



**APPLICATION FOR 2020-2021 OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL CARIBBEAN DISTRICT  
“IGNITING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET” PITCH COMPETITION**



Name (Individual  / Group  ) ✓SELECT ONE

.....

Address.....

City .....

State/Province/Country.....

Zip/Postal Code:.....

Telephone ( ).....

Email.....

Date of Birth: ..... Age.....

**Contestant Agreement:**

I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.

Contestant’s Signature:.....

Date .....

Sponsoring Optimist Club’s Number:.....

Sponsoring Optimist Club’s Name:.....

.....

Parent or Guardian Permission:

(for participants under 16 years old)

I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this competition

Signature:.....

Date / /.....

Relationship:.....

I,.....  
grant the Optimist Club/Optimist International Caribbean District my permission to use a picture/video of my son/daughter/ward for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International Caribbean District may use the photo/video in any publication they see fit.

For more information

Contact:.....

Telephone:.....

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/qND91Pb8dT13Vv7r7>

**SPECIAL NOTES**

**a) Timelines for contest**

**Club** : By April 30, 2021; **Zone** : By June 30, 2021; **District** : By August 31, 2021.

Specific dates for Zone & District will be supplied at a later date.

**b) For copyright purposes contestants are encouraged to mail (through the postal service) a copy of their pitch document in a self-addressed envelope. DO NOT OPEN WHEN IT IS RETURNED!!**

**PLEASE TURN OVER**

**THEME:**  
**IGNITING THE ENTREPRENEURIAL MINDSET**

**Contestants will pitch a business proposal that improves on an existing idea or is an original idea**

**OFFICIAL RULES**

**Section I — General Rules**

1. The Optimist International Caribbean District Igniting the Entrepreneurial Mindset Pitch competition will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level and end at the District level.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club.
3. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
4. Participants may present their proposals individually or as a group.
5. The District level contest shall have no fewer than 3 or more than 15 contestants competing.
6. The Optimist International Caribbean District has the right to record any presentation used in any contest without payment to the presenter.

**Section II — Qualifications for Contestants**

1. The contest is open to contestants under the age of **23** as of October 1, 2021. There is no minimum age. An entry may consist of a single participant or a group of participants, not exceeding 5 persons.
2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in any other Optimist contest during a contest year.
3. Each entrant shall prepare their own proposal. Entrants may receive advice in the preparation of the proposal and may make minor changes or improvements to the proposal at any time during the different levels of the contest.
4. All participants at each level of the contest must show proof of age before competing. Optimist Clubs may require a copy of birth certificate or passport. Zone winners must provide a copy of the birth certificate or passport with District entry documentation.

5. An executive summary or summary of the written proposal must be furnished at least one week before the presentation.

**Section III — Contest Rules**

1. All entrants must pitch an innovative business proposal that improves on an existing idea, or is an original idea.
2. The presentation must be delivered in English. Contestants will pitch their business idea to a panel of judges selected by Optimist International Caribbean District.
3. The time allowed will be maximum 15 minutes. Contestants will be stopped at the end of 15 minutes. The presentation will be followed by a 5 minutes question and answer session from the panelists. Timing will begin with the first spoken word after the introductions/salutations.
4. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, is allowed.
5. Prototypes of products or process models in the case of a service is expected during the pitching of the idea.
6. No reference can be made that identifies the contestant, parents, school, and community, sponsoring Optimist Club or Zone. This will result in a deduction of up to 5 points. Entrants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last presenter has presented and the judges and timekeeper have started deliberations.
7. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted under any circumstances.
8. The Contest Chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized. In the case of Club contests, the Club

Contest Chair has this authority. In the case of Zone and District contests, the final authority is vested in the District Contest Chair. The Zone Chair has the authority to handle protests that may arise during the Zone competition with the District Chair having the final authority.

**Section IV — Scoring**

Scoring in all Club, Zone and District contests will conform to the following criteria:

- ✓ Ability to explain the business idea- clearly and logically— 20pts
- ✓ Ability to convince panel of the potential of the idea -20pts
- ✓ Ability to maintain panels interest—10pts
- ✓ Ability to understand and respond to questions—10pts
- ✓ (Quality of presentation material) Best Virtual Booth – 10
- ✓ Most Innovative Product – 20
- ✓ POISE and confidence---10 pts

**Section V — Prizes**

Optimist International Caribbean District Igniting the Entrepreneurial Mindset competition prizes will be as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> place : Seed Capital – cash of US \$1,500,
- 2<sup>nd</sup> place : Seed Capital – cash of US \$1,000
- 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Seed Capital – cash of US \$500.

A. Each District entrant of the Optimist International Caribbean District Igniting the Entrepreneurial Mindset competition will receive a prize outside of the cash prizes.

B. Winners will also benefit from mentorship/coaching.

**N.B. Clubs and Zones will be responsible for the prizes they offer for their entrants.**