) out-of-District golfer will be permitted to qualify in any one division. If an out-of-District golfer qualifies for one of your spots, he/she is eligible



to attend the international championships in addition to the next-highest golfer who lives within the District boundaries.

Alternates

Alternates will be admitted to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships if a golfer who qualifies for one of a District's designated spots decides not to attend. District Chairs should determine alternates based on the tournament results and by using a tiebreaker if necessary (see information on breaking ties above). District Chairs should keep in close contact with their qualified players in order to offer alternates a spot if necessary. Alternates must register for the international championships by the extended registration deadline of July 5, 2012.

Official District Tournament

A District qualifier will not be considered official unless all golfers in an age division complete a minimum of nine holes, in which case the tournament would revert back to the last hole completed by the entire age division. In the case of a District qualifier that is cancelled with no make-up date, golfers in said District will be eligible to submit an "at large" application directly to Optimist International. In this situation, the number of accepted "at large" applicants in each division will be equal to the number of qualifying spots granted for the District.

Districts with Multiple Qualifiers

Optimist Districts may hold a maximum of two qualifying tournaments per age division to determine the golfers who will advance to the international championships. If a District decides to offer two qualifiers, it is the District Chair's responsibility to allocate the designated number of qualifying spots to each of the qualifiers.

Districts with No History of Holding a Qualifier or Age Division(s)

Optimist Districts that have never held a qualifying tournament or have not offered certain age divisions in years past will be permitted to hold a qualifier. Districts in this situation will be limited to one qualifying spot per age division offered during their first year and will be included in the percentage allocation in future years.

Qualifying Spots for Future Years

The Junior Golf Committee will review the number of qualifying spots granted to Districts annually. The number of spots designated for future years will be directly tied to a District's participation percentage in relation to the overall number of golfers from the year prior.

Course Yardages

The following are the approximate course yardages that will be used at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. It is recommended that similar yardages be used for your qualifying tournaments. Please consult the pro at the course you are using for further recommendation.

Boys Age Divisions

10-11 5,500 yards
12-13 6,000 yards
14-15 6,500 yards
16-18 6,800 yards

Girls Age Divisions

10-12 5,000 yards
13-14 5,500 yards
15-18 6,000 yards

THE AT-LARGE FIELD

Optimist Junior Golf accepts direct applications from junior golfers from the US and Canada who live in a District that does not sponsor a qualifier or that does not offer the appropriate age division. This method of application is only available for golfers in the Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12, 13-14 divisions.

Optimist Junior Golf also accepts direct applications from international golfers who reside and attend school in a country other than the United States or Canada and who do not live a country that sends official international designees. Golfers in this at-large field must undergo an official application process and should be instructed to visit golf.optimist.org.

If a player has a conflict with his/her own District qualifier, he/she must choose another District qualifier in which to participate and will not be permitted to apply as an at-large participant.

The at large application deadline is April 20, 2012. A limited number of golfers in each age division will be accepted through the at large method. Accepted at large applicants will be notified in early May and will be required to register for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships by May 31, 2012.

EXEMPTIONS

Optimist Junior Golf strictly limits the number of golfers who register for the international championships through an exemption. Exemptions will be broken down into separate categories, namely "Optimist Exemptions" and "Special Exemptions."

Category #1 (Optimist Exemptions)

Golfers who meet the following criteria will be "exempt" into the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Players in these categories will be guaranteed a spot in the international championships provided they register no later than May 31, 2012.

- (1) The top finishers in each age division from the 2011 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships as follows: Boys & Girls 10-11 (top 4); Boys & Girls 12-13 (top 6); Boys & Girls 14-15 (top 8); Boys & Girls 16-18 (top 10).
- (2) The top finishers from the 2011 Optimist International Tournament of Champions, specifically: top 10 (Boys 16-18) and top 5 (Boys 14-15 & Girls 14-18).
- (3) Any previous age division champion of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.
- (4) Golfers selected to the 2012 Hugh Cranford All-Scholastic team.

Category #2 (Special Exemptions)

Golfers who meet the following criteria must submit an application to Optimist International no later than June 1, 2012. Golfers in this category are NOT guaranteed a spot into the international championships; rather, a limited number of golfers in each division will be offered a spot in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships through this application method.

- (1) Any junior golfer who is ranked in the top 100 overall rankings of the *Golfweek* Performance Index rankings as of May 31, 2012.
- (2) Any junior golfer who is ranked in the top 100 overall rankings of the *Junior Golf Scoreboard* rankings as of May 31, 2012.
- (3) Any age division winners of the following junior golf events (most recent tournament happening prior to May 31, 2012).
 - AJGA Junior All-Star Invitational
 - AJGA Rolex Tournament of Champions

Ballantyne Junior Open
 Bobby Chapman Junior Invitational
 Bubba Conlee National Junior
 Callaway Junior World Golf Championships
 Canadian Optimist Jr Golf National Championships
 Carolina/Georgia Junior Championship
 Donald Ross Junior Championship
 Doral Publix Junior Classic
 FCWT National Championship
 Golfweek Junior Invitational
 Hudson Junior Invitational
 IJGT Tour Championship
 Innisbrook Christmas Classic
 Innisbrook Easter Classic
 International Junior Masters
 Joe Cheves Junior Invitational
 Jones Cup Junior Invitational
 Junior America's Cup
 Junior Orange Bowl International
 Junior PGA Championship
 Mizuno CJGA National Championship
 North and South Junior Championship
 Pepsi Little People's Championship
 Press Thornton Future Masters
 San Diego Junior Masters
 Scott Robertson Memorial
 Texas-Oklahoma Junior
 Trusted Choice Big "I" Junior Classic
 US Girls' Junior
 US Junior Amateur
 US Kids Golf World Championship
 Verizon Junior Heritage
 Western Junior Championship
 Women's Western Junior Championship

- (4) GIRLS ONLY—the overall winners (oldest age division only) of all *Golfweek* ranked tournaments taking place between June 1, 2011 and May 31, 2012.
- (5) GIRLS ONLY—winners of any 2011 or 2012 AJGA Junior All-Star Series event prior to May 31, 2012.

FINANCES



FINANCING YOUR DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

(See also the Sample Budget on the next page)

Pre-Qualifier / Qualifier Fees

Districts are responsible for paying \$7.50 per participant for all golfers in a District's junior golf program. The number of qualifying spots granted for future Optimist International Junior Golf Championships will be determined by the number of participants that are indicated on the District Qualifying Report Form and for whom the qualifier fee is paid. This fee helps defray some of the costs that Optimist International incurs in running such a prestigious championships. District Chairs should submit the District Fee Report Form along with the \$7.50 per participant fee. District support is essential for the success of the Optimist Junior Golf Program.

District Winner Costs

While the Optimist Junior Golf Program will bring excitement to your District, it also brings expense. When planning your tournament, prepare to generate revenue to meet your expenses. Districts are responsible for the following concerning the first place boy and girl winners in 16-18 age category and other divisions, if funds allow:

- Payment of registration fees.
- Payment of transportation to and from Palm Beach Gardens, Florida (including ground transportation from Palm Beach International airport).

If a junior golfer from outside your District plays in your tournament and happens to win the event, your District is not responsible for paying the registration costs of this golfer. You may choose to do so, but if your District feels strongly about only supporting junior golfers from within your own District, you should pay the registration costs for the highest finisher that resides within your District.

(The qualifying procedures publicized for players will read as follows: "If a junior golfer chooses to qualify outside of their District, Optimist International cannot guarantee that their registration fees will be paid should they win that event.")

The registration fee is **\$720 US** per golfer. This fee includes five nights lodging (minimum double-occupancy), one practice round and all tournament rounds, recreational activities and a meal badge (valid for five breakfasts and four dinners). Special packages are available for players who wish to stay at the resort with their families.

A discount of **\$70** will apply only to the first-place winner in each District-sponsored age division. The registration fees for District winners will then total **\$650 US**. *Any registration payments that are being paid for by the District MUST accompany each player's registration form.* This applies to full sponsorships and any partial sponsorship from the District. You should have checks or money orders from your District funds prepared and on hand at your District qualifying tournament. This way the participant will be able to send the registration form and payment together.

If you are holding a District qualifying tournament for more than one age division, the Optimist Junior Golf policy requires that you pay for the first place boy and girl winners' fees in the 16-18 age group and additional monies can pay for other divisions, if funds are available.

All golfers who register for the international championships through a method other than an official District qualifier (exemption, at large, international) will be charged a \$40 US non-qualifier surcharge.

District Chaperones

Districts should attempt to send a chaperone to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships—this individual may be the District Chair, another District representative or a parent who is willing to assume chaperone duties. The discounted costs for District chaperones are:

- Hotel Room (one king or two double beds) at PGA National: **\$88 US** per night.
- Cottage (2 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, living room, dining room, kitchen and laundry facilities): **\$195 US** per night.
- Individual Meal Tickets: **\$17 US** breakfast buffet; **\$33 US** buffet dinner.
- Meal Package (includes 5 breakfast and 4 dinner tickets): **\$210 US**.



FINANCING YOUR DISTRICT TOURNAMENT (cont'd)

District Tournament Registration Fees

Your tournament registration fees greatly affect the success of your District qualifying tournament. It is recommended that your calculations be based on the turnout of the previous year's event. Communication within your District should start as early as possible with details of your tournament plans, financial requirements, and volunteer needs.

Your tournament registration fees must cover greens fees and should also offset the District's costs in sending the first place winners of each age group to PGA National Resort & Spa and paying the \$7.50 pre-qualifier and qualifier fees. Your entry fee should be comparable to similar junior tournaments in your area.

Do not be apprehensive about charging the appropriate registration fees to cover your costs. Please contact the Junior Golf Department for consultation.

SAMPLE BUDGET

INCOME

Entries	_____ x \$_____ =	\$ _____
Corporate/Club Sponsorships		\$ _____
Donations		\$ _____
Miscellaneous Income		\$ _____
TOTAL INCOME.....		\$ _____

EXPENSES

District Qualifying Tournament

Advertising/Promotion		\$ _____
Beverages		\$ _____
Food		\$ _____
Greens Fees		\$ _____
Printing		\$ _____
Postage		\$ _____
Telephone		\$ _____
Trophies/Awards		\$ _____
Prizes (Bag tags, caps, etc.)		\$ _____

District Qualifier Fees, Payable to O.I.

# of pre-qualifying participants x \$7.50 US		\$ _____
# of District participants x \$7.50 US		\$ _____

Air Travel

District Winners		\$ _____
Sponsored qualifiers (optional)		\$ _____
District chaperone		\$ _____

Participant Registration

District Winners	_____ x \$650US =	\$ _____
Sponsored qualifiers	_____ x \$720 US =	\$ _____

District Chaperone Fees

Hotel Room	\$88 US x _____ days =	\$ _____
Cottage	\$195 US x _____ days =	\$ _____
Meals	\$50 US per day x _____ days =	\$ _____

Optional Incidentals

Participant lunch/additional meal money		\$ _____
Spending money		\$ _____
Miscellaneous		\$ _____

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ _____

INCOME LESS EXPENSES

(should not be less than zero).....\$ _____

RUNNING YOUR DISTRICT TOURNAMENT





RUNNING YOUR DISTRICT TOURNAMENT

The following information is intended to assist Optimist Junior Golf District Chairs in running qualifying events. Please contact the Junior Golf Department or one of the members of the Optimist Junior Golf Committee if you have any questions about this information.

Mark a Tournament Date

Your tournament date and location should be set by the end of January at the latest. As soon as your location and date have been established, please use the District Tournament Logistics form in the appendix to report this information to the Junior Golf Department. ***If your information is not reported by January 31, 2012, the District will have an at-large status.*** This means that any tournament established or reported after January 31, 2012, will NOT be a valid qualifying tournament; instead all interested junior golfers in the District must go through the at-large application process or travel to another District to advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

If your District sponsors pre-qualifying tournaments, careful coordination and planning of these tournament dates is a must. It is also advisable to arrange an alternate date in case of postponement due to weather or unforeseeable conditions. The following factors should also be considered:

- Competing junior golf events.
- Religious or national holidays.
- School events, such as prom or graduation.
- High school golf schedules.

Choosing a Tournament Site

Since most junior tournaments schedule their course arrangements many months in advance, the question of where to hold your tournament must be answered as early as possible. Most participants will be serious in their desire to perform well and they should be provided the best course available. As a rule, the more prestigious

the golf course that is secured for the District tournament, the more golfers the event will attract. Holding the District qualifying tournament in the middle of your area's heaviest populated areas is also very important.

The Registration Process

One of the most time-consuming parts of running any golf tournament is the collection of registrations. When designing your entry form, make sure to include a place for all the information that you will need to run your event. Refer to the appendix for a sample entry form.

Same as 2011, online registration will be established and offered for all Districts. Please stay tuned for more information on the new online registration process.

Promoting Your Event

Optimist Junior Golf Videos

A new promotional video is available to help promote the Optimist Junior Golf program. All District Chairs will receive a DVD copy of the video. The video is also available via YouTube on the Optimist Junior Golf website, golf.optimist.org.

Qualifying Tournament Handouts

The first places to start publicizing your tournaments are high schools, country clubs, pro shops, public courses and golf shops. Place District qualifying tournament posters at these locations early in the year to get the word out about Optimist involvement in the local junior golf scene. Districts will be sent 100 copies of an Optimist Junior Golf promotional handout from at no charge. They are conveniently designed to be fed into a copy machine or laser computer printer.

Local Golf Publications

It is strongly recommended that you include information on the Optimist Junior Golf Program in publications prior to your district event. You should advertise how many junior golfers your District will sponsor to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National, registration costs (and what is included with the registration package) and the benefits of being a par-



ticipant. If players have access to this information early, they will be able to plan and budget accordingly for the event.

Websites

Each District will have a “micro site” page on the Optimist International website to use in promoting your event. These pages are set up by Optimist International but will be maintained by the District Chair. Each page will contain tournament details (age divisions, date, golf course, location, etc.) and contact information for the District Chair. Each page will also have a link to a customizable District tournament entry form. This will allow participants and parents to download a tournament entry form for all District events. And, online registration will be available for all Districts.

Golfer Inquiries

Once they see an Optimist Junior Golf listing in a newsletter, magazine, or on the Internet, interested golfers contact the Junior Golf Department at the International office for qualifying tournament information. It is essential that the Junior Golf Department receive timely and accurate information about your event, including the date, location and age divisions offered. Golfers are then given the name and contact information of the District Chairperson in their immediate area.

Remember that for many golfers and parents, their experience with Optimism starts with you! It is very important that these phone calls and emails are received and returned in a prompt, courteous manner. Voice mail is necessary for the tournament organizer. Simple, professional answering machine messages are preferred.

Direct Mail Campaign

District Chairs are encouraged to make use of the Optimist Junior Golf and Optimist International Junior Golf Championships logos in general tournament advertising and related materials. When putting together a direct mail campaign, include your tournament application. Also, write a personal letter of invitation to play-

ers that provides a description of the event and Optimist Junior Golf qualifying process.

Press Releases

To be successful, the public must know about your event. At least two weeks prior to your entry deadline, send a pre-event news release to the media announcing your tournament. Include the following information: location, date, contact person, entry fee and deadline for entry. Upon completion of your tournament, send a news release to include complete results and photographs. Submit news releases to local newspapers, high schools, church bulletins and other publications. Be sure to always follow up with a phone call. Refer to the sample press releases in the appendix.

TV/Radio

From your local TV and radio stations, request information on community awareness programs in which you can promote both Optimist International and your tournament. Also, most local and cable TV stations have a community bulletin on which you can advertise your event. For more information on publicity, download the Public Relations Training guide from the marketing section of the Optimist International Website at www.optimist.org. In addition, you can download an Optimist Junior Golf Public Service Announcement from the Optimist International Web site, www.optimist.org.

Suggestions for Your Tournament Format

(These guidelines are subject to modification depending on your course, age divisions or other circumstances. Please consult with your golf club's professional before beginning).

Volunteers

Running your own junior golf tournament requires a great deal of planning and preparation, as well as volunteer help. As the Tournament Director, you must secure a commitment of assistance from a number of dedicated individuals and golf-enthusiasts. In most cases, your volunteer base will come from golfers, although non-golfing Optimist members can also be of a great service to your tournament. At the very minimum, your Dis-

District Qualifying Tournament will require volunteers in the following roles:

1. Tournament Director
2. Starter and Rules Official*
3. Marshals
4. Score Board Coordinator

**If you do not have a person to act as a rules official, ask an assistant pro at the golf course to help out in this capacity.*

Volunteers can be recruited at Optimist meetings or by phoning potential helpers. The golf staff at your chosen tournament site may also be able to provide you with the names of possible volunteers. It is important to remember that as a tournament organizer, you cannot do all of the work yourself. However, it is suggested that only one person handle all of the paperwork, including letter writing, entrant inquiries, receipt of entry fees, etc.

Stroke Play

District qualifying tournaments must be conducted using stroke play. "Stroke" play simply means negotiating the entire course using the fewest strokes.

Tournaments can consist of 18, 36, or 54 holes depending on the amount of course time you secure. In most cases, 18 holes will suffice. Golfers in the Boys 10-11 and Girls 10-12 divisions will play 18 holes per day at the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships and should therefore have the same golfing experience at your District qualifying tournament.

Scoring

Each participant should keep score for another player in the group. After each hole, golfers should verify their scores. At the end of the round, each player should verify the total score and sign his/her scorecard. Any protests must be registered immediately.

Walking scorers are advisable for the youngest age divisions. While scoring is not a monumental task, it can be difficult at times. Avoid mistakes that could cause an embarrassing

and painful situation by properly training your scorers. Most golf professionals can assist you in this area.

Groupings

Contestants should be grouped in threesomes or foursomes. Normally, you should allow approximately 8-10 minutes per group. If you have a large number of participants, front and back tee-offs are advisable. When using this format, a spacing of a minimum of 16 minutes should be planned after the first two hours. A starter should begin each group from the 1st and 10th tees.

Rules and Etiquette

The rules of golf, published by the United States Golf Association (USGA) and subject to local modification, should govern play. All golf courses have their local rules printed on scorecards or posted at the starting tee. Your players should know these local rules before play begins.

Emphasize proper golf etiquette throughout the duration of your tournament. Encourage your contestants to dress appropriately and neatly, and to conduct themselves in proper fashion throughout the competition. Golfers should be diligent in their care of the course. This includes smoothing in bunkers, replacing divots, and repairing ball-marks and damage by spikes. Also, golfers should be sure not to damage the putting green when setting down bags or the flagstick.

Caddies and electric carts are not allowed in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Pull carts are permissible for golfers in the Boys 10-11, Boys 12-13, Girls 10-12 and Girls 13-14 age division only.

Code of Conduct

Depending on your course location and level of participation, a tournament code of conduct may need to be established. This code of conduct could cover subjects such as:

- Registration and starting procedure
- Practice times
- Golf rules, including late starting penalties and scoring policy



- Disqualification process

Junior golfers participating in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships are expected to abide by an official code of conduct. You may wish to consult this document as a model for your own code of conduct.

Awards Ceremony

No tournament is complete without an awards ceremony! Your ceremony should be fun, exciting and worthy of the event. Remember that you want junior golfers, parents, sponsors, coaches and Optimists to leave with the feeling that they were part of a first-class event. A successful awards ceremony will also build support for future tournaments.

While your awards ceremony does not need to be elaborate or expensive, it does require careful planning and thoughtful implementation. During the ceremony, be sure to tell the audience about your local Optimist organization, its purpose and the other types of projects conducted throughout the year. Explain the history of Optimist International and the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

It would also be appropriate to present a plaque to the golf club that hosted your District qualifying tournament. This is a great way to honor the golf club as well as promoting your event throughout the year while it is displayed.

Awards and other promotional materials can be purchased through Promotions Corall (www.optimistsales.com) or contact the Junior Golf Department for more information.

OIJGC Presentation

The awards ceremony at your District qualifying tournament is the perfect place to announce your top finishers and make a brief presentation about the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort and Spa. During the ceremony, announce the names of your boy and girl winners in each age category and provide details about their sponsored trip to the Flor-

ida championships. Also, announce the names of the other golfers who met your District qualifying criteria and are eligible to advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

Prepare Optimist International Junior Golf Championships registration packets in advance for distribution to your winners and qualifiers at the Awards Ceremony. The Junior Golf Department will mail official Optimist International Junior Golf Championships registration packets to you. You may also include a personal letter that provides contact information and any special directions for your District team. This letter should cover the following topics:

- Name and phone number of the District Chairperson
- Name and phone number of your District's designated chaperone at the OIJGC, if different from the District Chairperson.
- Tournament and accommodation costs for each qualifier (if self funded/not paid by the District)
- Golf-related incidental expenses such as additional rounds of golf, extra driving range balls, etc.
- Travel-related incidental expenses including ground transportation, lunch, golf shop merchandise, etc.
- Costs for parent/family accommodations and meals
- Group flight details, if arranged by the District

Having these materials ready before your tournament is essential and will speed up the process of registration for your District winners and qualifiers. The sooner that golfer registration forms and payments are received, the sooner confirmation will be sent to Optimist International Junior Golf Championships participants. Only the first place District winners in each District-sponsored competing age category will be registered at the discounted \$650 cost. *Remember, any registration payments that are being paid for by the District, MUST accompany each player's registration form.* This applies to full sponsorships and any partial sponsorship from the District. You should have your checks or money orders from your District funds prepared and on-hand at

your District qualifying tournament. This way the participant will be able to send the registration form and District payment together. Please be sure to return all registration materials well ahead of the June 30 deadline if possible.

District Chairs should be the points of contact for information about the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, transportation to and from Palm Beach Gardens, accompanying parents' fees, etc. District Chairs are responsible for the coordination of District winner and qualifying registrations in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. The Junior Golf Department will assist you with the registration process.

Post-Tournament Responsibilities

After your tournament, remember to leave a "paper trail" of thank-you and recognition letters to the following individuals who helped you organize and run your event:

- Volunteers
- Golf course management and staff
- Sponsors

Release local follow-up publicity that will help to generate interest and support for your tournament in future years. This publicity could include posting flyers with the results of your tournament, or placing articles in Optimist publications (including Club and District newsletters) or in local newspapers and journals.

Member Recruitment

After your District event, send a complete registration list to both your District Governor and your District Membership Chairperson. This list should include the names of all players, along with their complete addresses, phone numbers and parents' names. This list will prove to be an invaluable tool in recruiting new Optimist members. District Governors are requested to make sure that their lists of junior golf family information are broken down by Zones or Clubs and distributed to those respective Zones or Clubs.

Club Presidents may choose to invite parents to attend a future Optimist meeting in their hometown. Most parents are very grateful to the Optimists across the world for sponsoring the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, the greatest of all junior golf tournaments!

Districts will have this great member recruitment opportunity one time each year and time is of the essence in attracting junior golf parents who have recently had experience with your Optimist District tournament. New member recruitment will only strengthen and expand the Optimist Golf Program.

Combining Efforts with Other Junior Tournaments

The objective of every District Junior Golf Program is to encourage junior golf participation across the entire District. Certainly, it is best for Districts to run their own golf events. However, Districts with little junior golf history may want to contact other junior golf organizations to inquire about the possibility of combining efforts with one of their tournaments. If you choose to combine efforts with another junior tournament for your qualifying tournament, here are some tips.

You should first introduce yourself to the person in charge of the other junior tournament and give a short history on the Optimists' involvement in junior golf. If the other program allows you to combine your efforts, provide this organization with a score sheet listing the names of all Optimist entries. At the close of the tournament, pass out information packets that contain details about either your District Qualifying tournament or the OIJGC at PGA National Resort & Spa, depending on the next qualifying level.

Although you might be combining your efforts with another event, you are still responsible for paying the qualifying fees for each participant.

APPENDIX





DISTRICT TOURNAMENT LOGISTICS FORM

*In order for a qualifying tournament to be considered official, this form must be submitted by **January 31, 2012**. You may also submit this report online at golf.optimist.org/chair or you may send this information by e-mail to golf@optimist.org.*

District Name _____

District Chair _____

Contact Information (phone, e-mail, Internet address that may be listed on www.optimist.org and provided to interested junior golfers and parents):

Date of District Qualifying Tournament: _____

Golf Course: _____

City and State/Province: _____

Registration Fee: _____

Payment Details (i.e. "Make check payable to _____ . Do not send cash.")

Registration Deadline: _____

Age Divisions Offered (circle all that apply):

Boys:	10-11	12-13	14-15	16-18
Girls:	10-12	13-14	15-18	

Please list any pre-qualifying tournaments and their dates & locations:

Other information:

*Thank you for completing the information above and returning this form by **January 31, 2012** to:*

E-mail: golf@optimist.org
FAX: (314) 735-4109

MAIL: Optimist Junior Golf
4494 Lindell Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63108
USA

You may also submit this report online at golf.optimist.org/chair



SAMPLE ENTRY FORM



Official District Qualifying Tournament for the 2012 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships ENTRY FORM

TOURNAMENT INFORMATION

District: ABC DISTRICT
 Date: JUNE 1, 2012
 Location: MAINSTREET GOLF COURSE (ANYTOWN, USA)
 Divisions Offered: Boys 10-11 Boys 12-13 Boys 14-15 Boys 16-18 Girls 10-12 Girls 13-14 Girls 15-18

A limited number of golfers in each division will advance to the international championships provided they shoot the minimum qualifying score. Please check with the District Chair for details. A maximum of one (1) golfer from outside of the District is permitted to qualify per division.

Entry Fee: \$50.00 (Make check payable to "ABC Optimist District." Do not send cash)
 Registration Deadline: 05/30/2012
 Contact Person: John Doe -- 555-555-1234 -- abcoptimist@sample.com
 Pre-qualifying requirements: None
 Notes: <Custom notes can be included here>

cut and return this section

PERSONAL INFORMATION (PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY)

Golfer's name: _____ Birthday (cannot turn 19 on or before 7/29/2012): _____
 Address: _____ City, State, Zip: _____
 Parent(s) Name(s): _____ Home Phone: _____
 Parent Work/Cell Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Division Applying For—*determined by the golfer's age on July 23 (for Boys 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 & Girls 10-12, 13-14 divisions) and July 29 (for Boys 16-18 & Girls 15-18 divisions)*

Circle one: Boys 10-11 Boys 12-13 Boys 14-15 Boys 16-18 Girls 10-12 Girls 13-14 Girls 15-18
 <Custom field 1: _____ > <Custom field 2: _____ > <Custom field 3: _____ >

WAIVER STATEMENTS

I certify that I am an amateur player according to the rules of the USGA and that all of the information furnished is true to the best of my knowledge.

Golfer's Signature: _____ Date: _____

In consideration of my child's participation in the Optimist Junior Golf qualifying tournament, I hereby release the sponsor from any and all liability resulting from any accidents that might occur while he/she is participating.

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

RETURN INFORMATION

Registration deadline is 05/30/2012. Please complete this form in its entirety, enclose a check for \$50.00 (Make check payable to "ABC Optimist District." Do not send cash) and return to:

John Doe, ABC District Jr. Golf
 1234 Main Street
 Anytown, USA 12345



2011 DISTRICT AGE DIVISION STATISTICS

2011 OPTIMIST JR GOLF - DISTRICT AGE DIVISION STATS

DISTRICT	B 10-11	B 12-13	B 14-15	B 16-18	G 10-12	G 13-14	G 15-18	TOTAL
AL-LA-MS	1	5	10	13	1	3	2	35
AMS & NW	0	4	7	10	0	1	2	24
Arizona	1	7	8	9	1	1	2	29
Arkansas	9	6	14	21	3	3	3	59
Atlantic Northeast	8	20	45	122	6	6	6	213
California South	1	6	9	13	2	0	4	35
Capital-Virginia	6	7	12	32	2	3	13	75
Central Ontario	4	11	13	22	0	3	4	57
Colorado-Wyoming	8	10	36	63	6	10	30	163
DMM (MB)	1	7	10	12	2	4	4	40
DMM (MN)	6	10	22	38	2	6	13	97
East Missouri	2	10	27	44	2	5	16	106
Georgia	20	20	20	20	10	10	10	110
Illinois	3	7	17	55	0	4	17	103
Indiana North	QUALIFIER CANCELLED DUE TO LOW PARTICIPATION							
Indiana South	3	3	10	26	3	2	10	57
Iowa	--	--	20	36	--	5	17	78
Kansas	9	13	28	52	2	7	17	128
KY-West Virginia	0	3	6	5	1	1	4	20
MD-So Delaware	2	6	13	15	3	2	5	46
Michigan	5	13	20	20	3	5	7	73
MW Ontario	18	25	31	32	0	6	7	119
Nebraska	--	0	6	11	2	0	2	21
New Jersey	1	4	10	17	1	4	5	42
NM-West Texas	NO QUALIFIER IN 2011							
North Carolina East	4	8	6	12	5	3	7	45
North Carolina West	4	12	26	18	3	3	7	73
North Florida	6	6	10	15	4	3	4	48
North Texas	6	23	16	36	12	6	14	113
Ohio	--	29	87	202	8	16	99	441
Oklahoma	0	1	0	3	0	1	4	9
Pacific Central (CA)	3	21	18	21	3	3	15	84
Pacific Central (NV)	--	--	5	5	--	3	2	15
Pacific Central (UT)	--	--	--	68	--	--	13	81
Pacific Northwest (CAN)	7	10	7	7	4	2	8	45
Pacific Northwest (US)	4	3	15	12	1	2	5	42
Pacific Southeast (CA)	8	4	12	18	6	2	1	51
Pacific Southeast (Hawaii)	16	19	14	20	10	6	18	103
Pacific Southwest	--	20	24	19	--	12	12	87
Pennsylvania	2	1	5	8	0	1	3	20
South Carolina	2	4	3	7	2	2	0	20
South Florida	8	11	25	36	3	15	16	114
South Texas	0	4	1	4	1	0	4	14
SWIS	2	5	12	21	1	1	3	45
St. Lawrence Region	5	15	32	47	2	5	5	111
SW Ontario	13	24	32	33	0	4	8	114
Tennessee	NO QUALIFIER IN 2011							
West Missouri	3	2	15	22	0	5	6	53
WI North-Upper Mich	2	4	3	4	0	0	1	14
DIVISION TOTALS	203	423	762	1326	117	186	455	3472

KEY: -- Age division not offered



PRE-EVENT RELEASE

Pre-event releases should be typed on District letterhead and mailed two weeks prior to the tournament.

For Immediate Release

(Date)

For More Information: (Contact name and number)

Junior Golfers Invited to Compete in (TOURNAMENT NAME)

CITY, STATE/PROVINCE – The **(DISTRICT NAME)** District of Optimist International invites local junior golfers to compete in the upcoming **(DISTRICT QUALIFIER NAME)** on **(DATE)** at **(GOLF COURSE)**. The tournament is for BOYS/GIRLS ages **(LIST AGE GROUPS)**.

Top young competitors can qualify to move on to compete in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships July 19-29 at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida. From the district-level tournament, **(LIST # OF SLOTS PER AGE DIVISION)** will be able to advance to the international tournament.

To register for **(DISTRICT QUALIFIER NAME)**, junior golfers can visit golf.optimist.org and click on the “District Qualifying Tournaments” link.

For more information, please contact **(CONTACT NAME)** at **(CONTACT NUMBER AND E-MAIL)**.

(INSERT HISTORY OF DISTRICT QUALIFIER OR ADDITIONAL INFO HERE)

Each year hundreds of junior golfers ages 10 to 18 travel from throughout the world to play in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, now in its 17th year at PGA National. The tournament brings together some of the world’s most talented young competitors, many of whom have the potential to become leading collegiate and professional golfers in the future. To learn more about the tournament, visit golf.optimist.org.

Optimist International is one of the world’s largest service club organizations with 100,000 adult and youth members in 3,000 clubs in the United States, Canada, the Caribbean and Mexico and throughout the world. Carrying the motto “Bringing Out the Best in Kids,” Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than six million young people each year. The Optimist Junior Golf program is one of the organization’s most prominent projects. To learn more about Optimist International, please call (314) 371-6000 or visit the organization’s website at www.optimist.org.

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POST-EVENT RELEASE

Post-event releases should be typed on District letterhead and mailed immediately after the tournament with photographs and a complete list of results.

For Immediate Release

(Date)

For More Information: (Contact name and number)

Junior Golfers Perform Well to Advance to International Tournament

CITY, STATE/PROVINCE – **(NUMBER)** junior golfers scored low to claim top spots at the **(DISTRICT QUALIFIER NAME)** on **(DATE)** at **(GOLF COURSE)**. The young golfers qualify to move on to compete in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships July 19-29 at PGA National Resort and Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

In the **(BOYS/GIRLS LIST AGE GROUP)** age division, **(1st PLACE PLAYER NAME)** shot a **(SCORE)** to take first place. Coming in second with a score of **(SCORE)** was **(2nd PLACE PLAYER NAME)**. **(3rd PLACE PLAYER NAME)** placed third with a score of **(SCORE)**. The junior golfers competed in a field of **(NUMBER)** players. **(LAST NAME OF PLAYER/PLAYERS)** qualified to move on to compete in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.

In the **(BOYS/GIRLS LIST AGE GROUP)** age division, **(1st PLACE PLAYER NAME)** came in first place with a score of **(SCORE)**. **(2nd PLACE PLAYER NAME)** shot a **(SCORE)** to take second place, while **(3rd PLACE PLAYER NAME)** placed third with a score of **(SCORE)**. The junior golfers competed in a field of **(NUMBER)** players. **(LAST NAME OF PLAYER/PLAYERS)** qualified to move on to compete in the international tournament.

FOR MORE AGE DIVISIONS, COPY ONE OF THE PREVIOUS PARAGRAPHS HERE AND FILL IN NEW NAMES AND AGES.

IF DISTRICT COVERS PLAYERS' FINANCES/REGISTRATION/TRAVEL TO INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT, MENTION IT HERE.

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CODE OF CONDUCT

The following code of conduct will be included in the registration materials for all golfers who qualify for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. All participants in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships are required to adhere to this code of conduct for the duration of the championships.

Violations of the Code of Conduct on the Course

- Unsportsmanlike conduct, including abusive language, club throwing, disrespect to volunteers, officials or fellow competitors, or abuse of golf course property.
- Use of drugs or alcohol, smoking or chewing tobacco products—a zero tolerance policy is in effect.
- Not adhering to the dress code during practice round or tournament play.
- Use of cell phones or headsets is strictly prohibited and may result in disqualification.

Violations of the Code of Conduct off the Course

- Any use or association with drugs or alcohol, smoking or chewing tobacco products—a zero tolerance policy is in effect.
- Vandalism at the hotel or its surrounding properties, abusive behavior to any volunteer or tournament official.
- Damages in any rooms will be the financial responsibility of the players occupying the room. Please report and accidental damage to your chaperone or at the tournament office.
- All players must comply with the tournament curfew of 11 p.m. local time. You must be in your room by the curfew and remain in your room for the remainder of the night unless accompanied by an adult chaperone, parent, or legal guardian. Nightly random room checks will be made.
- Leaving the resort property is not permitted unless accompanied by an adult chaperone,

parent, or guardian.

- Gambling is not permitted. Any games involving the exchange of money are strictly prohibited.
- Male and female participants may not occupy the same room at any time. Roommate changes are not permitted. Once you are assigned to a room you may not change rooms. No exceptions.
- Attendance at the player orientation is mandatory. Any player failing to attend the player orientation may be subject to disqualification.

Dress Code

- Proper golf attire is required at all times during the practice round and tournament play. Questionable attire will be reviewed by the Tournament Director. Players in violation of the dress code will not be permitted to tee off and may be assessed stroke penalties.
- Hats/visors must be worn with brim forward.
- Collared shirts must be worn and tucked in at all times with the following exceptions: women's shirts without a collar must have sleeves. Men's shirts without a collar must have a tight neck fit. T-shirts are prohibited.
- No tank tops, short-shorts, denim shorts, cut-off shorts, gym shorts, t-shirts or jeans.
- Appropriate resort attire is required at all times while off the golf course.

Code of Conduct Violation Penalties

- One stroke penalty for each act of unsportsmanlike behavior on the golf course.
- A serious act of unsportsmanlike behavior on the course may result in the player being immediately disqualified from the tournament, subject to review of the Rules Committee. Any Code of Conduct violation off the course may also result in the player being disqualified from the tournament and immediately sent home subject to review of the Junior Golf Committee.

Optimist Junior Golf Withdrawal Policy

This policy will allow for withdrawals for medical reasons or for emergencies. The medical reason must be verified and approved by a rules official. If a rules official deems the player is healthy enough to continue and the player refuses, the player will be disqualified. The entire group involved will be held at the point of stoppage and other groups will play through. A rules official will restart the group. All play must comply with all current tournament rules and policies. The player must notify and receive approval of a rules official prior to leaving the course. The decision of the Rules Committee is final. If a family emergency, on or off site occurs, the Rules Committee may allow a player to withdraw. The reason or reasons must be verified by the Rules Committee. All printed and published results at the end of the tournament will reflect a withdrew status.

Optimist Junior Golf Disqualification Policy

Disqualification will occur if during a competitive round of the tournament a player refuses to continue play after a rules official releases the player to continue play. Failure to report for your tee time, leaving the course without the notification and approval of a Rules Official, or any other already published reason will also be automatic disqualification. All printed and published results at the end of the tournament will reflect a disqualified status.

Parent and Spectator Code of Conduct

In golf, customs of etiquette and decorum are just as important as rules governing play. It is appropriate for parents and spectators to applaud successful strokes, but in order to secure the spirit of the game, we ask parents and spectators to please adhere to the following guidelines. Please note that if any of the following guidelines are perceived as broken by a Rules Official, the player may be subject to penalty.

1. Advice (Rule 8) is any counsel or suggestion which could influence a player in determining his play, the choice of a club or the method of making a stroke. In addition, any conversation

between player/spectator may be construed as advice. This includes any conversation between player/spectator in their native language. In either instance, penalty for breach of this rule is two strokes. Players are responsible for the actions of their relatives and spectators in regards to this rule.

2. Keeping the above statement in mind, please keep your conversation with the player to words of encouragement as long as advice is not given.
3. Spectators attend Optimist Golf events at their own risk.
4. Please turn off all cell phones while on the course.
5. The Optimist Golf program does not allow spectator carts.
6. Spectators should stay on cart paths. In the absence of cart paths, we ask that spectators stay in the rough. Please stay off fairways, tees and greens.
7. Spectators should stay one shot ahead of the group they are following. This allows spectators to follow errant shots and help identify where the ball comes to rest. Spectators are allowed to aid in the search for lost golf balls.
8. Spectators should not give rulings. Please seek a rules official if the need arises.
9. Spectators are allowed to carry medicine, drinks, food, umbrellas, etc.
10. The Rules Official may assess a penalty to the player based on the severity of the spectator violation. If a serious breach has occurred, the spectator may be asked to leave the facility.
11. For your personal safety, we ask you exercise caution at all times. When inclement weather moves into the area, play will be suspended by sounding airhorns. Accordingly, you should seek shelter immediately. The staff will evacuate players from the course first and then spectators.
12. Spectators are not permitted to consume alcoholic beverages while on the golf course.



OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF LOGOS

Optimist Golf Program logo



Optimist International Junior
Golf Championships logo



Optimist International
Tournament of Champions logo



