



COLORADO-WYOMING OPTIMIST DISTRICT JUNIOR GOLF PROGRAM

Who participates?

This Optimist International program is for boys and girls aged 10-18. Each year the Colorado-Wyoming District raises \$45,000-\$50,000 to send 60 junior golfers to the international tournament.

When does the Optimist International Junior Golf program take place?

Colorado-Wyoming District events are held in October and in May. "THE OPTIMIST" international junior golf tournament is held in June.

How do Clubs participate?

- Clubs support CO-WY District Jr. Golf by including a generous annual donation in their club budget.
- Clubs can support the event by becoming title, hole, banner or individual player sponsors.
- Club members can volunteer to work at the CO-WY District Jr Golf events.
- Individual club members can donate to the event through the Go Fund Me page <https://www.gofundme.com/cowy-district-optimist-jr-golf>.
- Clubs and/or their members can participate in the annual adult scramble golf tournament and silent auction held in the spring.

Where can Clubs get more information?

Bob Meyer, Junior Golf Tri-Chairman, meyerrob@comcast.net, 303-919-4532

Joe Marci, Junior Golf Tri-Chairman, jmarci899@gmail.com; 303-771-3748

Ron Cisco, Junior Golf Tri-Chairman, ciscoron@msn.com, 303-794-0749

The Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program website is

<https://sites.google.com/site/cowyoptimistgolf/>.

Online Registration [Green Valley Ranch Tournament October 16-17](#)

Additional tournaments and dates TBD

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 qualified for THE 2021 OPTIMIST.

The 2021 District qualifying tournaments were 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). Almost 300 golfers teed off in those three events, competing for 70 spots at THE 2021 OPTIMIST. Dozens of local Optimists and their friends volunteered at the three events, acting as forecaddies (ball spotters) and marshals, maintaining pace of play and ensuring that the junior golf competitors played in professionally-run District qualifiers.

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. Again, dozens of local Optimists and their friend volunteered to ensure a professionally-run tournament.

The Colorado-Wyoming District Optimist Junior Golf Program is totally self-funded. We sent 60 junior golfers to THE 2021 OPTIMIST and raised over \$ 45,000 for that purpose. We were able to \$1000 to each of the seven age group winners and \$500 to the 53 other qualifiers from the 2021 District events.

We were able to give \$ 1,000 to each of the seven age group winners and \$ 500 to the 53 other qualifiers from the 2021 District qualifying events.

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

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

We also have a GOFUNDME page at <https://www.gofundme.com/cowy-district-optimist-jr-golf>.

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