

It is with heavy hearts that Optimist International announces the cancellation of several upcoming events. These decisions were made in response to the global COVID-19 pandemic, and are to protect the health of our Members, Friends and Competitors as well as our Staff and Leadership.

As an organization with a strong health-related mission, we cannot put the wellbeing of our members in harm's way. Many of our members fall into high-risk categories outlined by the World Health Organization, and they could face devastating consequences by contracting this illness. The health and safety of our members remains our top priority. In addition, we are a global organization, with both members and competitors hailing from all over the world. With many countries imposing restrictions on travel and gatherings, and the uncertainty of when these restrictions will be lifted, we are unable to host international events at this time.

Please read on for specific information about each of these events.

2020 Optimist International Convention in Chicagoland

The cancellation of our International Convention on June 28-July 1 is unprecedented, however, we believe this is the right decision for our members, friends, staff and other participants. This decision also cancels the Junior Optimist International Convention that was to run concurrently with the OI convention.

We will offer a refund on any registration fees, and look forward to seeing you in Atlanta in 2021.

For more information, contact convention@optimist.org.

2020 Junior Optimist Golf Championships

The Junior Optimist Golf Championships from July 6-26 in Miami will not take place and will not be rescheduled this year. The October Junior Tour Event in Colorado and the November Optimist Tournament of Champions are still scheduled, and we look forward to those competitions. Optimist Junior Golf will resume its regular season in 2021 held at Trump National Doral.

For more information, contact golf@optimist.org or call 800-500-8130, ext. 207.

2020 Optimist Oratorical World Championships

The 2020 Optimist Oratorical World Championships will not take place in St. Louis as scheduled. We are evaluating the possibility of a fully online competition held with the use of teleconferencing services. We will keep our Oratorical chairs and contestants informed of developments in this regard.

For more information, contact programs@optimist.org or call 800-500-8130, ext. 218.

As for local Optimist Club events, we continue to advise following rules and recommendations of applicable health departments and agencies when scheduling events and meetings.