

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is one of the largest and best-known junior golf tournaments in the world. Each year, more than 650 golfers participate in THE OPTIMIST.

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-Aug 1, 2018 Boys 16-18 and Girls 15-18

Age Divisions

Boys 10-11

Ages 10 & 11 as of July 21, 2018

Boys 12-13

Ages 12 & 13 as of July 21, 2018

Boys 14-15

Ages 14 & 15 as of July 26, 2018

Boys 16-18

Ages 16 - 18 as of August 1, 2018

Girls 10-12

Ages 10, 11 & 12 as of July 21, 2018

Girls 13-14

Ages 13 & 14 as of July 26, 2018

Girls 15-18

Ages 15 - 18 as of August 1, 2018

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 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 40 girls advance to the final round. Golfers who miss the cut may play in the Wednesday 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.....Fazio and Champion courses

Girls 13-14.....Squire Course

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

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

**Boys 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 Fazio 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 Fazio. Courses may change depending on number of participants.*

2018 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

Tuesday, July 17	Arrivals and tournament registration
Wednesday, July 18	Practice Round and Orientation
Thursday, July 19	Tournament Play - Round 1
Friday, July 20	Tournament Play - Round 2
Saturday, July 21	Tournament Play - Round 3 & Awards Ceremony
Sunday, July 22	Departures / Parent Child Tournament

Boys 14-15 & Girls 13-14

Sunday, July 22	Arrivals and tournament registration
Monday, July 23	Practice Round and Orientation
Tuesday, July 24	Tournament Play - Round 1
Wednesday, July 25	Tournament Play - Round 2
Thursday, July 26	Tournament Play - Round 3 & Awards Ceremony
Friday, July 27	Departures / Parent Child Tournament

Boys 16-18; Girls 15-18

Friday, July 27	Arrivals and tournament registration
Saturday, July 28	Practice rounds and Orientation
Sunday, July 29	Tournament Play - Round 1
Monday, July 30	Tournament Play - Round 2
Tuesday, July 31	Tournament Play - Round 3
Wednesday, August 1	Final round (top 50 boys & top 40 girls) Consolation event, Awards Ceremony and departures

Rankings

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is included in the *Junior Golf Scoreboard*, *Golfweek* and *World Amateur* junior rankings (16-18 divisions only for *Golfweek* and *World Amateur* 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 (which is mandatory). All participants are responsible for following the Optimist Golf Code of Conduct, which is available at www.optimist.org/golf 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 and golfers must bring their own. No pull carts will be rented onsite.

Distance Measuring Devices

Distance measuring devices are permitted. You may use these devices to measure distance only.

How to Qualify

In order to play in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, golfers must meet one of the following qualifying methods:

- *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.*
- *Exemptions: Optimist International offers a limited number of exemptions into the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships.*
- *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 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 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 and 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.

Optimist Parent-Child Classic

Parent-Child Tournaments will be offered on July 22 and July 27. It's open to two-player teams consisting of a junior golfer playing in the Championships. Competition is an 18-hole stroke play event (no handicaps), best ball format shotgun start at 8:30. The entry fee is \$220 US per team includes round (green/cart), Optimist gift package and awards luncheon immediately following play. Space if limited.

Questions:

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 NOTED BELOW INCLUDE

- Golf for the golfer (includes tournament rounds only)
- practice rounds must be booked and paid for by the individual player
- five (5) nights lodging for the golfer and all guests (see applicable prices),
- 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 stay with golfers ages 13 and under. No golfer age 13 and under will be permitted to stay in a room by themselves.

Family One-Room Options

*Housed in appropriately sized room in main resort**

Golfer & 1 Guest - \$1,394 US
Golfer & 2 Guests - \$1,674 US
Golfer & 3 Guests - \$1,954 US

Family Two-Room Options

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

Golfer & 3 Guests - \$2,634 US
Golfer & 4 Guests - \$2,914 US
Golfer & 5 Guests - \$3,194 US
Golfer & 6 Guests - \$3,474 US

Golfers coming alone - \$730 US will be housed with roommate(s)

- Each family is limited to a maximum of two hotel rooms or one club cottage. Club Cottages are not guaranteed.
- 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 championship 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 \$136 (standard room) or \$272 (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 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 tournament rounds and access to all Optimist functions and special events.