

About the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is one of the largest and best-known junior golf tournaments in the world. Each year, more than 500 golfers participate in THE OPTIMIST.

Age Divisions

Boys 10-11 Ages 10 & 11 as of July 20, 2015
Boys 12-13 Ages 12 & 13 as of July 20, 2015
Boys 14-15 Ages 14 & 15 as of July 25, 2015
Boys 16-18 Ages 16 -18 as of July 31, 2015

Girls 10-12 Ages 10, 11 & 12 as of July 20, 2015
Girls 13-14 Ages 13 & 14 as of July 25, 2015
Girls 15-18 Ages 15 - 18 as of July 31, 2015

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 40 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.

July 16-21, 2015

- Boys 10-11.....Fazio course
- Boys 12-13.....Champion course
- Girls 10-12.....Squire course

July 21-26, 2015

- Boys 14-15.....Champion and Palmer courses
- Girls 13-14.....Fazio Course

July 26-31, 2015

- 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.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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

THURSDAY, JULY 16..Arrivals and tournament registration (Boys 10-11, 12-13 & Girls 10-12)
FRIDAY, JULY 17.....Official Practice rounds Opening Ceremony & Orientation
SATURDAY, JULY 18...Tournament Play - Round 1
SUNDAY, JULY 19.....Tournament Play - Round 2
MONDAY, JULY 20.....Tournament Play - Round 3 & Awards Ceremony
TUESDAY, JULY 21.....Departures (Boys 10-11, 12-13 & Girls 10-12) and arrivals and registration (Boys 14-15 & Girls 13-14)
WEDNESDAY, JULY 22..Official Practice rounds Opening Ceremony & Orientation
THURSDAY, JULY 23....Tournament Play - Round 1
FRIDAY, JULY 24.....Tournament Play - Round 2
SATURDAY, JULY 25.....Tournament Play - Round 3 & Awards Ceremony
SUNDAY, JULY 26.....Departures (Boys 14-15; Girls 13-14); Arrivals and registration (Boys 16-18; Girls 15-18)
MONDAY, JULY 27.....Official practice rounds Opening Ceremony & Orientation
TUESDAY, JULY 28Tournament Play - Round 1
WEDNESDAY, JULY 29..Tournament Play - Round 2
THURSDAY, JULY 30 ...Tournament Play - Round 3
FRIDAY, JULY 31Final round (top 50 boys & top 40 girls) Consolation event and Awards Ceremony Departures (Boys 16-18; Girls 15-18)

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).

Exemptions Awarded

Top finishers of the 2014 OPTIMIST will be exempt from having to qualify for the 2015 championships as follows: Boys 16-18 & Girls 15-18 (top 10); Boys 14-15 (top 4); Girls 13-14 (top 3); Boys 12-13 (top 3); Girls 10-12 (top 3); Boys 10-11 (top 3).

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. Pull carts are permitted only in the Boys 10-11, 12-13 and all Girls divisions, Golfers in these divisions **MUST** use a **pull cart provided by Optimist International**. A rental fee will apply. Golfers may not use their own pull carts. Spectator carts are not available. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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 Clubs in the District and are overseen by a District Chairperson. A limited number of golfers in each division qualify for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. To view a list of qualifying tournaments and more details, go to golf.optimist.org. 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. For a complete list of exemptions, please visit golf.optimist.org.

(3) *Special Invitees*: Optimist International will accept a very limited number of special invitees into the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. Special invitees must meet strict criteria to be considered. For details, please visit golf.optimist.org.

(4) *International Golfers*: Optimist International has relationships with several national governing bodies. For a list of national governing bodies who work with Optimist International and to download an application, go to golf.optimist.org.

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, lunches 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 golf.optimist.org for details.

Accommodations and Registration

PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens, FL, USA is the host golf and hotel facility of the championships. All tournament and hotel registrations are handled by Optimist International. **Please 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 under the age of 13.

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 exemption, 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. 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 may purchase lunch vouchers during the registration process or may pay cash 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 commuter fee includes practice round, tournament rounds and access to all Optimist functions and special events.