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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Local Junior Golfers to Compete in Optimist International Junior Golf Championships**

**PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.** – 700 top young golfers are competing in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship 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.

\_\_\_\_\_ from \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_ age division will compete in the championships on \_\_\_\_\_. To view the golfers’ age divisions and hometowns, [click here](#).

Junior golfers ages 10 to 18 from around the world play in the annual tournament.

**July 17-22, 2018** -- Boys 10-11, 12-13 and Girls 10-12

**July 22-27, 2018** -- Boys 14-15 and Girls 13-14

**July 27- August 1, 2018** -- Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18

The Optimist prides itself as an international event, with players representing 43 states, 6 Canadian provinces and 28 total nations. Former champions and top finishers of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship include PGA TOUR members Jonathan Byrd, Jason Day, Bill Haas, and Jeff Overton in addition to LPGA members Stacy Lewis, Brooke Pancake, Brittany Lincicome and Lexi Thompson. A number of other well-known professional golfers have participated in Optimist-sponsored championships, including Ernie Els, Nancy Lopez, Davis Love III, Michelle McGann, Phil Mickelson and Tiger Woods.

The Optimist returns to PGA National Resort and Spa for the 22nd consecutive year. Four of PGA National’s championship layouts are used for the event – the Palmer, Fazio, Estates 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 2,900 Optimist Clubs around the world dedicated to “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 programs.

Scores, photos, news stories and tee times will be updated throughout the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship. Results will be available under the tournament’s information at [www.optimist.org/golf](http://www.optimist.org/golf). News items will also be included on the Optimist Junior Golf Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/optimist.golf](http://www.facebook.com/optimist.golf) and Twitter feed @OptimistGolf.

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**CONTACT:**

Optimist Junior Golf  
(800) 500-8130 | [golf@optimist.org](mailto:golf@optimist.org)