



### **WSC Optimist Open Meeting 2026** **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2026 HW 11:33 (BST & Portsmouth)

### **Sailing Instructions**

#### **1 RULES**

- 1.1 Racing will take place under The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025-2028, the Class Rules, the Notice of Race and these Sailing Instructions (SIs). In the event of a conflict these SIs shall apply.
- 1.2 RRS Appendix T (Arbitration) applies.
- 1.3 Competitors should note that Warsash Sailing Club implements the RYA Racing Charter and that they will be required to undertake to sail in compliance with the RYA Charter which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book.
- 1.4 The Racing rules of Sailing will be changed as follows:
  - 1.4.1 Rule 40 shall apply at all times when afloat.
  - 1.4.2 Rule A3 changed so, at the Race Committee's discretion and after the first boat has finished, boats may be award points according to their observed position on the course. See SI 14.2
  - 1.4.3 Rules A4 & A5 changed so a boat not starting within 4 minutes of the start signal is scored DNS.

#### **2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the River Room Window at Shore House. An event WhatsApp group will be set up to provide information before and during the event.
- 2.2 There will be competitor briefings for Main Fleet and Racing Regatta Fleet in the garden or Main Hall in Shore House. These are planned for:  
Main Fleet briefing 09:00  
Racing Regatta Fleet briefing 09:00  
Coached Regatta Fleet briefing will take place on the beach in front of Warsash Sailing Club at 10:00

#### **3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board before the briefing on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

#### **4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 4.1 Any signals made ashore will be displayed on the Shore House Flag Staff. Signals may also be given orally by the fleet beach master.



- 4.2 When Flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced by 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP for Main Fleet and 'not less than 30 minutes' for Racing Regatta and Coached Regatta Fleets.

### 5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 The scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race is not before 10:30 for Main Fleet, 10:00 for Racing Regatta Fleet and 10:30 for Coached Regatta Fleet. It is intended to sail up to 4 races for Main Fleet and 6 races for Racing Regatta Fleet. Coached Regatta Fleet will sail a number of short races. No start sequence will commence after 1600 except following a general recall of that race.

### 6 CLASS FLAGS

- 6.1 The class flags will be:

Main Fleet	International code flag O
Regatta Racing Fleet	International code flag R
Coached Regatta Fleet	International code flag C

### 7 RACING AREAS

- 7.1 The Race Area for Main Fleet will be in the vicinity of Coronation Buoy which is approximately 1 mile from the Club.  
The Race Area for Racing Regatta Fleet will be in the vicinity of Warsash Race Mark or Bald Head Buoy. The area will be advised at briefing.  
The Race Area for Coached Regatta Fleet will be in Kipper Pond in front of Shore House, the main club building. Coached Regatta Fleet are advised to sail with a masthead float.  
Any change to the intended Race Area will be announced at the briefing.
- 7.2 Competitors will be escorted to and from the Race Area.
- 7.3 Competitors shall not launch until released by the Beach Master.  
It is intended that the Main Fleet will launch from the public slipway and the Racing Regatta Fleet will launch from lobster quay. Coached Regatta Fleet will launch from the beach in front of Kipper pond.

### 8 THE COURSE

- 8.1 The courses to be sailed will be a combination of windward/leeward legs and triangles, or trapezoids.
- 8.2 The diagrams in Appendix A shows the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark will be passed.
- 8.3 No later than the warning signal, the course designation, number of laps and approximate bearing to the windward mark will be displayed from the Committee Boat.

### 9 MARKS

- 9.1 Main Fleet and Regatta Fleet will use marks to be advised at the briefing.  
Coached Regatta Fleet will use WSC training marks to be advised at the briefing.
- 9.2 The Outer Distance Starting Mark will be a Committee Boat or a Dan Buoy flying an Orange Flag.
- 9.3 The Main Fleet Outer Distance Finish Mark will be a small orange inflatable buoy.
- 9.4 The Race Committee may use marks of a different size/colour and the start and finish marks may both be in place at the same time.



### **10 THE START**

- 10.1 Races will be started by using Rule 26 (5, 4, 1 Go) for Main and Racing Regatta Fleet. Coached Regatta Fleet will start using 3,2,1, Go.
- 10.2 The Starting Line will be between the staff displaying an orange flag on the Committee Boat and the port-end Start Mark.
- 10.3 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start. This changes RRS A4 & A5.

### **11 Minimum Wind Strength**

- 11.1 Races are unlikely to be started unless the Race Officer is satisfied that the wind strength over the whole course is more than an average of five knots.

### **12 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee will move the original Mark (or the Finishing Line) to a new position.
- 12.2 Changes of length of the leg or of less than 10 degrees will not be signalled. This Changes RRS 33.

### **13 THE FINISH**

- 13.1 The Finishing Line will be between the staff displaying a blue flag on the Committee boat and the finish mark.  
Note that the blue finishing flag and the orange start flag may be displayed on the Committee boat at the same time.

### **14 TIME LIMITS**

- 14.1 The intended duration of each race for the Main Fleet is 40 minutes. Racing Regatta Fleet may run slightly shorter races of around 30 minutes depending upon weather conditions. There is no intended duration for Coached Regatta Fleet races.
- 14.2 To expedite the series, and at the Race Committee's discretion, boats failing to finish within 10 minutes of the first boat may be awarded points according to their observed position on the course. The display of Flag 'W' with 5 sound signals will indicate that this SI applies. This changes Rule A4.1.

### **15 COMMITTEE BOAT IDENTIFICATION**

- 15.1 The Committee Boat will be described in the briefing and will display a Warsash Committee Flag.

### **16 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 16.1 A boat that intends to protest shall inform the Committee Boat immediately after finishing the race in which the incident occurred.
- 16.2 RRS Appendix T (Arbitration) applies.
- 16.3 Protest forms are available at the Race Office and shall be delivered there. Protests shall be delivered within the protest time limit.
- 16.4 The protest time limit is 30 minutes after the last boat in the fleet returns ashore.
- 16.5 Notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held at the earliest opportunity.



### 17 SCORING

- 17.1 2 races are required to be completed to constitute a series. Discards will be applied as follows:
- a) When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a competitor's series score will be the total of her race scores.
  - b) When 4 or more races have been completed, a competitor's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

### 18 SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 18.1 [NP] Boats shall 'tally out' immediately before launching and 'tally in' immediately on returning ashore. Failure to comply with this SI will result in a 5-point penalty in the race closest to the infringement, other boats will not be rescored. A boat will not be scored worse than a disqualified boat because of this penalty. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.
- 18.2 The Tally Board will be located adjacent to the Shore House Club House for all fleets. Individual Tally Numbers will be issued at registration. The Tally board will close 15 minutes after the last boat returns ashore.
- 18.3 [NP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible and shall not leave the Race Area without the permission of the Race Committee.

### 19 Distinguishing Numbers

- 19.1 [NP] Under exceptional circumstances, the Race Committee may permit a boat to use sails carrying a distinguishing number other than that required by RRS 77 and RRS Appendix G. Such permission is only valid if sought in writing before proceeding afloat.

### 20 Advertising

- 20.1 When provided at registration, competitors shall make every reasonable effort to display event sponsors promotional items on their boat and sails as directed.

### 21 Trash Disposal

- 21.1 Boats shall not drop trash in the dinghy park or afloat (RRS 47).

### 22 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 22.1 There will be no formal measurement but the Race Committee reserves the right to measure/inspect any boat or equipment at any time for compliance with the Class Rules. Checks may be made to ensure all boats comply with the requirement to carry the stipulated towline.

### 23 SUPPORT BOATS AND INSTRUCTION

- 23.1 Support Boats are only allowed with the prior approval of Warsash Sailing Club and drivers may be asked to show competence in driving such a boat of at least RYA PB2. Support Boats, if allowed, shall have VHF radio communication with Warsash Sailing Club and the Committee Boat and shall be identified at registration.
- 23.2 Unless agreed or instructed by the Race Committee, team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay outside area where boats are racing from the time of a preparatory signal until all boats have finished or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment. Coached Regatta safety boats will provide coaching to the Coached Regatta Fleet.
- 23.3 All support boats are required to comply with RRS 37.



### **24 RADIO COMMUNICATION**

- 24.1 A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

### **25 PRIZES**

- 25.1 The event prize giving will be held as soon as possible after racing. Prizes will be awarded for the first three boats in each class. Other prizes may be awarded.

### **26 Rights to use Name and Likeness**

- 26.1 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organising authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make use and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recording, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their departure, without compensation.



### Appendix A - Courses

- A.1 All marks are to be rounded to port except in case of a downwind gate mark as described in the Course Layout.
- A.2 The course and where applicable number of laps to be sailed will be displayed on the side of the Committee Boat.

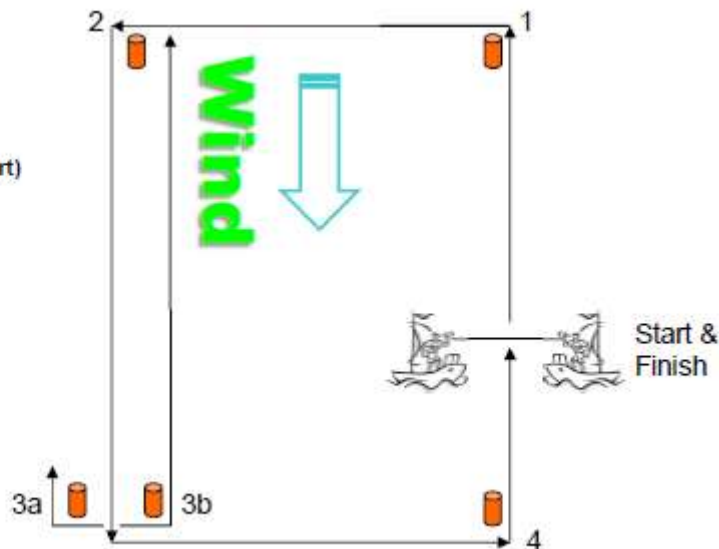
### Course Layout

#### Optimist Main Fleet

##### Outer Loop Course

###### Start Line

- 1 (port)
- 2 (port)
- 3a (starboard) or 3b (port)
- 2 (port)
- 3b (port)
- 4 (port)
- Finish Line

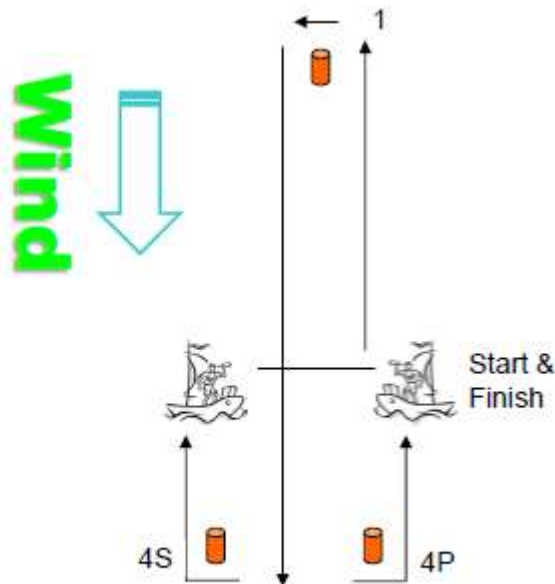


##### Windward Leeward Course

###### WL 2

###### Start Line

- 1 (port)
- 4S (starboard) or 4B (port)
- 1 (port)
- 4S (starboard) or 4B (port)
- Finish Line



###### WL 3

###### Start Line

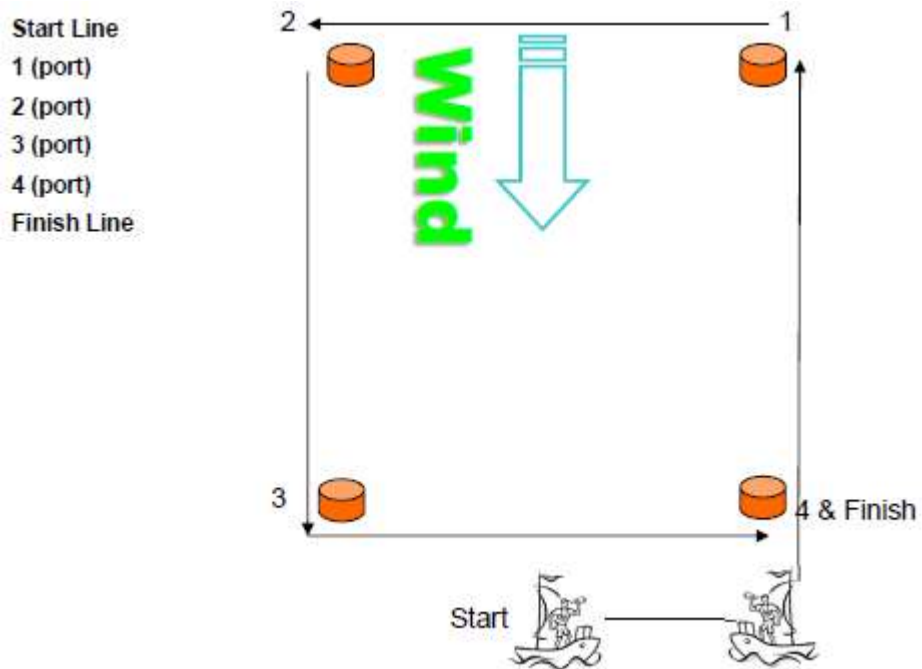
- 1 (port)
- 4S (starboard) or 4B (port)
- 1 (port)
- 4S (starboard) or 4B (port)
- 1 (port)
- 4S (starboard) or 4B (port)
- Finish Line





### Optimist Regatta Fleet

As outlined in SI 8.3, the sailing course may consist of multiple laps of the above diagram. The number of laps shall be displayed by the Committee boat by the warning signal.





### Coached Regatta Fleet

All competitors shall pass through the 'Start/Finish/Gate' on each upwind leg between marks 3 and 1 in T2 and T3 courses.

