



Sailors Under 8 at the Nationals

We have had several younger sailors who have taken part in Regatta Fleet at the Nationals in recent years. They have learned an enormous amount during the week, made some great friends, and had a fantastic time. We would like to continue to welcome younger sailors, and hope that you find this a useful guide to deciding whether your sailor is ready to come and join us.

Standard Entry

The standard entry age for optimist sailors into Regatta Fleet at the Nationals, is Optimist Age 8, or above. All sailors are expected to have achieved IOCA grade 3 (see end of this document for details).

What's a sailor's Optimist age?

The sailor's Optimist age is the age they will be on 31st December of this year.

Younger Sailors

Younger sailors are welcome to apply, if they are really keen and can meet the following requirements:

- they have achieved IOCA grade 3 (although we recognise that they may not be able to right the boat after a capsize on their own)
- they are capable of listening to their Coach's instructions and following them
- they are mature enough to cope with 5 full days of activities
- they are used to being out on the water without their parents or usual coach there to support them.

If they are not particular interested in sailing, or don't enjoy a challenge, but you are hoping for a solution to keep them occupied for the week, then this is not the right option for you, or your sailor.

Sailors who are Oppie 7

To be eligible to apply, your Flotilla Leader must confirm to us in writing that the sailor meets the requirements above, or promise that they will have done so by the Nationals. If you (the parent) are the Flotilla Leader, then you will need to find someone else who is a Flotilla Leader or an IOCA recognised Coach to confirm for you.

We use this as an independent check to make sure the sailor is capable of taking part and making the most of Regatta Fleet.

Sailors who are Oppie 6 or under

Same requirements for sailors who are Oppie 7. In addition, they must have attended at least one Regatta (not at their home Club) and completed at least one race.



**International Optimist
Class Association (UK)**



How to Apply

You cannot enter a sailor who is Oppie 7 or under via the online system. Please email your application to the Nationals Co-ordinator nationals@optimist.org.uk outlining what sailing/racing experience your sailor has. Please also ask your Flotilla Leader to email their confirmation relating to the requirements above.

Once we have received these, we will review the application. The decision on whether to accept any sailor who is Oppie 7 or under is at the discretion of the Organisers. We may not accept a sailor if we do not think that they are ready, even if independent confirmation from a Flotilla Leader is provided.

At the Event

If we accept a sailor, based on the information provided, but find at the event, that they do not meet the requirements and it is having an adverse impact on the rest of the group, we may not allow them to participate in the activities. No refunds will be available in this situation. So, please do not apply unless your sailor is really ready to make the most of what Regatta Fleet has to offer.

Further Information

The vast majority of sailors do not come to the Nationals until they are at least Oppie 8, and in some cases up to Oppie 11 or older. So, if your sailor is not ready this year, then we look forward to meeting them next year, when they will no doubt have a fantastic time.

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch.

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