

Optimist Junior Golf Partnering with Existing Junior Golf Organizations

The following is a tool that outlines a method for an Optimist District to partner with an existing junior golf organization (PGA Section, local/regional tour, state association, etc.) in developing an official Optimist District qualifying tournament.

IDENTIFY A POSSIBLE PARTNER

- Consider visiting the following websites to collect information about junior golf organizations in your area.
 - Junior Golf Scoreboard: www.JuniorGolfScoreboard.com
 - Click on “Events” and “Search For Events” by year, month, state, etc.
 - USGA State Associations: www.usga.org
 - Scroll to bottom of main page and click on “State & Regional Association”
 - Select a state and then visit the state association’s website
 - Once on the state association’s website, look for a link to “Junior Golf” or “Juniors.”
 - RCGA Provincial Associations (Canada): www.rcga.org
 - PGA of America: www.pga.com
 - Select “Sections” under the PGA OF AMERICA menu and then visit the section’s website.
 - Once on the section’s website, look for a link to “Junior Golf” or “Juniors.”
 - Web Search: perform a web search on Google or other search engine. Use your state/provincial name and the terms “junior” and “golf,” such as “Colorado Junior Golf.”
- Once you have determined a potential partner, identify the contact person by researching the organization’s website.
- Call or set up a meeting with the contact person to introduce yourself and to introduce him/her to the Optimist Junior Golf Program.

The financial component of a partnership is the most important element. Discuss options with the partnering organization and make sure to come to an agreement on who will collect registration fees, who will submit qualifier fees to Optimist International and who will pay for greens fees, awards, etc.,

OPTIMIST DISTRICT’S RESPONSIBILITIES

The following responsibilities should rest on the shoulders of the Optimist District Chair:

- Communication between the District and the Partnering Golf Organization.
- Communication between the District and Optimist International.
- Identify and secure host site and set date/time (with consultation and cooperation with partnering organization).
- Point person for golfers/parents who have general questions about the Optimist Junior Golf program.

- Promotion of the Optimist Junior Golf program and the qualifiers to Optimist District leaders, Clubs and Members.
- Sponsorship opportunities for District qualifiers.
- Solicit and organize Optimist Members who volunteer to work at the District qualifying event.
- Communication with junior golfers and parents once they become qualified and are ready to advance to the international championships.
- Submission of all reports and finances to Optimist International after conclusion of qualifying tournament.

PARTNERING ORGANIZATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The following responsibility should rest on the shoulders of the Partner Organization:

- Communication with Optimist District Chair.
- Promotion of event to organization's members, parents, etc. Includes listing on organization website, e-mail blasts, mailings, etc.
- Tournament Administration before and during event (includes tee times, rules, results, etc).
- Point person for golfers/parents who have questions about tee times, rules, etc.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS/POINTS

- Be flexible. Some organizations may want you, as District Chair, to be very involved in all components of the event. Some organizations may be willing to take over the lion share of the work on behalf of the District. Be as flexible as possible when discussing possibilities.
- If an organization is concerned about the cost of them providing services, consider setting a per-golfer amount to be paid to the organization to cover these costs. For example, \$5 per participant will go back to the partnering organization. Then, increase your participant entry fee accordingly.
- Benefit to Partnering Organization: the junior golf organization with whom you choose to partner will receive significant recognition and legitimacy for hosting an Optimist event. So, make sure to keep this in mind when speaking to a possible partner.

QUESTIONS?

- If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Optimist Junior Golf.

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