

2026 Early Summer Championship

30th and 31st May 2026

Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy

Notice of Race

The Organising Authority (OA) is the International Optimist Class Association (UK) in conjunction with **WPNSA – Osprey Quay, Portland, DT5 1SA**

*The **Main Fleet** is intended for experienced racers able to be reasonably self-sufficient for several hours afloat at a time. More details on the fleets are available on the Class website, under the racing tab [Class website](#).*

*The **Racing Regatta Fleet** is intended to provide a full, competitive, race experience for developing sailors proportionate to their experience and capabilities, without the physical demands of the Main Fleet.*

*The **Racing Regatta Fleet** will sail in their own race area, with the aim of completing a greater number of shorter races than Main Fleet.*

*The **Coached Regatta Fleet** is intended for younger, less experienced sailors, generally in their first year of travelling to events. Sessions afloat will be shorter than other fleets and support will be provided.*

*The **Coached Regatta Fleet** will participate in a mixture of coaching activities and racing depending on the ability of the sailors and the conditions. The sailors may return to shore for lunch.*

A competitor who has achieved two top 5 results in previous events is not eligible for the Coached Regatta Fleet.

[NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.

[SP] denotes a rule for which a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee or Technical Committee without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty applied by the Protest Committee at a hearing.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 IOCA (UK) implements the [RYA Racing Charter](#) and competitors will be expected to sail in compliance with it.
- 1.3 RRS 63.5(c) is changed so that in the event of a conflict between this Notice of Race (NoR) and the 2026 IOCA (UK) Major Event Sailing Instructions (MESI), the MESI shall prevail. In the event of a conflict between the NoR or the MESI and the Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSI), the SSI will prevail.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The 2026 IOCA Major Event Sailing Instructions (MESI) will apply and are available online at [Class Documents](#).
- 2.2 Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSI) will be published on the official notice board (ONB) by 29th May 2026.

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board (ONB).

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Entry is open to all boats of the International Optimist Class.
- 4.2 Competitors shall be members of IOCA (UK) or an equivalent National Optimist organisation.
- 4.3 Entry shall be made via [Sailing Club Manager](#) and the official Entry Form shall be submitted with the declaration of the Parent/Guardian.
- 4.4 The OA reserves the right to limit the number of entries for Racing Regatta and Coached Regatta Fleets. Once confirmed entries reach entry limits, any subsequent entries will be placed on a waiting list.
- 4.5 In line with the standard IOCA conditions of entry, entries will only be confirmed once the entry fee has been paid. While the entry fee remains unpaid that entry will remain on the waiting list.
- 4.6 All promotions from waiting list to confirmed entries will depend on payment of entry fees and available space at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority.
- 4.7 The closing date for entries is Monday 25th May 2026 at 23.59 hrs.
- 4.8 Late entries may be accepted, at the sole discretion of the OA and will be subject to an additional late entry surcharge.
- 4.9 Entries will only be accepted from competitors aged 8 or older on the 31st December 2026. Younger competitors may apply to compete; however, the OA has absolute discretion to accept or refuse such an entry.
- 4.10 For entries withdrawn before the closing date, 80% of the fee will be refunded otherwise, there will be no refunds.
- 4.11 Competitors shall complete the online Equipment Declaration at <https://forms.gle/dGJWWYqhv22815rg9> before the end of registration.

5 FEES

- 5.1 The entry fee is £77 per boat and shall be paid via Sailing Club Manager.
- 5.2 The late entry surcharge is 20% of the entry fee (Total £92.40) and shall be paid via Sailing Club Manager.

6 [DP] ADVERTISING

- 6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.

7 FORMAT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

Main Fleet

- 7.1 [NP][SP] The Main Fleet may be divided into flights, the details of which will be displayed on the ONB and at registration.

Regatta Fleets

- 7.2 The Regatta Fleets will race separately.

8 SCHEDULE

- 8.1 Up to 9 races are scheduled for the Main Fleet and up to 12 races for the Racing Regatta Fleet. The OA can change the number of races if weather or other conditions dictate. The schedule of races for the Coached Regatta Fleet will vary depending on the ability of the sailors and the conditions.
- 8.2 Unless stated otherwise in the SSI, the daily schedule will be:

	Saturday	Sunday
Registration	08:30 – 09:30	
Competitors' Briefing	09:30	
First Warning Signal, not before	10:25	09:55
Maximum number of races scheduled (Main Fleet)	5	5
Number of races scheduled (Racing Regatta Fleet)	6	6
Last Permitted Warning Signal		15:00
Prize Giving		After Racing

- 8.3 On the last day of racing there will be no warning signal after 15:00. However, in the event main fleet is flighted, if the first start group has started, the warning signal of the second start group may be made after 15:00 but not later than 20 minutes after the first start. If the second start group fails to start in this time, the race for the first start group will be abandoned.

9 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION [SP]

- 9.1 Equipment inspection checks may be carried out ashore and, on the water, at the discretion of the race committee/technical committee.

10 RACE AREA

- 10.1 The location of the Race Area(s) will be Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour.

11 COURSES

- 11.1 The courses to be sailed will be as stated in the SSI and will be from those shown in MESI Attachment B.

12 PENALTIES

Main Fleet

- 12.1 Appendix P will apply, except as changed by NoR 12.2.
12.2 RRS P2.3 is deleted and in RRS P2.2 “second” is changed to read “second or subsequent”.

Regatta Fleets

- 12.3 All rules disputes will be dealt with using RYA arbitration unless serious damage or injury has resulted.

13 SCORING

- 13.1 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
13.2 When 3 races or fewer have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores.
13.3 When 4 or more races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
13.4 When 9 or more races have been completed, a boat’s series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her 2 worst scores.
13.5 When the fleet is divided into flights RRS Appendix A5.2 is changed so that a boat that did not start, did not finish, retired or was disqualified shall be scored points equal to one more than the number of boats entered in the largest group.

14 [NP][DP]SUPPORT VESSELS AND SUPPORT PERSONS

- 14.1 All support vessels will register with the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy by completing an online Event Support Boat Registration Form at <https://www.wpnsa.org.uk/event/event-support-boat-registration-form/> On arrival Support Persons shall report to the WPNSA Reception, before launching, to register and pay the fee of £15 per day (card payments only).
- 14.2 RRS 37 will be used. Except when responding to the signal in RRS 37, support boats, coaches and other support persons shall stay at least 100 metres outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start on that course until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.
- 14.3 During the event, support boats shall not tow boats participating in the event unless the race committee have signalled that towing is allowed.
- 14.4 In order to prevent fuel spillage, refuelling of boats/tanks is not permitted on the pontoons at WPNSA. Boats may refuel at the Portland Marina fuel pontoon or removable tanks may be taken offsite to be refuelled at a service station.
- 14.5 Kill cords shall be worn at all times whilst engines are running. The Course Safety Leader will be looking out for compliance on this issue, there are no excuses and boats will be requested to leave the race area immediately if kill cords are not being used appropriately.
- 14.6 All Support Boat driver shall attend the Safety Boat Briefing, which will be notified by email once registration is received.

15 CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

- 15.1 RRS G3 applies. A boat chartered or loaned for the event may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of her class rules, provided that the race committee has approved her sail identification before the first race.

16 BERTHING [NP][DP]

- 16.1 Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while they are in the boat park.

17 DRONES [NP][DP]

- 17.1 Coaches, support persons or their representatives, shall not fly drones over the boat park or race area without complying with local legislation and without prior written

approval by the Organising Authority. Any approval granted by the Organising Authority may impose limitations on where and when drones may fly.

- 17.2 At any time, the risk and responsibility for flying any drone is with the person flying the drone and images made inside the race area shall be shared with the Organising Authority, Race Committee, Jury, or competitors upon reasonable request.

18 DATA PROTECTION

- 18.1 The personal information you provide to the organising authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, Sailing Club Manager and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published. Your personal information will be stored and published in accordance with IOCA(UK)'s [Privacy Policy](#)
- 18.2 Still or video photography may be used as part of the Race Management processes for the event. These images will only be used for Race Management purposes and will not be published.

19 RISK STATEMENT

- 19.1 RRS 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone".
- 19.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:
- 19.2.1 They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
 - 19.2.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - 19.2.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
 - 19.2.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - 19.2.5 The provision of a race management team, patrol vessels, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - 19.2.6 The provision of patrol vessel cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;

19.2.7 It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any competitors briefing held at the venue.

20 INSURANCE

- 20.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with adequate minimum cover per incident.
- 20.2 The Organising Authority is not responsible for verifying the status or validity of a boat's insurance.

21 PRIZES

21.1 Main Fleet Prizes will be awarded as follows:

Fleet Size	Prizes awarded to
Fewer than 60 sailors	1st, 2nd and 3rd overall, and 1st boy or girl if not placed 1-3.
60 or more sailors	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th overall, and 1st boy or girl if not placed 1-5.
Any	First Optimist aged 9 Years Old, First Optimist aged 10 Years Old and First Optimist aged 11 Years Old.

Perpetual trophies will be awarded as detailed on the Class website.

The Organising Authority may award additional prizes at its discretion.

21.2 Racing Regatta Fleet and Coached Regatta Fleet prizes will be awarded as follows:

Fleet Size	Prizes awarded to
Fewer than 60 sailors	1st, 2nd and 3rd overall, and 1st boy or girl if not placed 1-3.
60 or more sailors	1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th overall, and 1st boy or girl if not placed 1-5.

Any (For Racing Regatta Fleet only).	Fair Sailing Award and Most Improved Award.
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Perpetual trophies will be awarded as detailed on the Class website.

The Organising Authority may award additional prizes at its discretion.

22 FURTHER INFORMATION

22.1 For further information please contact admin@optimist.org.uk