



2025 Gill British National and Open Optimist Championships

Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy (WPNSA)

Saturday 26 July – Thursday 31 July 2025

Welcome Pack and Event Information



CD SAILS





Welcome

On behalf of IOCA UK and the event organising committee, we are delighted to welcome you and your families to the 2025 Gill Optimist British & Open Championships at WPNSA. There is a full programme of racing and on shore activities that will keep everyone busy during the Nationals, and we hope that you will have a fantastic time.

Weymouth Bay and Portland Harbour offer some of the best sailing waters on the planet, and have purpose built on-shore facilities to match. This winning combination was showcased to the world with WPNSA providing part of the venue for the sailing competition at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. And we are delighted to announce that WPNSA will also be the host venue for the 2027 Optimist European Championships!

We are delighted to see how many overseas competitors will be joining us again this year - in addition to the GBR sailors, we cannot wait to welcome sailors from as far and wide as Bermuda, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Spain, Switzerland, Sweden, and the UAE. You are all very welcome!

We say it every year, but it's true, events like this don't just happen: they take a lot of people giving up their time before the event and even more volunteers during the event. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has volunteered to help at this year's event so as to ensure that the sailors enjoy great racing and have lots of fun in the meantime.

A massive thank you also goes to our class sponsors Gill and Xtremity for their continued support of the class throughout the year, including for the Nationals. Thank you to Barracuda Bay, Vripack Yachts, CDSails, Optiparts, Muc-Off and Youth Sport Nutrition who have also kindly agreed to support this year's National Championships.

Fair winds!

Alex Keegan, Chair, and Mark de la Haye, Vice Chair, IOCA (UK)



NEAREST HOSPITAL

Health advice is available by phoning 111 or visiting [NHS England](#). In an emergency contact 999.

The nearest hospital to the Weymouth National Sailing Academy is Dorset County Hospital, located in Dorchester, which is approximately a 15-20 minute drive away.

PHOTOGRAPHER

We are delighted to welcome the award winning photographer Paul Sanwell to the event. Paul will be capturing the action on the water and his photographs will be available to purchase online at www.op-photography.co.uk. If you do not wish to have your child's photograph taken please contact admin@optimist.org.uk.

SAFETY AND FIRST AID

There will be a qualified first aider on site throughout the event. Please visit the Race office or WPNSA Reception.

COMMUNICATION

We will be using the messaging app Telegram for communications during the events:

Download Telegram via the QR code below or https://telegram.org	Broadcast: Messages from the Organising Authority and Race Committee: https://ioca.uk/broadcast	Queries: Questions to the Organising Authority or Race Committee, but please use sparingly as too much chatter means that it is hard to pick out the important messages. https://ioca.uk/queries
		

INSURANCE

Third-party insurance, as a minimum, is mandatory to enter the event. If you're bringing your own boat or chartering, please confirm with your provider that it covers sailing and third-party insurance in the UK.

RIBS & ON THE WATER SAILOR SUPPORT

The UK operates slightly differently to many other countries in that the Race Management and Support fleet are managed and organised by IOCA (UK).

All Official Support Vessels/RIBs will have a responsibility to assist all sailors (including those sailors travelling without coach support) and can be assured they will be supported on the water by the fleet.

IOCA will also have coaches on the water to support the main fleet. The role of the IOCA Main Fleet Coach is to provide open event support to members at the class regattas. The coach(es) will run informal briefings in the morning covering information such as weather, rig setup and updated information from the Race Officer or class. The coaches will also be on hand around the boat park to offer tips on rigging.

On the water the coach(es) will be on safety boats and can be identified with a coach flag. Sailors can approach the coaches to ask for any on water support with rig, lunch storage, rules or a general chat about their race.

Post racing the coach(es) will provide an informal de-brief. This may be in smaller groups or individually. A time and destination will be announced to let sailors know where the coach is going to be.

There is no fee for the support of the coach(es) the costs will be covered by IOCA.



IOCA UK Sailing Schedule:

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 9.6)	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

Onshore & Social Schedule:

Day 0 Saturday 26 th of July	10am – 3.50pm	Ovington 29er Transition Sessions (pre-booked).
	3pm	Opening Ceremony – Main Stage. All welcome.
	5.30pm – 6.30pm	ASC 29er and Feva Transition Sessions (pre-booked).

	6pm	Volunteer/International Sailor Welcome (invitation only) – Spinnakers.
Day 1 Sunday 27 th of July	6pm	Protest/Arbitration; the process (A talk by Greg Eaton, Paul Robson and Bill Braburn) – Spinnakers. All welcome.
Day 2 Monday 28 th of July	5.30pm – 6.30pm	ASC 29er, ILCA and Waszp Transition Sessions (pre-booked).
	6pm	Micky Beckett Talk – Spinnakers. All welcome.
Day 3 Tuesday 29 th of July	All day	World Sailing Sail Measurement course (Part 1 of Optimist Measurement Course).
	3pm – 7.30pm	Sailor Party, DJ, BBQ, Climbing Wall and Assault Course – Main Stage. All welcome – BBQ needs to be pre-booked and paid for on OCA.
	4pm	Parent/Guardian Optimist Race – Main Slipway. PRO – James Ward. Parents/Guardians must provide their own Optimist. Registration will be at briefing. We will require Safety Boat Drivers and Crew (please volunteer at briefing).
Day 4 Wednesday 30 th of July	All day	IOCA Measurement Course (Part 2 of Optimist Measurement Course)
	11am – 12pm	Chris Atherton (RYA Junior Racing Manager) Transition Talk – Spinnakers. All welcome but aimed at parents/guardians, for sailors transitioning into other fleets.
	5pm – 5.45pm	Beach Clean; leave only footprints – Main Stage All welcome – sponsored by Vripack.
	5.50pm – 7.30pm	Movie Night – Event Hall All welcome.
	6pm	AGM – Spinnakers. All welcome.
Day 5 Thursday 31 st of July	ASAP after racing	Prize-giving and Raffle Draw – Event Hall. All welcome.

We really look forward to seeing you at WPNSA soon!

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information supplied herein, IOCA cannot be held responsible for any errors or omissions. Information is subject to change at anytime.