

**Mervue Optimist October League
Royal Cork Yacht Club
05th, 12th, 19th and 26th October 2025**

Sailing Instructions

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the Sailing Instructions (SIs) means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

The notation '[DP]' in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee, be less than disqualification.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 RRS Race Signal AP, A5.1, A5.2, 33, 60.1(a), 60.1(b), 61.1, 63.7, Appendix P2, and Appendix T1(a) will be changed. The changes appear in full in the NoR or these sailing instructions.
- 1.3 The class rules of the International Optimist Dinghy Association will apply.

2 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted no later than one hour before the start of the first race on the morning it will take effect.

3 COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices will be posted on the window of the RCYC Dinghy Centre.

4 CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with all requests from race officials.
- 4.2 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.
- 4.3 All Irish Sailing and RCYC obligations regarding sportsmanship and good conduct must be adhered to.

5 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be on the RCYC flag staff.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in Race Signals AP. This changes Race Signal AP.
- 5.3 [DP] Boats shall not leave the shore until the beachmaster has advised.

6 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 The schedule of races is set out in the Regatta NOR.
- 6.2 It is planned to sail 3 races each day.
- 6.3 Up to 4 races may be sailed on any day if behind schedule. The fleet will launch at or after 1345hrs (immediately following a race briefing), with the first warning signal no earlier than 1430hrs.
- 6.4 An additional day may be scheduled if the schedule is impacted by inclement weather, only if the series has not been completed.
- 6.5 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting flag may be displayed with one sound at least five minutes before a warning signal is made.

7 CLASS DIVISIONS AND FLAGS

- 7.1 Boats will be divided into three divisions:
 - Senior Division: Sailors aged twelve to fourteen on 1st January of the year of the regatta.
 - Junior Division: Sailors aged under twelve on 1st January of the year of the regatta.
 - Regatta Division: Sailors new to the sport of sailing or who may still need assistance on the water while racing.
- 7.2 Within each division there will be a further split into Gold, Silver and Bronze where possible.
- 7.3 The IODAI rankings will be used where possible. Where fleets sizes are disproportionate or unbalanced, the Race Committee will allocate a fleet assignment based on fleet size and using a sailors IODAI ranking as a guide.
- 7.4 Sailors may be added to a fleet above their IODAI ranking if required to ensure a balance is achieved.
- 7.5 Regatta will sail as one fleet. All regatta fleet sailors must be competent and capable of sailing a triangular course (with approximately 250m legs) in moderate winds.
- 7.6 It is the race committee's intention to have an all-in start for Main fleet (Senior and Junior) and a separate start for Regatta Fleet. A change in this regard to provide an all-in start may be decided on the water and signaled to the competitors.
- 7.7 All boats shall display fleet identification ribbons which may be provided at registration.
- 7.8 Main fleet (Senior and Junior) will be sailed using Flag O and Regatta will be sailed with Flag R.

8 RACING AREA

- 8.1 The racing area will be on the Curlane Bank. Race areas may be described at the competitors' briefing.

9 COURSES

- 9.1 The diagram in Attachment A shows the course, including the approximate angles

between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

- 9.2 The courses will be decided on the day by the race officer and will be displayed on the committee boat on a blackboard.

10 MARKS AND COMMITTEE BOAT [NP]-

- 10.1 "Nemo" shall act as Committee Boat for all fleets. Any changes to this will be notified at the competitors' briefing and not require an amendment to these SIs.
- 10.2 Marks will be described at the competitors' briefing but will likely be orange/pink spherical buoys.
- 10.3 The starting line will be between the red/white staff on the start vessel and a pin end mark on the port side. The pin end mark will likely be a white spherical buoy.

11 OBSTRUCTIONS

- 11.1 Official boats, including a safety boat in close attendance to a craft or competitor in difficulty, are designated as an obstruction.
- 11.2 Other obstructions may be set out at the briefing.

12 THE START

- 12.1 The starting line will be between a red & white pole on the Committee Boat and an Outer Distance Mark (ODM).

13 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 13.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position.
- 13.2 Minor course changes might not be signaled. This changes RRS 33.

14 THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line will be between the red & white pole on the Committee Boat flying a blue flag and a finishing mark.

15 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 15.1 RRS Appendix P will apply except that RRS P2.3 does not apply and RRS P2.2 is changed so that it applies to any penalty after the first one.
- 15.2 RRS Appendix T will apply. If a party is not present at an arbitration meeting, any party that was present may take a Post-Race Penalty at any time until the Protest Committee has completed taking evidence. This changes RRS T1 (a).
- 15.3 [NP][DP] A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under RRS 44.1 shall complete an acknowledgement form at the Race office within the protest time limit.

16 TIME LIMITS

- 16.1 The Race Time Limit is 80 minutes.

- 16.2 The Race Committee may signal that a race has been abandoned for divisions and fleets by displaying flag N and a numeral pennant as set out in SI7.5.
- 16.4 The race committee may also award a race score to a boat that is still racing by displaying to them from a committee vessel (which may be in motion) flag W with one sound signal. A boat so notified is no longer required to sail the course, shall stop racing and shall return to the starting area, or return ashore if there is no more racing. A race score under this sailing instruction will be the score they would have received had they sailed the course and finished within any time limit, without gaining or losing any place. However, when two or more boats that are overlapped are notified, they will be scored as if they were tied. The decision by the race committee to use this procedure or not to use it shall not be grounds for requesting redress. This changes rules 60.1(b) and 62.1(a).

17 PROTEST AND HEARING REQUESTS

- 17.1 Boats intending to protest or request redress, for an incident on the racecourse, shall inform the Race Committee finishing vessel at the finish line immediately upon finishing the race, and receive acknowledgement, or if they do not finish, inform either a Jury vessel or a safety vessel as soon as practicable after they retire. This changes RRS 61.1.
- 17.2 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after all boats have tallied in or the race committee has accounted for any boats not tallied in, or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official notice board.
- 17.3 Hearing request forms are available from the race office.
- 17.4 Notices will be posted no later than 15 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Arbitration meetings and protest hearings may begin without a notice and within the protest time limit with the agreement of all parties. Hearings will be held in the protest room, as specified in the SSIs, beginning at the time posted.
- 17.5 A list of boats that have been penalised for breaking RRS 42 under Appendix P will be posted.

18 SCORING

- 18.1 4 races shall constitute a series.
- 18.2 1 discard shall be applied when the 4th race has been completed. 2 discards shall be applied when the 7th race has been completed and 3 discards shall be applied when the 10th race has been completed.
- 18.3 To request correction of an alleged error in posted race or series results, a boat shall complete a scoring enquiry form available at the race office.
- 18.4 In adverse weather conditions, the race officer may decide to stand down certain groups of sailors using the signals set out in NOR7.5. Sailors who have been stood down in this manner shall be awarded average points for those races in the series. The application of this procedure shall not be grounds for redress.

19 ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

- 19.1 In adverse weather conditions, the race officer may decide to stand down certain groups of sailors. The order of stand down will be Regatta, Junior Silver, Senior Silver, Junior Gold and Senior Gold. Sailors who have been stood down shall be awarded average points for each race affected in accordance with RRS A.10(a). The application of this procedure shall not be grounds for redress.

20 [DP][NP] SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 20.1 Each Competitor shall wear a personal flotation device of at least CE50 Newtons standard, or equivalent, at all times when afloat except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. This changes rule 40. Flag Y will not be displayed.
- 20.2 Boats and competitors shall comply with all reasonable instructions from safety boat crew.
- 20.3 Boats shall not launch without approval from the Beachmaster.
- 20.4 A boat that retires from racing shall notify a safety boat before leaving the race area, or if that is not possible, shall notify the race office as soon as possible after returning ashore.
- 20.5 Boats wishing to leave their racecourse area before the end of the day's racing shall not do so unless authorised by a safety boat. The safety boat will instruct boats in the procedure for returning ashore.
- 20.6 Optimists shall be equipped with two bailers, a paddle, painter.
- 20.7 Sailors must have a whistle
- 20.8 Dagger boards must be secured.
- 20.9 Sailors that are not properly attired for the conditions may be restricted from going afloat.

21 REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT

- 21.1 [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised in writing by the Race Committee.
- 21.2 Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

22 [DP] EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 22.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.
- 22.2 When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

22.3

23 [NP][DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

- 23.1 Competitors shall not approach any vessel other than an official vessel or a registered support person vessel from their first warning signal of the day until they finish their last race for the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.
- 23.2 Support vessels, that are not working as part of the race day committee and safety teams must observe a 150M exclusion from the course and not interfere with proceedings.
- 23.3 Any support team vessel and their crew must on request of the race committee support

sailors in need of assistance.

24 RADIO COMMUNICATION

- 24.1 [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 24.2 The RO will notify the race committee of the safety and race control VHF channel at the time of launching.

25 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 25.1 Royal Cork Yacht Club aims to minimize the environmental impact if hosting regattas and in conjunction with the club's sustainability actions and encourage competitors and visitors to bring reusable water bottles. Bottles can be filled at rehydration stations.

26 BOAT STORAGE

- 26.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.
- 26.2 Optimists are permitted to keep their boat in the RCYC for the duration of the event but must maintain appropriate insurance as per RCYC club policies.

29 PRIZES

- 29.1 Prizes will be given as set out in the NOR.
- 29.2 Addition prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the race committee based on final fleet sizes etc.

30 RISK STATEMENT

- 30.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is his/hers alone.'

Sailing is, by its nature, an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees to and acknowledges the risk statement as included in the Notice of Race.

31 INSURANCE

- 31.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with an adequate cover per incident or the equivalent.

32 PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT

- 32.1 By entering the Event competitors and where relevant their parents/guardians accept that they may be photographed and/or videotaped participating in the racing and/or using the Championship facilities and they consent to the taking of such images and to the use, reuse, publication and republication of such images in any media, in conjunction with the competitor's name or not, without compensation and without the competitor's approval of such images or any use thereof.

● M1

● M2

v1.0