

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is one of the largest and best-known junior golf tournaments in the world. Each year, more than 600 golfers participate in THE OPTIMIST.

July 20-25, 2016 Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12
July 25-30, 2016 Boys 14-15 and Girls 13-14
July 30-Aug 4, 2016 Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18

Age Divisions

Boys 10-11

Ages 10 & 11 as of July 24, 2016

Boys 12-13

Ages 12 & 13 as of July 24, 2016

Boys 14-15

Ages 14 & 15 as of July 29, 2016

Boys 16-18

Ages 16 -18 as of August 4, 2016

Girls 10-12

Ages 10, 11 & 12 as of July 24, 2016

Girls 13-14

Ages 13 & 14 as of July 29, 2016

Girls 15-18

Ages 15 - 18 as of August 4, 2016

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. 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, drivers license, 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 plus one practice round.

Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18: Competition is a 72-hole stroke play tournament plus one practice round. The top 50 boys and top 35 girls advance to the final round. Golfers who miss the cut may play in the Sunday consolation event.

Courses and Yardages

Golfers will play on the courses at PGA National as follows. Yardages are posted on website. Course assignments are subject to change.

Boys 10-11.....Fazio course

Boys 12-13.....Champion course

Girls 10-12.....Squire course

Boys 14-15.....Champion and Palmer courses

Girls 13-14.....Fazio Course

Boys 16-18*.....Champion and Palmer courses

Girls 15-18*.....Fazio and Squire course

**14-15 play one round on each course. Cut will be made based on field size. Wave 1 will play the Champion, Wave 2 will play the Palmer for the final round.*

**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 Fazio and 1 round on the Squire. Final round on the Squire. Courses may change depending on number of participants.*

2016 FACT SHEET

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

Boys 10-11, 12-13 & Girls 10-12

Wednesday, July 20	Arrivals and tournament registration
Thursday, July 21	Practice Round and Orientation
Friday, July 22	Tournament Play - Round 1
Saturday, July 23	Tournament Play - Round 2
Sunday, July 24	Tournament Play - Round 3 & Awards Ceremony
Monday, July 25	Departures

Boys 14-15 & Girls 13-14

Monday, July 25	Arrivals and tournament registration
Tuesday, July 26	Practice Round and Orientation
Wednesday, July 27	Tournament Play - Round 1
Thursday, July 28	Tournament Play - Round 2
Friday, July 29	Tournament Play - Round 3 & Awards Ceremony
Saturday, July 30	Departures

Boys 16-18; Girls 15-18

Saturday, July 30	Arrivals and tournament registration
Sunday, July 31	Practice rounds and Orientation
Monday, August 1	Tournament Play - Round 1
Tuesday, August 2	Tournament Play - Round 2
Wednesday, August 3	Tournament Play - Round 3
Thursday, August 4	Final round (top 50 boys & top 35 girls) Consolation event, Awards Ceremony and departures

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).

The 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.

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. Spectator carts are not available—NO EXCEPTIONS. Parents may rent a electrical scooter from a local vendor.

Pull carts will be allowed in ALL age divisions. Golfers are allowed to bring their own carts but must meet our folded size restrictions. For those not wanting to bring their cart, a cart may be rented by Optimist Junior Golf.

Distance Measuring Devices

Distance measuring devices are permitted. Devices allowed may measure distance only. Devices that measure slope, wind, etc. are not allowed even if the other functions are disabled.

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 are overseen by a District Chairperson. A limited number of golfers in each division qualify for the Championships. To view a list of qualifying tournaments and more details, go to www.optimist.org/golf. 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.
- (3) *Special Invitees:* Optimist International will accept a very limited number of special invitees into the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.
- (4) *International Golfers:* Optimist International has relationships with several national governing bodies. Visit website for a list of national governing bodies.

For a complete list of exemptions, special invitees and International Organizations visit: www.optimist.org/golf.

Financial Assistance

Each participating District may sponsor 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 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 your District Chairperson for details. Optimist Junior Golf Tour Events or Tournament of Champions do not qualify for financial assistance.

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.

Questions or Inquiries

All questions should be directed to the Optimist Junior Golf office. Please e-mail golf@optimist.org or call (314) 881-1307 or toll free (800) 500-8130, ext. 207. Or, visit www.optimist.org/golf.

Accommodations and Registration

PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, FL, USA is location of the championships. All hotel registrations are handled through Optimist International. **DO NOT call PGA National directly to book reservations.**

REGISTRATION FEES INCLUDE

- Tournament entry fee for the golfer (includes rounds of golf and practice round),
- five (5) nights lodging for the golfer and all guests,
- Five (5) breakfasts and four (4) dinners for the golfer and guests, (lunch on your own)
- access to all Optimist functions and special events for the golfer and guests.
- Optimist gift for golfer.

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. A parent or guardian must accompany golfers ages 13 and under.

Family One-Room Options

*Housed in appropriately sized room in main resort**

Golfer & 1 Guest - \$1,333 US
Golfer & 2 Guests - \$1,605 US
Golfer & 3 Guests - \$1,877 US

Family Two-Room Options

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

Golfer & 3 Guests - \$2,522 US
Golfer & 4 Guests - \$2,794 US
Golfer & 5 Guests - \$3,066 US
Golfer & 6 Guests - \$3,338 US

Golfer Only - \$720 US (housed with roommate(s) at PGA National)

*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 and sofa sleepers are utilized as necessary.** All District 1st place winners receive a \$70 discount from the listed prices. All golfers who register for the championships via an International application or at-large application must pay an additional surcharge.

Early Arrival and Late Departure

Rooms may be available for early arrival and late departure. Cost is \$132 (standard room) or \$264 (club cottage) per night. Contact Optimist International for details and reservations prior to making your travel arrangements. 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 package.** Participants and guests are on their own 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 \$380 (Boys 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 & Girls 10-12, 13-14) and \$420 (Boys 16-18 & Girls 15-18). The 1st place District Winner discount does not apply to Commuters. The commuter fee includes practice round, tournament rounds and access to all Optimist functions and special events.