



## Frequently Asked Questions

Below are answers to frequently asked questions about the Optimist Junior Golf Program. If your question is not answered below, you may e-mail the question to [golf@optimist.org](mailto:golf@optimist.org) or you may call 314-881-1307 or toll free 800-500-8130.

### QUESTIONS ABOUT OPTIMIST DISTRICT QUALIFYING TOURNAMENTS

**Q: How many golfers advance from a District qualifier to the international championships?**

*A: Each District is granted a set number of qualifying spots in each age division. This represents the number of golfers in each age division that will be eligible to advance to the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships via the District qualifying tournament (provided the golfer meets the established scoring requirement above).*

**Q: My son/daughter is younger than 10 years old. Can he/she participate in an Optimist District qualifying tournament?**

*A: District qualifying tournaments are independent events coordinated by a District Chairperson. In some cases, Districts will allow golfers who are not yet 10 years old to participate. Please contact the Chairperson listed for your District for the answer to this question.*

**Q: My son/daughter cannot play in the qualifying tournament in my area due to a schedule conflict. Can he/she submit an At-Large application? Or, can he/she travel to another District's qualifying tournament?**

*A: If a golfer cannot play in his/her District's qualifying tournament, he/she is NOT eligible to submit an At-Large application. Yes, a golfer may travel to another District's tournament to attempt to qualify.*

**Q: My son/daughter lives outside of the United States/Canada. How can he/she participate in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships?**

*A: Junior golfers who are permanent residents of nations that do not offer official international qualifying tournaments may submit an application for consideration directly to Optimist International. A limited number of golfers in each age division are accepted through this method.*

**Q: My son/daughter lives in the United States/Canada but lives in an Optimist District that does not offer a qualifying tournament or does not offer his/her age division. How can he/she participate in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships?**

*A: Junior golfers from the US/Canada who live in an Optimist District that does not offer an official qualifying tournament or does not offer their age division are encouraged to travel to another District qualifier. Or, they may submit an application for consideration directly to Optimist International. A limited number of golfers in each age division are accepted through this method.*

## **QUESTIONS ABOUT THE OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**Q: My son/daughter is younger than 10 years old. Can he/she participate in the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships?**

*A: Golfers must be at least 10 years old by the last day of the championships (July 25, 2016) to be able to participate. In some cases, Districts will allow golfers who are not yet 10 years old to participate in a qualifying tournament. If the golfer qualifies it is up to the discretion of Optimist Junior Golf if the golfer will be allowed to play. Please contact the Chairperson listed for your District for details.*

**Q: Can my son/daughter "play up" into a higher age division?**

*A: Yes, golfers are permitted to "play up" one age division, but they must qualify in the higher division. Requests to play up 2 or 3 divisions require a special petition to Optimist Junior Golf. A golfer who intends to "play up" at the international championships must "play up" at all levels of qualifying. At large applicants and exempt golfers are permitted to apply to a higher division and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.*

**Q: Are the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships ranked?**

*A: Yes, the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships are included in the Junior Golf Scoreboard rankings (all age divisions) and Golfweek rankings (16-18 divisions only). The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships are also included in the AJGA Performance Based Entry process.*

**Q: Are we required to stay at PGA National during the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships or can we make our own housing arrangements? What if we live near PGA National?**

*A: Due to the exclusive nature of the event and based on the all-inclusive packages available, golfers (at minimum) are required to stay at PGA National. Parents, siblings and other guests are not required to stay at PGA National but are encouraged to do so. A parent or guardian must accompany players ages 13 and under. Golfers who reside and attend school in the Florida counties of Palm Beach, St. Lucie, Martin and Broward are eligible for "commuter" status.*

**Q: How are rooms assigned at PGA National Resort and Spa?**

*A: Optimist Junior Golf will assign rooms based on the number of people in the party. Participants and guests will be housed at either the main hotel or in a club cottage. Due to the limited number of double/double beds, rollways may be used.*

**Q: We are bringing the entire family to The Optimist. Can we reserve additional rooms?**

*A: In order to accommodate as many families as possible at PGA National, each family is limited to a maximum of two hotel rooms or one club cottage. After July 8, extra rooms may be available for larger families. Please contact Optimist Junior Golf for details.*

**Q: What does the inclusive registration packages include?**

*A: The all-inclusive registration packages include the following: tournament entry fee for the golfer, five nights lodging for the golfer and all guests, five breakfasts and four dinners for golfer and all guests, and access to all Optimist recreation functions and special events.*

**Q: Do we have to stay for the entire 5 nights and are we eligible for a discount if we only stay 4 nights?**

*A: No, you are not required to stay for all 5 nights. However, you are not eligible for a discount if you stay for less than 5 nights. This is based on the inclusive rules for the packages available for our group.*

**Q: Will a golfer traveling alone be assigned a roommate?**

*A: Yes, Players traveling alone will be assigned roommate(s) who are of comparable age and gender. Rollaway beds will be used. Participants may list a preferred roommate and the tournament will attempt (but not guarantee) to honor these requests. Roommate changes will not be permitted. Roommates are responsible for dividing and paying all personal room charges before their departure.*

**Q: Can we choose not to participate in the meal plan and are we eligible for a discount?**

*A: No, you cannot opt-out of the meal plan. This is based on the inclusive rules for the packages available for our group.*

**Q: Can we arrive a day (or days) early and/or leave a day (or days) late? If so, what is the cost?**

*A: Rooms may be available for early arrival and late departure. Cost is \$132 (standard room) or \$264 (club cottage) per night. Contact Optimist Junior Golf for details and reservations. Availability is limited.*

**Q: Do I need a registration code to register?**

*A: Yes – Registration codes will be handed out during the Official Qualifier*

**Q: What is the cancellation and refund policy for the Junior Golf Championships?**

*A: CANCELLATION POLICY: Persons canceling registration on or before July 1, 2016, will receive a refund of all fees paid, less a processing fee of \$100 US per registrant. Persons canceling after July 1, 2016, will not receive a refund. Refund requests must be submitted in writing; verbal notices will not be honored*

**Q: Do you have a sibling policy or discount?**

*A: No – All golfers must qualify on their own and pay the full registration fee.*

**Q: How can I get Optimist Financial support???**

*A: Optimist Districts and Clubs may provide financial support for winners to attend the international championships. The amount of financial support provided and the age divisions covered varies by District. Please check with the District Chair for details or contact your nearest Optimist Club. There is no guarantee that financial support will be provided to golfers who travel outside of their home District.*

**Q: How do I set up my practice rounds?**

*A: Players are entitled to one practice round at no additional cost on official practice round day. To arrange a practice round tee time, contact PGA National at (561) 627-1804, option #3, or e-mail [teetimes@pgaresort.com](mailto:teetimes@pgaresort.com). Carts, which may be rented in the pro shop, are allowed during practice rounds only. Parents and other guests may serve as caddies during practice rounds only. Additional practice rounds are available for \$69 per person (includes mandatory cart).*

**Q: Can my son/daughter use a pull cart, caddie or electric cart during the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships?**

*A: Caddies and electric carts are prohibited in all age divisions. Pull carts are permitted for all age divisions. Golfers are allowed to bring their own carts but must meet our folded size restrictions. **ALL CARTS MUST BE APPROVED BY OPTIMIST JUNIOR GOLF** and tagged at the Optimist Registration desk FOR USAGE. For those not wanting to bring a pull cart, golfers can choose to rent a pull cart from Optimist Junior Golf. Optimist will rent pull carts for \$40 US total for the week of the tournaments. The pull cart provided is a basic adult size pull cart. Golfers will be given the opportunity to reserve a pull cart during the registration process. A limited supply will be available onsite.*

**Q: Can my son/daughter use a range finder (distance-measuring device) during the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships?**

*A: Yes -- Players may obtain distance information by using a device that measures distance only*

**Q: Are spectator carts allowed?**

*A: Electric golf carts are strictly prohibited for spectators during tournament rounds. NO EXCEPTIONS. Spectators who need on-course transportation may utilize an electric mobility scooter. Scooters are available from several local rental vendors. The rental fee for a scooter is the responsibility of the individual. Please contact Family Rentals at [www.familyrentals.com](http://www.familyrentals.com) or 561-279-9355 for a rental quote and to make a reservation. Family Rentals will deliver directly to PGA National.*