



PALM BEACH  
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# GAME ON!



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## Sponsors



## USA WATER SKI NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS COMING TO PALM BEACH COUNTY

Palm Beach County will be the epicenter for the sport of waterskiing this summer. USA Water Ski will bring its National Championships to the lakes in Okechee Park on August 13-18, 2012. The USA National Water Ski Championships, which is the world's largest water ski event, is a traditional three-event competition (slalom, tricks, and jumping). The event attracts 700 adult participants and over 200 youth participants, traveling from across the country. The Nationals consist of both men and women divisions with 24 age groups, featuring competitors that range from 6 years of age and under to over 80 years.



The American Water Ski Association, one of nine sport discipline organizations of USA Water Ski, approved the bid to bring the Nationals to Palm Beach County for 2012 and 2013 at its mid-winter Board of Directors' meeting on Jan. 29, 2011. The bid approval also includes an option for the Ski Club of The Palm Beaches to host the 2013 Nationals. "It is always exciting to watch the best water ski athletes in the nation compete at a world-class facility such as Okechee Park," said Gene Davis, president of the American Water Ski Association. "The Ski Club of The Palm Beaches always provides a great venue and atmosphere for the competitors and their families."

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is working with the Ski Club of the Palm Beaches to host the 70th Nationals. USA Water Ski is comprised of more than 600 member clubs throughout the nation. The Ski Club of the Palm Beaches is one of the most active and productive clubs in the country. The Ski Club of the Palm Beaches works with Palm Beach County Parks and Recreation to maintain the skiing facilities at Okechee Park. This dedication has played a vital role in Palm Beach County becoming a premier destination for competitive water skiers. USA Water Ski has brought the Nationals to Palm Beach County six previous times (1995, 1997, 1998, 2005, 2008 and 2009).

Advancement to the Water Ski National Championship is primarily earned through placement on the national rankings list.



Athletes can also qualify for the Nationals by placing in the top-five at Regionals or by placing in the top-five at the previous year's Nationals. The 2011 USA Water Ski National Championships took place at Waters Edge Estates in Wilmington, Ill. The first national championship was held in 1939

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## USA WATER SKI NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS COMING TO PALM BEACH COUNTY (CONTINUED)

at Jones Beach in Long Island, N.Y. Except for three years during World War II (1942-1944), the Nationals have been held every year since 1939.

Okecheelee Park, a 900-acre county park in central Palm Beach County, is home to one of the nation's premier waterskiing facility. Its waters have been a haven for both professional and amateur skiers for over twenty years. There are five freshwater ski lakes custom-designed for competition waterskiing, one of which is even lighted for night-time use. Four of the five lakes feature slalom courses, while one lake provides a jump ramp and is dedicated to jumping and wakeboarding. The lakes at Okecheelee are a virtual breeding ground for competitive water skiers. Dozens of regional, national, and even world champions and record holders train or have trained at Okecheelee on a permanent or intermittent basis.



In addition to the thrills and excitement that will be generated by this extreme sport, the USA National Water Ski Championships will bring tremendous economic benefits to the local community. The event is expecting to generate over 1,500

hotel room nights and \$1 million in economic impact, solidifying Palm Beach County's position as an elite sports destination.

For more information on the USA National Water Ski Championships, visit [www.usawaterski.org](http://www.usawaterski.org). For more information on the Ski Club of The Palm Beaches, visit [www.okeeski.com](http://www.okeeski.com).



## OVER 5,000 CHILDREN EXPECTED TO ATTEND THE KIDS FITNESS FESTIVAL OF THE PALM BEACHES



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission will host the 18th annual Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches, presented by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida,

at the Palm Beach County Convention Center on Wednesday, July 11 and Thursday, July 12. Over 5,000 of South Florida's youth, from the ages of 5 to 13, have registered to participate in the only multi-sport event to take place in Palm Beach County on an annual basis. The Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches strives to introduce and promote both mainstream sports, such as football, golf, baseball and basketball and non-traditional sports that are not commonly found in the general school system, such as badminton, fencing and boxing. The event markets and showcases many of the sport assets located in Palm Beach County.

The Palm Beach County Sports Commission partners with a variety of sports organizations, national governing bodies, sports clubs, sports facilities, professional sports franchises and constituents of the sports community to produce the one of a kind festival. Over 45 different organizations will offer introductory sports clinics that teach the necessary basic functions and fundamentals of their sport. The event will feature prominent organizations, such as the Miami Marlins, Florida Panthers, Florida Atlantic University, Miami Dolphins, Roger Dean Stadium, the United States Tennis Association, International Polo Club, American Youth Soccer Organization, USA Badminton, USA Judo, USA Powerlifting, and the Florida Rugby Union. In addition to the sports clinics, the festival will also offer a midway of interactive games, and a number of exhibitors promoting nutrition and healthy lifestyles. The 2012 Festival will return to the Palm Beach County Convention Center for the third consecutive year.

The Kids Fitness Festival of the Palm Beaches is presented by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida. The event would not be possible without their contributions and dedication over the years. Since 2003, the event has exposed over 35,000 youth to the world of sports. These numbers could not be reached without the efforts of the Ronald McDonald House Charities of South Florida. "Encouraging kids to lead active, balanced lives is an important mission – and a commitment that RMHC and McDonald's share with parents and the Palm Beach Sports Commission," said Ricky Wade, RMHC board member and McDonald's owner operator. Other supporting sponsors include Prime Time Palm Beach County, Duffy's, Roger Dean Stadium, and ESPN 760.

## THE OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL JUNIOR GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS RETURN TO PGA NATIONAL

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships will return to PGA National Resort & Spa in Palm Beach Gardens on July 19-29, 2012. This is one of the largest and most prestigious junior golf tournaments in the world, which features boys and girls competing in age groups ranging from 10-18 years of age.



Optimist-sponsored golf tournaments have served as a springboard for many of golf's greatest players. Phil Mickelson, Ernie Els, Davis Love III, Tiger Woods, Michelle McGann and Nancy Lopez are just a few of today's elite players who found their humble beginnings with the Optimists. No other junior golf tournament quite compares to that of the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships, which focuses on fair competition and cultural understanding among youth. This unique tournament offers as broad a field and expanded age groups as any other in its class.

This world-class event originated in 1968 when three leaders of the San Diego County Junior Golf Association—Norrie West, Mrs. A.S. Smith and John Brown—carried out an idea of Brown's by forming Junior World Golf. "I just thought it would be a great thing if young people throughout the world could meet each other and play with each other in an international junior golf tournament," Brown said. During its inaugural year, Junior World drew entries from six foreign nations: Pakistan, Canada, Mexico, Thailand, Portugal and the Philippines. In all, 475 golfers came from 20 states and seven nations. Then, in 1978, through the action of Dudley Williams, a lifelong San Diego resident and soon-to-be President of Optimist International, the Optimists became a sponsor of the event, thus creating "Optimist Junior World." Through this partnership, Optimist International began holding qualifying tournaments for 15 to 17 year-olds across the United States and Canada. As a result, 55 tournaments drew more than 3,500 entrants.



In an effort to expand the tournament, Optimist International moved the event to South Florida's Doral Country Club in 1995 and renamed the event the Optimist International Junior Golf Championships. The plan proved so successful that after only one year, the event moved again to a more suitable location at the PGA National Resort & Spa.

The Optimist International Junior Golf Championships continues to be one of the most recognizable

junior tournaments in the world with more than 5,000 golfers, ages 10-18, participating in qualifying tournaments for this event each year. In 1999, THE OPTIMIST expanded into a two-tournament format to accommodate the increasing number of participants. Annually, more than 620 of the best junior golfers, representing more than 30 nations, 50 states and six Canadian provinces, converge for a week of unsurpassed competition, fellowship and fun.



In addition to providing a forum for some of the most talented junior golfers to showcase their skills, the event also creates significant

economic benefits for Palm Beach County. The 2012 Optimist International Junior Golf Championships is expected to generate over \$800,000 of total economic impact for Palm Beach County in addition to 3,000 room nights for the PGA National Resort & Spa. There is no other junior golf tournament in the world that stimulates

bed tax revenues and direct spending over a ten day stretch, such as the Optimist's premier event. For more information, visit [www.optimist.org](http://www.optimist.org).



## DELRAY BEACH TO HOST MAJOR AMATEUR TENNIS TOURNAMENT



The Palm Beach County Sports Commission is supporting Player's International Management, Inc. and their efforts to

which are the highest ranked playes in the United States competing in singles and doubles competition. This year will represent the 6th consecutive year that this prestigious event has taken place in Delray Beach, after relocating from Washington D.C. The event will include a College Expo, attracting more than 100 NCAA collegiate coaches. The Expo provides a great opportunity for collegiate tennis programs to recruit the most talented high school players in the nation. More than \$1 million in economic impact and over 1,000 hotel rooms nights will be created from the influx of tennis players and coaches that will be visiting Palm Beach County in July.

produce the United States Tennis Association (USTA) Boys 16's & 18's National Clay Court Championships. This tournament will take place from July 14-22, 2012 at the Delray Beach Tennis Center. The draw consists of 192 participants per age groups (384 total),

## CORPORATE SPONSORS



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