

Optimist Maine State Championship



Portland Yacht Club



20–21 JULY 2026

The Organizing Authority is the Portland Yacht Club in conjunction with the USODA.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.

1.2 RRS Appendix P, *Special Procedures for Rule 42*, will apply as amended by SI 15.2

1.3 Where and if necessary, the US Optimist Dinghy Class Race rules will apply.

2. ADDITIONAL IDENTIFICATION

No additional identification is necessary.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board, located outside the Race

Office in the Regatta Tent. Notices to competitors will also be posted on the Event website:

<https://theclubspot.com/regatta/7j6HudlS25>

4. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the Notice Board.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flag poles located at the dock house. We do not anticipate making signals from ashore.

6. FORMAT OF RACING

The regatta will consist of a single series. One race is required to constitute a series.

7. SCHEDULE

7.1 The Championship schedule will be as follows:

	Day: Date:	Event:
1	Sunday 19 July	1600-1800 Arrival, Registration/Check in
2	Monday 20 July	0800-0900 Registration 0800 Continental Breakfast 0915 Competitors Meeting 0930 Launch, Races to Follow
3	Tuesday 21 July	0900 Arrival, rigging of boats 0900 Continental Breakfast 0930 Launching, First warning, races to follow 1500 No race shall start after this time

8. CLASS FLAGS

Class flags will not be used for this event.

9. RACING AREA

Attachment A shows the location of racing areas. Area “C” shall be the first desired location. Area “B” shall be the second desired location.

10. THE COURSE

10.1 The diagram in Attachment B shows the course, including the course signals, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

10.2 n/a

10.3 A gate may be replaced by a single mark to be left to port

10.4 n/a

11. MARKS

11.1 Course A

Marks 1, 2S, and 2P shall be inflatable marks

Change markshall be an inflatable mark

11.2 Starting marks and finishing marks will be a race committee vessel and an inflatable mark.

12. THE START

12.1 The starting line will be between a staff displaying orange flag on the race committee vessel and an inflatable mark.

12.2 A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.

12.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed with one sound at least five (5) minutes before the warning signal.

12.4 Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

14. THE FINISH

The finishing line will be between a staff displaying orange flag on the race committee vessel and an inflatable mark.

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

Appendix P shall apply, however the penalty for the **first** Rule 42 violation is changed to a **One-Turn Penalty**. A **second or subsequent** Rule 42 penalty requires the boat to retire from the race. RRS P2.3 does not apply.

16. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

16.1 Time limits and target times are as follows:

Time limit	Target time
40 minutes	20-25 minutes

16.2 If no boat has finished within the Time limit the race will be abandoned. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).

16.3 Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4, and A5.

17. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

17.1 Protest forms are available at the race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.

17.2 The protest time limit is 90 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day, or the race committee signals no more racing, whichever is later.

17.3 Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, located on the second floor of the Junior clubhouse.

17.4 Notices of protests by the race committee or jury will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).

17.5 A list of boats that, under SI 15.2, have been penalized for breaking rule 42 will be posted.

18. ARBITRATION

18.1 Add new RRS A4.3: "A boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2 or RRS 31 while racing may take a penalty after she has finished or retired and prior to the start of a protest hearing involving the incident. Her penalty shall be a Scoring Penalty of 30% calculated as described in RRS 44.3(c), but not more than the score for DSQ. However, if she caused injury or serious damage or gained a significant advantage in the race or series by her breach, her penalty shall be to retire."

18.2 RRS 63.1 is changed to add: "An appointed arbitrator may allow the protest to be withdrawn"

19. SCORING

19.1 When fewer than FIVE races have been completed for the series, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

19.2 When from 5 to 8 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

19.3 When 9 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two worst scores.

19.4 To request correction of an alleged error in posted race or series results, a boat shall complete a scoring enquiry form available at the race office.

20. SAFETY REGULATIONS

20.1 Competitors shall wear USCG-Approved personal flotation devices adequate for the conditions. Flag Y will not be displayed. This changes RRS 40.

20.2 Check-in: Competing boats upon arriving at the race course area shall sail to leeward of the race committee boat and check in before the first race of each day's racing.

20.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible. Coaches may inform the race committee for their retiring team.

20.4 Under all circumstances coaches and other support boats are expected to assist any boat in distress. Coaches also must respect the race course area and use common sense to stay clear and allow competitors an unobstructed race course.

21. REPLACEMENT OF CREW / EQUIPMENT

21.1 Substitution of competitors is not allowed.

21.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless approved by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

22. EQUIPMENT & MEASUREMENT CHECKS

22.1 A boat or equipment *may* be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee equipment inspector or measurer to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.

22.2 Only one set of sails and one forestay may be used during the regatta.

23. ADVERTISING

Not applicable.

24. OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats will be identified at the Competitors Meeting.

25. SUPPORT BOATS

25.1 Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall stay outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

25.2 Support boats need not have specific markings.

25.3 If called upon support boats will be required to act as rescue boats.

26. TRASH DISPOSAL

Please secure your trash and deposit on shore at the club's garbage containers near the entrance.

27. BERTHING

Competing boats shall be kept in the boat park. No exceptions. Coach boats shall berth on the Junior Float, or to a mooring. Coaches shall communicate with the Regatta Chair for coach boat berthing, and trailer storage.

28. RADIO COMMUNICATION

Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction includes mobile telephones and smart watches.

29. ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

29.1 The Organizing Authority will NOT supply electronic devices for this event.

29.2 No competitor or support team shall use a drone over the racing area. However a drone may be flown by a licensed company authorized by the Organizing Authority to record video and still imagery exclusively for advertising and promotion.

30. PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the first three boats in each fleet, Red, White, and Blue. Other prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority.

31. RIGHTS TO USE NAMES AND LIKENESSES

Where consent has been given for imagery, competitors grant to the Organising Authority without payment the right in perpetuity to make, use and show any motion pictures, still pictures and live, taped or filmed television of or relating to the event.

32. RISK STATEMENT

RRS 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing 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 inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

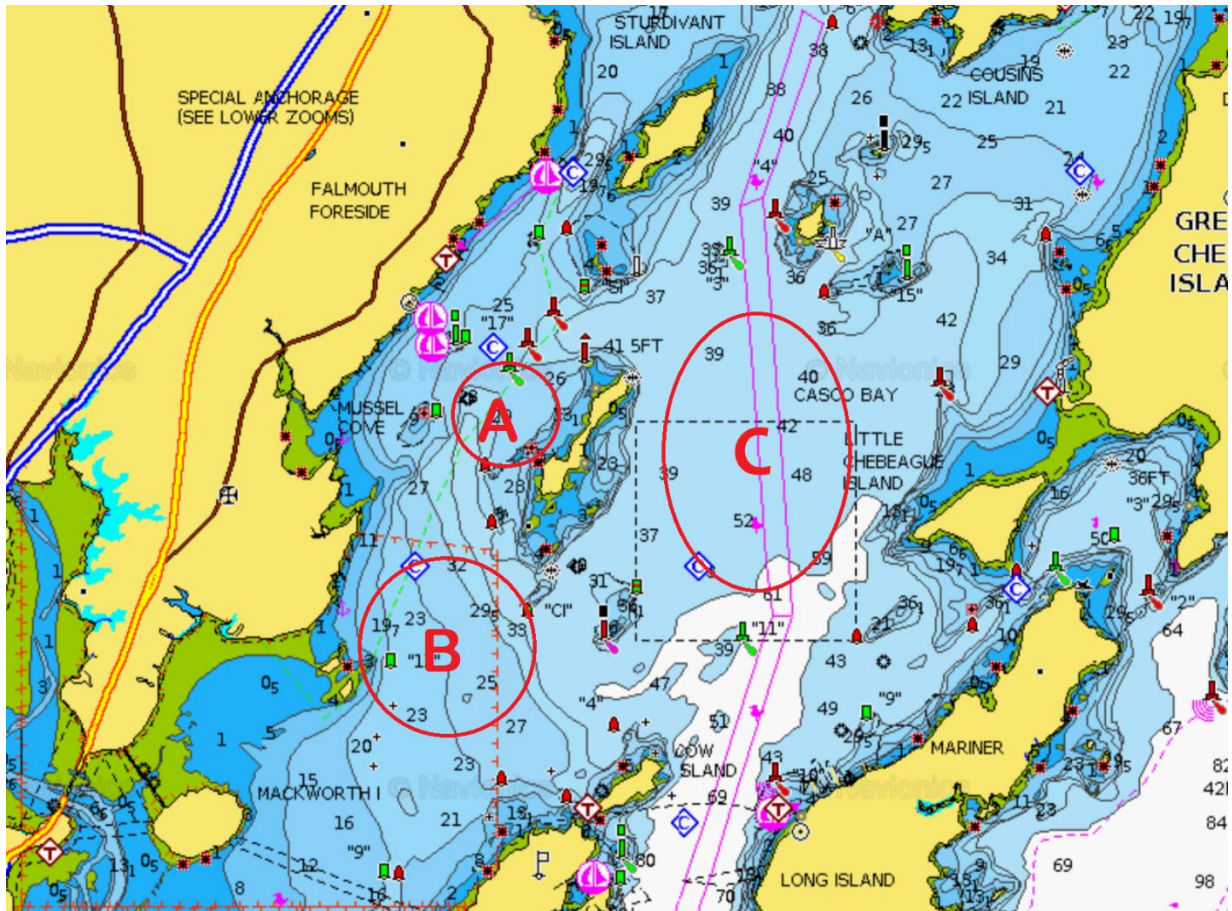
- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their 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 boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol boat 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 event and to attend any safety briefing held for this event.

33. INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party insurance.

Attachment A

RACING AREA



Attachment B

L	COURSE: WINDWARD / LEEWARD
Signal	Mark Rounding Order
L2	Start – 1 – 4s/4p – 1 – Finish
L3	Start – 1 – 4s/4p – 1 – 4s/4p – 1 – Finish
L4	Start – 1 – 4s/4p – 1 – 4s/4p – 1 – 4s/4p – 1 – Finish

