

2025 British National & Open Championships

26th to 31st of July 2025

Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy

Notice of Race

The Organising Authority (OA) is the International Optimist Class Association (UK) in conjunction with Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy.

*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.

Event website: [British National & Open Championships 26 Jul - 31 Jul 2025](#)

V1.0	Original Published version
V2.0	Minor corrections to 9.2, 9.5, 14.3 and 15.4, marked in red

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The Organising Authority implements the RYA Racing Charter. Competitors shall undertake to sail in accordance with the Charter.
- 1.3. RRS 63.5(c) is changed so that in the event of a conflict between this Notice of Race (NoR) and the 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.
- 1.4. 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

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The 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 25th July 2025
- 2.3. Sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board. Individual printed copies will not be distributed, please print your own if required or view electronically to save paper.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board (ONB). The ONB will be on-line, on the event page on IOCA [OurClubAdmin](#).

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. The Championships are open to all boats of the International Optimist Class.
- 4.2. Participants shall be ordinary members of IOCA (UK) or an equivalent National Optimist organisation.
- 4.3. Entry shall be made via the IOCA (UK) Event Website, and the official Entry Form shall be submitted with the declaration of the Parent/Guardian.
- 4.4. Once confirmed entry limits are reached any subsequent entries will be placed on a waiting list. As more resources become available the entry limit may be raised (please find more details on the website).
- 4.5. In line with the standard IOCA (UK) 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. Late entries will only be accepted at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority. See NoR 5.1 for key dates.
- 4.8. Entry will be accepted only from competitors aged 8 or older on the 31st December 2025. Younger competitors may apply to compete; however, the Organising Authority has absolute discretion to accept or refuse such an entry.
- 4.9. Registration requirements are:
 - 4.9.1. Measurement certificate with a current sail button number and buoyancy endorsement
 - 4.9.2. Adequate third-party insurance of at least £3,000,000
- 4.10. Regatta Fleets
 - 4.10.1. The objective of the Racing Regatta & Coached Regatta fleets is to provide a programme of Optimist based activities, both on and off the water, including training and racing. Sailors and

parents should note that the aim is for a balance between these activities.

- 4.10.2. Sailors whose primary focus is on racing and who are capable of staying on the water all day are therefore encouraged to join the Main Championship Fleet.
- 4.10.3. The Racing Regatta fleet is intended to be for sailors with experience of regatta racing who want to race all day but who are not yet confident to join the Main Championship fleet. The emphasis will be on racing and developing racing skills. There may be some training (non-scoring) races and the sailors may return to the shore for lunch on some days.
- 4.10.4. The Coached Regatta fleet is intended for those sailors who have started to race in their clubs and/or at regional level and who want to improve their racing skills prior to entry to the Championship fleets. Generally, the fleet will be coached in the morning in groups and will race in the afternoon.
- 4.10.5. To ensure as far as possible that sailors are enrolled in the most suitable fleet the organisers may (after consultation):
- move sailors between fleets and amend the stated entry conditions in order to achieve this
 - allow sailors who do not satisfy the stated entry conditions in section 4.10 to enrol in the Racing Regatta or Coached Regatta Fleet, provided that a request (with reason) is made to the Organisers no later than the Late Entry Date and there is a good reason for doing so.

Any such decisions by the Organisers are at their sole discretion.

4.10.6. The following are criteria for the Racing Regatta and Coached Regatta fleets:

- 4.10.6.1. Capable of completing a triangular course in a moderate breeze and of capsize recovery without assistance.
- 4.10.6.2. Entries will not normally be accepted from sailors who are - or have been - a member of one of the RYA RTG's or IOCA (UK) Squads/Teams, nor any sailors who has competed in the Main Fleet of a previous IOCA (UK) Championships.
- 4.10.6.3. IOCA recommends that sailors who are (Optimist) age 12 compete in the Main Championship Fleet.
- 4.10.6.4. For Regatta Fleet, evidence of racing in a regatta fleet, ideally at a national level.
- 4.10.6.5. For Coached Regatta, evidence of racing at a club or regional level.

5. FEES

5.1. Key Dates

- Late Entry Date: 23:59 on 9th June 2025
- Closing Date: 23:59 on 7th July 2025

5.2. The fees and refund policy are as follows:

	Before Late Entry Date	Before Closing Date	After Closing Date (If accepted)
Main Fleet	£250	£275	£300
Regatta Fleet	£275	£300	£325
Coached Regatta	£300	£325	£350
Refund for Cancellation	Full fee, less £5	50%	None

- 5.3. A sibling discount, in the form of a refund, is available for families with three or more sailors across the Main and Regatta Fleet events. Entries should be completed as normal and the Sibling discounts must be applied for at the event from the race office after registration has closed and will subsequently be paid by

bank transfer. For a third sailor, the discount is £65 for that entry only. For a fourth or subsequent sailor the discount is £130 for that entry only.

6. REGATTA FLEETS – PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COACHING

- 6.1. Every sailor must have a parent or other designated adult on shore at the venue at all times, who must have provided a mobile phone number, and have their phone switched on. Sailors remain the responsibility of that adult at all times while the sailor is not on the water, up until their boat is launched, and as soon as it returns to land. This does not include during official onshore activities arranged due to adverse weather conditions.
- 6.2. Sailors will be required to provide a contact at registration. If the contact is not available on shore at all times on a particular day, an alternative adult may be designated by providing contact details to the Race Office.
- 6.3. Sailing is a weather dependent sport, and sessions may not finish at the pre-designated time. Individual sailors may return to shore at any time. Sailors who are not collected promptly will be taken to the Race Office to await collection. Parents collecting from the Race Office will be expected to make a £5 donation to a local sailing charity. Any sailor who is not collected promptly on more than one occasion without good reason may not be allowed to participate in the following day's activities. Any decision by the Organisers not to allow a sailor to take part under this section is final.
- 6.4. [DP] Sailors should note that coaching during racing will be permitted only by authorised Regatta Fleet coaches. Parents are asked not to attempt to coach their sailors while they are racing or being coached and to avoid the race course and coaching areas while activity is taking place (with the exception of parents who have volunteered to assist with safety or race management).

7. ADVERTISING

- 7.1. [DP] Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority on the front 40% of the boat.

8. FORMAT OF RACING

Main Fleet

- 8.1. **There will not be separate Junior and Senior fleets.** The Main Fleet will scored as a single fleet but may be raced in flights as described below.
- 8.2. The Championships will consist of a qualifying series and final series.
- 8.3. The fleet may be divided into flights for the qualifying series and re-flighted at the end of each day of the qualifying series. Following the qualifying series the fleet may then be divided into divisions (for example Gold, Silver and Bronze). The number of divisions will depend on the size of entry and the size of divisions within each fleet will be similar. If an equal division is not possible the gold fleet will have more sailors.
- 8.3. There will be a boys and girls Championship (see NoR 15.7 for scoring)

Regatta Fleets

- 8.4. The Regatta Fleets will race separately but may be on the same course for some of the sessions.

9. SCHEDULE

9.1. The table below gives the key timings and schedule.

9.2. No warning signal will be made after 14:00 on the final day of the Championship.

Day	Event	Location	Main Fleet	Regatta Racing	Coached Regatta
Day 0 Saturday 26 th July	Registration	Event Hall	14:00 – 17:00		
	Regatta Fleet Safety Inspection	Event Hall	n/a	14:00 – 14:50 / 16:30 – 17:00	
	Volunteer Briefing & Safety Fleet Briefing	Spinnakers	14:00		
	Opening Ceremony	Main Stage	15:00		
Day 1 Sunday 27 th	Late Registration (by prior arrangement)	Race Office	08:30 – 09:30		
	Competitors' Briefing	Main Stage	09:30	09:30	09:30
	1 st Warning Signal		11:25	11:25	As directed
	Number of Races		3 Qualifying	Any	Any
Day 2 Monday 28 th	1 st Warning Signal		10:55	10:55	As directed
	Number of Races		3 Qualifying	Any	Any
Day 3 Tuesday 29 th	Lay Period		p.m.	All Day	All Day
	1 st Warning Signal		10:55	TBA	As directed
	Number of Races		2 Qualifying	Raid Race	Sail Away
	No Warning Signal After		14:00 (see NoR 9.7)	n/a	n/a
Day 4 Wednesday 30 th	1 st Warning Signal		10:55	10:55	As directed
	Number of Races		3 Finals	Any	Any
Day 5 Thursday 31 st	1 st Warning Signal		10:55	10:55	As directed
	Number of Races		3 Finals	Any	Any
	No Warning Signal After		14:00	14:00	14:00
	Prize Giving (TBC)	Main Stage	TBC	TBC	TBC

Main Fleet

9.3. The Championship will consist of up to 14 races.

9.4. The intention is to run all races scheduled for a given day consecutively. There will not be time to go ashore between races. Competitors should be prepared to toilet afloat.

- 9.5. The intention is that there will be no more than three races a day, however, additional races may be sailed either in advance or arrears in order to complete the programme if weather or other reasons dictate. An additional race does not constitute a change to the schedule. An additional race will be signified by Flag F displayed at the finish of the preceding race. **This changes MESI 4.3.**
- 9.6. If racing is in flights, qualifying will continue until the end of racing on Day 3 unless 5 qualifying races have not been completed for all boats at that time. The qualifying series will then continue until the end of the day on which 5 qualifying races have been completed for all boats.
- 9.7. On Day 3, there will be no warning signal after 14:00 unless fewer than 5 qualifying races have been completed, in which case racing will proceed to complete up to 5 races.

Regatta Fleets

- 9.8. The event may consist of any number of races for either Racing Regatta or Coached Regatta Fleets.
- 9.9. The Coached Regatta fleet will generally come ashore for lunch, the Racing Regatta fleet may have lunch afloat, subject to the conditions.
- 9.10. On Tuesday 29th July (Day 3) a Raid Race is scheduled for Racing Regatta Fleet and a Sail Away for Coached Regatta Fleet, this does not form part of the Championship series. Further information shall be published in the Sailing Instructions. Sailors from the Racing Regatta fleet are encouraged to take part in the Raid Race, although may attend the Sail Away with prior agreement with Coached Regatta Lead and subject to having the necessary safety vessels available.

10. MEASUREMENT

Main Fleet

- 10.1. Each boat shall have a valid measurement certificate.
- 10.2. Pre-registration equipment inspection procedures / and or measurement requirements at Registration will be published on the event website prior to the event.
- 10.3. Equipment inspection checks may be carried out ashore and on the water at the discretion of the race committee.
- 10.4. [DP] After finishing, boats shall also comply with RRS 78.1 until they have passed the measurement station.

Regatta Fleets

- 10.5. Prior to registration, boats will be checked and measured. Competitors will not be able to register until they have successfully completed the measurement check. The measurement check for Regatta Fleet relates to items of safety and seaworthiness and should not be confused with the Main Championship Fleet measurement process.
- 10.6. Each sailor shall produce at registration evidence of a successful buoyancy test on the boat within the previous 12 months.
- 10.7. Specific attention is drawn to the following International Optimist Class Rules:
- Each Unit (Buoyancy Bag) shall be 45 +/-5 litres", i.e. a minimum capacity of 40 litres. Boats with smaller buoyancy bags will not pass the check measurement process.
 - All Optimists must have a painter that is at least 8 metres long.
 - All Optimists that have a removable device to attach the boom stop to the mainsheet shall use a device that has a positive means of locking.

- 10.8. Boats will be monitored for continuing seaworthiness during the event and may be prevented from going afloat if basic safety (including the condition of buoyancy bags and having adequate equipment such as bailers, paddles, etc.) is compromised.

11. NOT USED

12. VENUE

- 12.1. The venue is Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy, Osprey Quay, Portland DT5 1SA, United Kingdom.
- 12.2. The racing area(s) will be in Portland Harbour and Weymouth Bay (see Appendix 1).

13. THE COURSES

Main Fleet

- 13.1. The courses will be published in the Sailing Instructions and will be predominantly windward leeward in nature with reaching legs to separate the fleets (e.g. trapezoid or worlds Course).
- 13.2. The target time for the first boat in each fleet is 45 minutes.

Regatta Fleets

- 13.3. The courses will vary as appropriate to the conditions and sailors' ability.

14. PENALTIES

Main Fleet

- 14.1. Appendix P will apply, except as changed by NoR 14.2.
- 14.2. RRS P2.3 is deleted and in RRS P2.2 "second" is changed to read "second or subsequent".

Regatta Fleets

- 14.3. All rules disputes will be dealt with using **Appendix T** arbitration unless serious damage or injury has resulted.

15. SCORING

Main Fleet

- 15.1. 3 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 15.2. During qualifying, a race is only deemed to be completed when it has been completed by all flights. During the Finals series, each division (Gold, Silver, etc.) need not have completed the same number of races.
- 15.3. The boats in the Gold division will be ranked highest, followed by those in the Silver, Bronze (and subsequent divisions, if used), except for a boat disqualified from a final-series race under RRS 2 or RRS 69.
- 15.4. The total score for each boat will be the sum of her scores excluding her worst scores as follows:

Qualifying series	
Qualifying Races Completed	Scores Excluded
1 - 4	0
5 - 8	1

Finals series	
Finals Races Completed	Scores Excluded
1 - 4	0
5 - 6	1

- 15.5. Both the qualifying and final series will have its own separate excluded races (discards will not float between series)
- 15.6. A boat's overall score for the Championship is the sum of her Qualifying series score and her Finals series score, after exclusions as described above.
- 15.7. All scoring for category prizes (e.g. girls/boys, junior/senior) will be calculated including all competitors, whether eligible for that category or not. Scores will not be re-calculated for each category excluding ineligible boats.

Regatta Fleets

- 15.8. 3 races are required to be completed to constitute a series
- 15.9. The total score for each boat shall be the sum of her scores excluding her worst scores as follows:

Races Completed	Scores Excluded
1 - 3	0
4 - 7	1
8 - 11	2
12 or more	3

16.[DP] SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 16.1. [DP] [NP] Support vessels who are not an official vessels must register at the Race Office and pay a fee of £50 IOCA administration fee and are responsible for arranging berthing and any fees applicable to WPNSA.
- 16.2. Support person vessels will be required to carry identifying flags issues by the organisers and shall comply with the directions from Safety Control (please refer to the Sailing Instructions for further details). A deposit of £40 will be required and will be refunded when the identifying flag is returned.
- 16.3. All Support person vessel crews, safety crews and coaches will attend briefings by the race committee and organising authority as published in the event schedule.
- 16.4. All Support person vessels shall carry on board and operate while on the water a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF channels and agree to assist the Race Committee if directed to do so. See RRS37 [DP]

17.CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

- 17.1. A chartered or loaned boat 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.

18.BERTHING

- 18.1. [DP] [NP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while they are in the boat park.

19.DRONES [NP][DP]

- 19.1. 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.

- 19.2. 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.

20. DATA PROTECTION

- 20.1. 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, OurClubAdmin 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 and Publishing of Information Policy which can be downloaded from the Class documents page of <http://www.optimist.org.uk>.
- 20.2. Still or video photography (including drone footage) may be used as part of the Race Management processes for the event. These images will only be used for Race Management and limited training purposes and will not be widely published without the express permission of all sailors who are identifiable in the images.

21. RISK STATEMENT

- 21.1. RRS 3 states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." 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:
- a) 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.
 - b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore.
 - c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions.
 - d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate.
 - e) 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.
 - f) The provision of patrol vessel cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
 - g) 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.

22. INSURANCE

- 22.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.
- 22.2. The Organising Authority is not responsible for verifying the status or validity of a boat's insurance

23. PRIZES

- 23.1. Prizes will be listed in a separate document.

24. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 24.1. For further information please contact admin@optimist.org.uk

APPENDIX 1

