



2024 Optimist Midwinter Championship

presented by

Allstate Sugarbowl and Lovell Mann Wealth Management of Raymond James

Southern Yacht Club
in conjunction with
U.S. Optimist Dinghy Association (USODA)
(collectively known as the Organizing Authority)
November 27-30, 2024
New Orleans, LA USA

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. The [USODA Conditions for Sanctioned Events and Championships](#) will apply.
- 1.3. The US Sailing prescriptions to RRS 63.1 and RRS 63.2 do not apply.
- 1.4. [SP] denotes a rule which a standard penalty from the “USODA Graded Penalty System” may be applied by the race committee or technical committee without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty applied by the protest committee with a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and A5.1.
- 1.5. [NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 1.6. [SP][DP] RRS 40.1 will apply at all times while afloat.
- 1.7. [DP][NP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable requests from an event official. Failure to comply with requests may be considered misconduct.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The sailing instructions will be available November 25 at <https://usoda.org/regatta/CbQG7shkgc>.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. The online notice board is located at <https://usoda.org/regatta/CbQG7shkgc>.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. The event is open to all boats of the International Optimist class that fulfill the eligibility requirements as defined in the [USODA Conditions for Sanctioned Events and Championships](#).
- 4.2. Eligible boats may enter by completing an entry online at <https://usoda.org/regatta/CbQG7shkgc> and providing all required competitor information, paying all required, and electronically signing the USODA Waiver of Liability.
- 4.3. Each competitor shall confirm their entry by checking the Event Registration page. If a competitor is not listed on the USODA website, then the competitor is not entered. **Entry fees are NON-REFUNDABLE and may not be transferred to another USODA event.**



- 4.4. Each competitor shall complete their entry during check-in at the venue. Entry is not complete until the competitor has submitted a signed USODA Boat Self-Certification Safety Checklist, USODA Sailor Code of Conduct and USODA Measurement Form.
- 4.5. Online applications will close Monday, November 25 at 12:00 PM ET. Requests to enter after the online entry deadline are subject to approval by the organizing authority.

5. FEES

- 5.1. Entry fees are as follows:
 - 5.1.1. The entry fee is \$230 for applications received by November 1, 2024.
 - 5.1.2. A late fee of \$25 (\$255 total entry fee) shall be paid for applications received November 2, 2024 through November 8.
 - 5.1.3. An additional late entry fee of \$25 (\$280 total entry fee) shall be paid for applications received after November 8.

6. ADVERTISING

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority.

7. [NP][DP][SP] CAMERAS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

- 7.1 Boats may be required to carry cameras, sound equipment or positioning equipment as specified by the Organizing Authority. Information from this equipment shall not be used by a boat as evidence in a hearing. This changes RRS 63.6.
- 7.2 The equipment provided, once placed on the boat as instructed by the Organizing Authority, shall not be manipulated by the competitor or coach in any way, except when so required by the Organizing Authority.
- 7.3 There shall be no unauthorized unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) drone flight permitted above the racing area, waiting area, corridor, coach/spectator boat zones, start line or finish line.

8. FORMAT

- 8.1. The Championship Fleet will race as one or more divisions depending on the number of entries. The process for allocating boats to divisions and the format will be specified in the Sailing Instructions.
- 8.2. There will not be a Green Fleet.

9. SCHEDULE

- 9.1. Program and Schedule

Monday, November 25

0900 Competitors Welcome to Arrive

Wednesday, November 27

0900-1800 Mandatory Measurement and Competitor Check-in and Support (Coach/Spectator)
Vessel Registration/Check-in

1730 USODA International Team Selection Process Presentation and USNT/USDT Additional
Invitation Information – Grill (2nd Floor)

**Thursday, November 28**

0815	Coaches' Meeting
0830	Competitors' Meeting
0900	Harbor Start
1000	First Warning Signal
After Racing	Hot Snacks

Friday, November 29

0730-0900	Café Du Monde Food Truck
0830	Coaches' Meeting
0900	Harbor Start
1000	First Warning Signal
After Racing	Hot Snacks, Competitors & Parents Dinner (incl with registration)

Saturday, November 30

0730-0900	Continental Breakfast for Competitors
0830	Coaches' Meeting
0900	Harbor Start
1000	First Warning Signal
1530	No races shall be started after this time
After Racing	Awards Ceremony & Hot Snacks

- 9.2. Nine (9) "Sets" of races are scheduled for the Championship Fleet if they sail a multi-division regatta. Twelve (12) races are scheduled for the Championship Fleet if they sail a single division regatta. Three (3) "Sets" of races or four (4) races are scheduled for each day of racing, however up to four (4) "Sets" of races may be sailed in one day providing the championship never gets more than one "Set" of races or races ahead of schedule. A "Set" is a group of scored races in which all divisions competed.

10. [SP] EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 10.1. Each boat shall submit a completed USODA Measurement Form online during Measurement. This form will inform the technical committee that all equipment is present and in compliance with class rules.
- 10.2. Equipment previously measured and stickered with a USODA measurement decal, and which remains unaltered since that measurement, may be self-certified as part of the measurement process, as long as the measurement decal is clear and conspicuous.
- 10.3. All other equipment shall be measured and approved during measurement and have a USODA measurement decal applied.
- 10.4. All sails shall be dry and removed from the boom for inspection. Sails shall be stamped and signed by the 2024 Allstate Sugarbowl Optimist Southeast Championship technical committee regardless of previous event stamps or signatures.
- 10.5. Boats may be inspected at any time during the event.

11. VENUE

NoR Addendum A shows the shore facilities.



12. THE COURSES

The courses to be sailed will be described in the sailing instructions.

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1. In accordance with rule 70.5(a), the intention is that decisions of the protest committee are final. US Sailing's permission has been requested.
- 13.2. The "USODA Graded Penalty System" will apply and will be provided in the sailing instructions. Percentage penalties will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- 13.3. RRS Appendix P, Special Procedures for Rule 42, will apply and is changed as follows: RRS P2.3 does not apply and RRS P2.2 is changed so that it applies to any penalty after the first one.

14. SCORING

- 14.1. One race or "Set" of races is required to constitute a series.
- 14.2. Rule 90.3(e) will be in effect. There shall be no changes to race or series scores, including the correction of errors, initiated more than 24 hours after the reasons outlined in rule 90.3(e)(1), (2) or (3.).

15. SAFETY

Each competitor shall complete a USODA Boat Self-Certification Safety Checklist prior to 0830 on Thursday, November 28.

16. ADULT RESPONSIBILITY AND SUPPORT (COACH OR SPECTATOR) VESSELS

- 16.1. All coaches, parents, guardians and 'designated adults' are support persons (See RRS definition *Support Person*).
- 16.2. In addition to the requirements of RRS 3 Decision to Race, a *Support Person* is responsible for the safety of their competitor. It is the responsibility of this adult to decide if their competitor should sail in the weather and sea conditions that might arise during the event. The adults supervising the competitors are ultimately responsible for the risks.
- 16.3. Parents or guardians not personally attending any part of the event shall ensure that another *Support Person* is authorized and designated to make these decisions for their sailor.
- 16.4. Each competitor shall designate, in writing at Registration, the *Support Person* that will be responsible for the competitor throughout the event.
- 16.5. The designated *Support Person* shall accept full responsibility for all actions of the competitor during any activity related to the event. This includes onshore activities before, during, and after the event.
- 16.6. The organizing authority strongly recommends that each sailor have a support (coach or spectator) vessel on the racecourse throughout the event.
- 16.7. The organizing authority recommends there be at least one support vessel for every 10 sailors.
- 16.8. All support vessels shall register online at <https://usoda.org/regatta/CbQG7shkgc> and pay a \$1 entry fee. A numbered flag, supplied by the organizing authority, shall be displayed at all times while on the water. A \$24 hold will be placed on the credit card provided as a security deposit for the flag. Coaches shall be current members of USODA at the Coach or Sustaining Membership level.
- 16.9. [DP] Each support vessel shall have a working VHF radio monitoring the designated race committee channel, an anchor suitable for anchoring in the waiting area, and a basic first aid kit.



- 16.10. [DP] All support vessels shall be equipped with a functioning engine safety cut-out switch (kill switch) which shall remain attached to the operator at all times while the engine is running.

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] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.
- 18.2. [DP] Trailers must be stored in specified areas.
- 18.3. [DP] Support person vessels shall be kept at locations assigned at check-in.
- 18.4. To arrange for storage outside of the event period, contact the Race Office at jim@southernyachtclub.org.

19. RISK STATEMENT

- 19.1. RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.**
- 19.2. The organizing authority including the sponsors, the race committee, the officers, directors, employees and members of the Southern Yacht Club, USODA, and all those involved in these organizations will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.

20. PRIZES

Prizes will be given as follows:

Championship Fleet

- Overall: 1st through 5th (or 10th if over 80 sailors)
- Red Fleet: 1st through 3rd (or 5th if over 80 sailors)
- Blue Fleet: 1st through 3rd (or 5th if over 80 sailors)
- White Fleet: 1st through 3rd (or 5th if over 80 sailors)
- Girls: 1st through 3rd

Mendelblatt Trophy – 1st overall

Mandy Bremen Trophy – 1st Girl

Ewell C. Potts, Jr. Memorial Trophy – 1st White Fleet

John Lovell Trophy – Top GYA Sailor>

Additional awards and prizes may be presented at the sole discretion of the host and organizing authority and may be based on criteria other than the event.



21. QUALIFICATION FOR FUTURE EVENTS

- 21.1. This regatta is a 2025 USODA Team Trials Qualifying event. The top 25% of the Championship will receive invitations to compete in the 2025 Optimist Team Trials. In the case where competitors in the top 25% are not team trials eligible, additional competitors will be invited. In the case of series-ties for the last qualifying place, all tied competitors shall receive invitations.
- 21.2. Qualification for 2025 Spring international teams will be in accordance with the selection criteria established by USODA and posted in the 'Teams' section of the USODA website at www.usoda.org/international-team. In the event of a tie that cannot be resolved by use of the rules governing this event, the matter shall be decided by a game of chance supervised by the Principal Race Officer (PRO).
- 21.3. Invitations to the U.S. National Team and ODP2 Program will be in accordance with the criteria established by the USODA and posted in the 'Teams' section of the USODA website at www.usoda.org/national-team and www.usoda.org/odp2

22. FURTHER INFORMATION

Registration: USODA Executive Director, Beth Danilek, usoda@usoda.org

Regatta Chair: Andy Lovell, Mary d'Aquin

Principal Race Officer: Charles Meade

Protest Committee Chair: Peter Gerard

Technical Committee Chair: John Buziak

OPTI CHARTERS, VENDORS, POWERBOAT RENTALS & MORE

Club Boat Charter Co., clubboatcharterco@gmail.com, (434) 989-8137

Professional Boats, www.professionalboats.com, 321-946-2572

Simmons Boatworks, 203-506-9333, rob@simmonsbw.com, <https://simmonsbw.com/>

US One-Design/Sail McLaughlin, www.sailmclaughlin.com, (508) 827-7902

Zim Sailing, charters@zimsailing.com, (401) 237-6117, www.zimsailing.com/charters

Event Website: <https://usoda.org/regatta/CbQG7shkgc>

Host Website – <https://www.southernyachtclub.org/>

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/US-Opti-Sailing-138942536154313/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/USOptiSailing>



Addendum A: Venue Map