

COLORADO-WYOMING

OPTIMIST



JUNIOR GOLF

Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships (commonly referred to as THE OPTIMIST) is one of Optimist International's major youth programs for boys and girls ages 10 – 18 and is one of the largest and best-known junior golf events in the world. More than 3,000 boys and girls across the United States, Canada, Mexico, and several dozen other foreign countries compete in official Optimist qualifying tournaments. The best of these junior golfers, along with additional international junior golfers from around the globe, advance to THE OPTIMIST.

Each year, THE OPTIMIST is held at Doral Resort - Miami FL and fields over 600 of the world's best junior golfers from more than 28 countries around the globe. In addition to top-level tournament golf, junior golfers have the opportunity to make new friends and to have a great deal of fun. What makes THE OPTIMIST unique from other tournaments, junior golfers and their guests are housed, play golf, enjoy group meals, special events, entertainment, and fun all at a world-class resort. College coaches come from all over the U.S. to scout some of the best junior players in the world.

Past age group winners at THE OPTIMIST (and its predecessor, the Optimist Junior World Golf Championships) include Denver's own Mark Hubbard, Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Davis Love III, Lorena Ochoa, Beth Bauer, Nancy Lopez, Brittany Lincicome, Lexi Thompson, Brooke Henderson, and Jason Day, among dozens of prominent PGA and LPGA golfers.

The Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program is recognized as the best Junior Golf Program in all of Optimist International and serves over 400 junior golfers each year. The best of these golfers will qualify for THE 2021 OPTIMIST.

The 2021 District qualifying tournaments will be held Friday, June 4, at Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder (boys ages 10 – 15); Thursday, June 10, at Flatirons Golf Course in Boulder (boys ages 16 – 18); and Friday, June 18 at Overland Golf Course in Denver (girls ages 10 – 18). A total of about 300 golfers will tee off in those three events, competing for 70 spots at THE 2021 OPTIMIST.

An additional 25 – 30 junior golfers will participate in 2021 in pre-qualifying tournaments in Loveland and Fort Morgan, sponsored by Optimist Clubs in those areas.

In October 2020, we held the 5th Annual 36-hole Optimist Junior Golf Tour event at Green Valley Ranch Golf Club in Northeast Denver. This was a new event for us starting in 2016 and, because of its success, has become an annual event, welcoming golfers from around the country. A total of 120 golfers teed off, competing for an additional 20 spots at THE 2021 OPTIMIST.

The Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program is totally self-funded. We sent 66 junior golfers to THE 2019 OPTIMIST and raised over \$ 45,000 for that purpose.

We were able to give \$ 1,000 to each of the seven age group winners and 47 other qualifiers from the 2019 District qualifying events. With additional slots for THE 2021 OPTIMIST, we will need to raise about \$ 50,000 to provide the same amount of financial support for the 2021 age group winners and other qualifiers.

To boost our fund-raising activities in 2021, we will hold an adult scramble fundraising tournament and silent auction on May 18 at Saddle Rock Golf Course in Aurora.

We will also solicit title, hole, banner, and player sponsors for the qualifying tournaments at Flatirons and Overland from many Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Clubs and individual Optimists and friends of Optimists and their businesses.

In addition, we solicit cash and in-kind donations from local golf courses, parents of our junior golfers, and the general public.

Please continue to help support the Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program to “Bring Out the Best in Kids”.

For further information, please contact:

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