

2023 Optimist Junior World Rules

Spectator Policy

All parents have the right to watch their child participate. However, in order to maintain this ability, certain guidelines must be followed. All spectators must adhere to this policy, understanding that any breach will result in removal from the golf course and possibly being banned from future events. As a spectator at the golf course you are just that—a spectator. You are not an active participant in the day's events.

Spectators are encouraged to walk one shot ahead of the group they are watching in order to forecaddie (or spot) for golf balls. This also eliminates the temptation of talking to a junior golfer during his or her round.

General: Where provided, spectators **MUST** stay on the cart path or in the rough. The only two exceptions to this are:

- To help search for a golf ball
- If view of the putting green is obstructed from cart path In each of these circumstances, spectators must return to the cart path as soon as the ball is located or the group has putted out, respectively.

Communication

- Encouragement is always allowed. Anything that could possibly be construed as advice is not allowed. The USGA defines advice as “any verbal comment or action that is intended to influence you or another player in choosing a club, making a stroke, or deciding how to play during a hole or round.”
- You should not walk beside a junior golfer and talk. Spectators may provide players with drinks, towels, umbrellas, food or other items not deemed equipment during a stipulated round. However, spectators must deliver the item to the player without providing advice or guidance.

Rulings

- Spectators are NOT to give rulings on the golf course. If a player cannot locate a PS staff member or rules official on hand call the pro shop via cell phone and ask your question via speaker mode so all can hear. Incorrect rulings given by parents will not be remedied in the scoring area, as players are ultimately responsible for knowing the rules.
- Please remember it is the responsibility of the players, not the parents or spectators to verify scorecards. Parents are not allowed in the scoring area. If players have difficulty confronting fellow competitors directly, the player must talk to a rules official or tournament director prior to signing scorecards.
- Players may not talk with parents regarding rulings or scores until AFTER scorecards are turned into officials. Changes will not be made to scorecards or rulings once a player has left the scoring area.

Golf Carts

- Spectators may rent carts to watch juniors play.
- Carts will be rented out by the Pro Shop on a first come, first serve basis.
- Spectators with carts are to keep carts out of the way of players. Carts are to remain on cart paths when available. If cart paths are not available carts are to remain in the rough.
- Spectators in carts are encouraged to be one shot ahead of the group they are watching in order to forecaddie (or spot) for golf balls. Carts are not to follow behind players down the fairways, as it slows down play for the group behind. Spectators that continue to follow players down the fairway will be asked to move carts to the cart path or rough. If spectators continue to remain in the fairway after being asked to move the cart. They will be asked to return to the pro shop.

2023 Optimist Junior World Rules

Disputes and Disruptions

- If you have an issue with another spectator, please inform a PS staff member. DO NOT attempt to solve the issue on your own.
- Yelling at or discouraging a junior golfer, including your own child, will not be tolerated at any event. Insulting, intimidating, or communicating with any junior golfer in a destructive manner will result in immediate removal from the golf course.

Cell Phones

- Spectators may carry cell phones so long as they are on silent or vibrate.
- Spectators who misuse cell phones will be asked to leave the course

Volunteers and Staff

- Disrespect to tournament officials, volunteers and other players will not be tolerated.
- Obscene, abusive or vulgar language will not be tolerated.
- Spectators interfering with discussions on rulings and scores will not be permitted.

Parental or spectator interference may result in removal of spectating privileges. Warnings will not be issued. This policy has been adopted to protect the players. Any continued non-compliance with these policies will result in being asked to leave the course and possibly a loss of future spectating privileges.

Rules Committee

Brett Williams
Head Golf Professional

Braxton Miller
Assistant Golf Professional