

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

The Optimist Offers Entertainment and Learning Experiences for All *Tournament Focuses on 'Bringing Out the Best in Kids' On and Off the Course*

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. – With a motto of “Bringing Out the Best in Kids,” Optimist International takes its focus to heart when organizing the annual Optimist International Junior Golf Championships at PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. On the course, more than 550 young golfers ages 10 to 18 will put their golfing skills to the test July 25 through Aug. 2 at a level of international competition that many of them have never before experienced. Off the course the tournament will provide family-friendly entertainment for players and guests to enjoy and learning opportunities for the golfers to enhance their game.

Golfers ages 10 to 15 will take part in the Optimist July 25 through 27, while golfers ages 16 to 18 will compete July 30 through Aug. 2. With many junior golfing families moving from tournament to tournament during the summer, the Optimist offers up a vacation atmosphere amid the continual rounds of golf. Each year more than 800 guests join the golfers at the tournament. With golfers and their guests staying onsite, parents, siblings and friends can enjoy the amenities at PGA National Resort & Spa during the day, and the Optimist Junior Golf Program provides activities most evenings for golfers and their families.

Golfers will be able to participate in the Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Preliminaries before or after their practice rounds on July 24 and 29 on the Champion Range. Finalists in the competition promise to give an impressive show at 7 p.m. July 26 and 31 as they vie for the title of Long-Drive Champ. At the Opening Ceremony at 8:30 p.m. July 24 and 29, junior golfers representing various nations will take part in a parade of flags as the participating nations are introduced. As the competition gets under way, golfers and their siblings will crowd the main putting green at 8 p.m. July 26, 27 and 31 in a challenge strictly for fun – the annual “Glow Ball” Putting Contest, a round of miniature golf in the dark. Throughout the tournament, a game room and lounge will be open in the evenings to give golfers a chance to relax and socialize.

Advancing to the championship tournament as a District Qualifying Tournament winner is an honor. District winners will be recognized at a special District Winner Banquet present by The GolfRing at 6:30 p.m. July 25 and 30.

Optimist offers positive atmosphere for golfers and guests, add one

Off-hours will not be all fun and games, as the junior golfers will also be offered some opportunities for learning. For the younger golfers, the week will begin with a “Rules of Golf Clinic” at 6 p.m. July 23 on the main putting green. Junior golfers will be presented with several different situations and the rules that apply to each. For the older golfers, the Optimist Junior Golf Program has lined up “The College Golf Experience Seminar” at 7:30 p.m. Aug. 1 in the Bella Lago room. The seminar will feature David Leadbetter Golf Academy’s Shane Reiser, who will speak to junior golfers about finding a college that is the correct academic and athletic fit and what needs to be done at each level of a junior golfer’s career. Reiser will also address how to attract a coach’s attention, what junior tournaments to focus on, and how to handle college golf signing periods.

Photos of Optimist-sponsored activities will be updated daily throughout the tournament by going to www.optimist.org/golf/media.

2009 Schedule of Events – Off the Course

July 23	Rules of Golf Clinic
July 24	Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Preliminaries Opening Ceremony and Parade of Flags
July 25	District Winner Banquet presented by The GolfRing
July 26	Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Finals “Glow Ball” Putting Contest – Ages 14-15
July 27	“Glow Ball” Putting Contest – Ages 10-13
July 29	Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Preliminaries Opening Ceremony and Parade of Flags
July 30	District Winner Banquet presented by The GolfRing
July 31	Palmer Golf Long-Drive Contest Finals “Glow Ball” Putting Contest
Aug. 1	The College Golf Experience Seminar

###