

# THE OPTIMIST

*International Junior Golf Championships*

PGA National Resort & Spa • Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.

CONTACT: Krista Grueninger

(800) 500-8130, ext. 228

(561) 227-2501 or (314) 541-1168 July 24 through Aug. 3

communications@optimist.org

www.optimist.org/golf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 2009

## **Optimist International Junior Golf Championships to Return to South Florida**

*PGA National Resort & Spa to Host Premier Junior Golf Tournament*

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. – In late July, more than 600 of golf's top young players will compete in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. The tournament will bring 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.

Junior golfers ages 10 to 18 will travel from throughout the world to play in the annual tournament July 25 through Aug. 2. Golfers ages 10 to 15 will play July 25 through 27 in three age divisions each for boys and girls: 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15. The older golfers, ages 16 to 18, will have their turn July 30 through Aug. 2.

The Optimist prides itself as an international event each year, with players representing more than 35 states, five Canadian provinces and 30 nations. Quite a few recognizable names are past champions of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, including Beth Bauer, Jonathan Byrd, Bubba Dickerson, Brittany Lincicome, Jeff Overton, Stacy Prammanasudh and Jennifer Rosales. A number of other well-known professional golfers have participated in Optimist-sponsored championships such as Ernie Els, Nancy Lopez, Davis Love III, Michelle McGann, Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods.

The Optimist will return to PGA for the 14th consecutive year. Four of PGA National's championship layouts will be used for the event – the Champion, Palmer, Haig and Squire courses. PGA National is home to the PGA TOUR's Honda Classic and has been host to the PGA Seniors Championship, the 1987 PGA Championship and the 1983 Ryder Cup.

Optimist International is one of the world's largest service club organizations with more than 110,000 adult and youth members in 3,600 clubs worldwide. Carrying the motto "Bringing Out the Best in Kids," Optimists conduct positive service projects that reach more than 6 million young people each year. The Optimist Junior Golf program is one of the organization's most prominent projects.

Scores, photos, news stories and tee times will be updated daily throughout the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Results will be available under the tournament's information at [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf).

###