2026 New York State Optimist Championship

Organizing Authority: **The WaterFront Center**

October 24-25, 2026

1 West End Avenue, Oyster Bay, NY 11771

www.TheWaterFrontCenter.org

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), and the Equipment and Measurement rules of the USODA.

1.2. These Sailing Instructions will supersede the Notice of Race if there are any discrepancies.

1.3. Racing Rules will be changed as follows:

1.3.1. RRS 61.1(a) is changed to require that immediately after finishing a race, without consultation with instructors, coaches or spectators, a boat shall notify the race committee finish boat of her intention to protest another boat and (if possible) provide the sail number of the protested boat

1.3.2. Appendix V1 Penalty at the Time of an Incident, will apply.

1.3.3. Appendix V2 Penalty Taken After a Race, will apply.

2. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1. Any changes to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day of the regatta and mentioned during the competitor meeting.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

3.1. All communications on the day of the regatta will be posted on the Official Notice Board in front of The WaterFront Center building.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the front porch of The WaterFront Center building.

4.2. When the AP is displayed from the front porch, “1 minute” is replaced by “not less than 30 minutes.”

5. SCHEDULE

Saturday, October 24th	0830	Check-in at the WFC.

	1015	Competitor's meeting.
	1045	Harbor start.
	1130	First warning.
	Post Racing	Pizza will be served.
Sunday, October 25th	0900	WFC facilities open
	1000	Competitor's meeting.
	1015	Harbor start.
	1100	First warning.
	1500	No warning signals after this time.
		* Awards presentation after racing.

All competitors shall check-in at The WaterFront Center and be present for the competitor meeting.

6. CLASS FLAG

The warning signal will be an Optimist class flag.
All competitors will start and race together. There will be no divisions.

7. RACING AREA

The regatta will be sailed in Oyster Bay (Race Area A) or Cold Spring Harbor (Race Area B). The exact location will be communicated during the competitor's meeting the morning of the regatta. (See SI Appendix A)

8. THE COURSE

8.1. The course shall be the Optimist Trapezoid 1, as shown in SI Appendix B.

9. MARKS

9.1. Rounding marks will be orange inflatable cylinder marks.
9.2. The starting marks will be a RC vessel displaying an orange flag at one end and a green inflatable mark at the other end.
9.3. The finishing marks will be a RC vessel displaying a yellow flag at one end and a white inflatable mark at the other end.

10. THE START

10.1. Races will be started by using RRS 26.
10.2. A boat starting later than four minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, 63.1 and A5.
10.3. The starting line will be between an orange flag displayed on the signal boat and a green inflatable mark set to port.
10.4. For attracting attention, a series of short signals may be made before each warning signal.
10.5. All competitors much check-in with the Race Committee Signal Boat on starboard tack, and ensure acknowledgement, prior to the first race, or they may not be scored.
10.6. All competitors will start and race together.

11. THE FINISH

The finish line will be between a blue flag displayed on the signal boat and a white inflatable mark set to starboard.

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1. The time limits for the first boat in each race to finish shall be 45 minutes.

12.2. Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat in a race sails the course, and finishes, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. This instruction changes RRS 35, 63.1, A4 and A5.

13. REQUESTS FOR HEARINGS

13.1. Hearing forms will be available at the front desk of The WaterFront Center building.

13.2. The time limit to file for a hearing is thirty (30) minutes after the RC signal boat docks, which will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

13.3. Notices will be posted as soon as possible and no later than 30 minutes after the hearing time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the small classroom in The WaterFront Center building.

13.4. Notices of hearings by the Race Committee or Hearing Committee will be posted before the hearing time limit to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).

13.5. If the RC posts a list of boats scored OCS, ZFP, UFD or BFD (RRS 29.1 and 30.1-30.4) on the Official Notice Board before the hearing time limit, a request for redress based on such a posted score shall be made no later than 30 minutes after the hearing time limit. This changes the US Sailing prescription to RRS 63.2.

13.6. Hearings under SI 16, 17, 18 and 19 may be made only by the Race Committee or Hearing Committee. This changes rule 60.1.

14. SCORING

14.1. The Low Point Scoring System of Appendix A will apply.

14.2. At least one race must be completed to constitute a series.

14.3. When four or fewer races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. This changes Appendix A.

14.4. When five or more races have been completed, a boat's series will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score

14.5. Boats scored TLE (Time Limit Expired) shall be scored points equaling the number of finishers plus 2.

14.6. All competitors will be scored together.

15. SAFETY REGULATIONS

15.1. Competitors and instructors are required to wear a properly fastened USCG approved PFD with whistle attached always (except for brief periods to adjust clothing) when on the water or on the dock.

15.2. A boat that retires from a race shall notify a race committee boat or, hail the RC via VHF (Ch 05A).

15.3. A boat that withdraws from the regatta shall notify a race committee boat or, hail the RC via VHF (Ch 05A), before leaving the race area.

15.4. Failure to comply with 15.3 shall result in a discretionary penalty without a hearing.

16. SUPPORT VESSELS

16.1. Spectator and support vessels shall stay at least 100 yards away from competitors from the time of the first warning signal for each race and while boats are racing. All shall monitor the VHF radio (Ch 05A) for updates and directives coming from the Race Committee. All spectator and support boats shall make no wake while operating near the racecourse. Failure to comply with these protocols may result in a penalty for the sailor(s) associated with the violators**.**

17. PERSONAL CONDUCT

All sailors and instructors are expected to behave in accordance with recognized principles of sportsmanship, good manners, and fair play.

18. TRASH DISPOSAL

Boats shall not put trash in the water. Trash may be placed aboard support and race committee boats.

19. WATER

All competitors must bring their own water bottle. No water will be provided while on the race course.

20. RADIO COMMUNICATIONS

While racing, a boat shall make no radio transmissions nor receive radio communications. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

21. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

21.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. RRS 3 Decision to Race. The Organizing Authority will not accept any liability for material damage, personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, during, or after, the regatta.

22. AWARDS

22.1. The awards ceremony will be held at The WaterFront Center as soon as practical after racing.

22.2. Prizes will be awarded to each fleet (White, Blue and Red) and overall.

22.3. The highest placing **New York State resident** will be named the 2026 New York State Optimist Champion and awarded a keeper trophy.

23. FURTHER INFORMATION

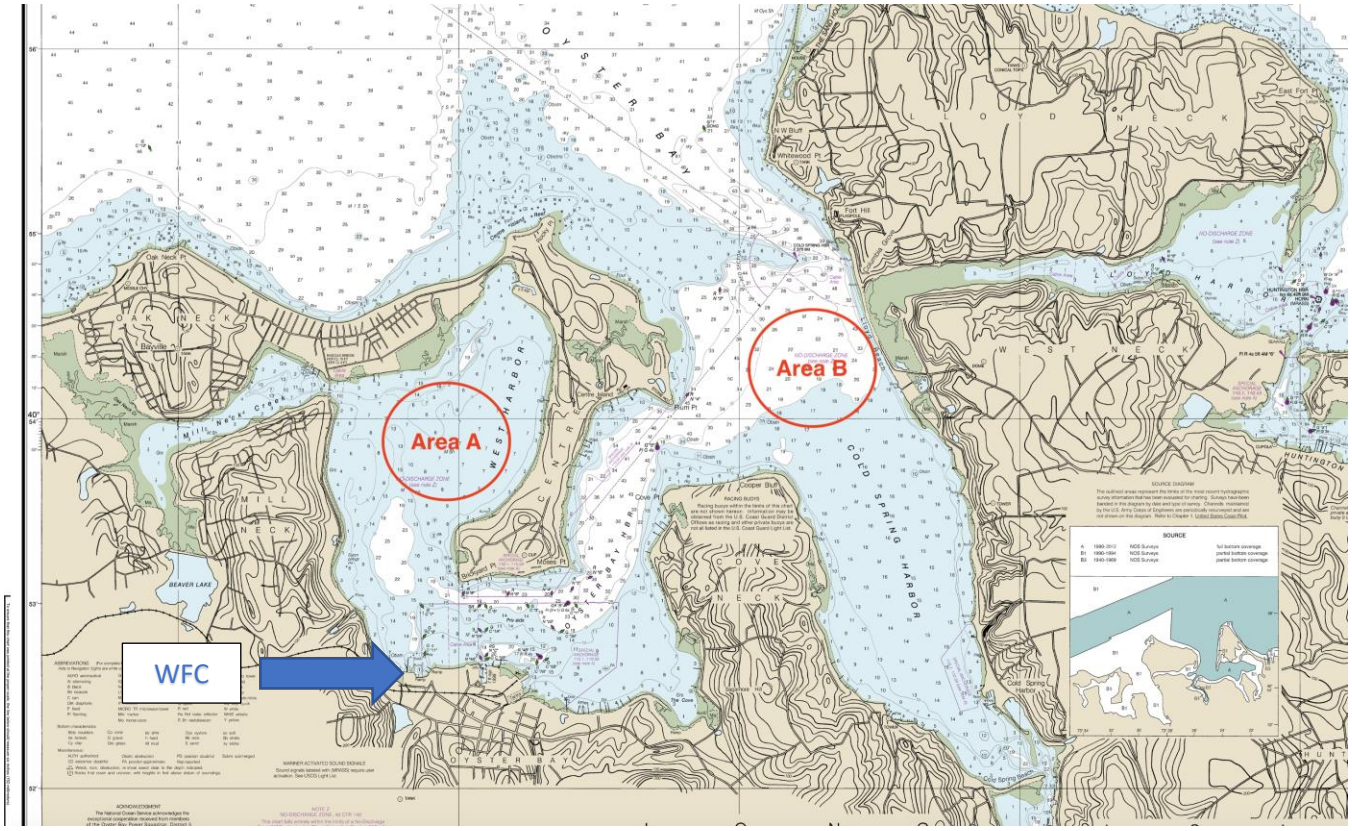
This Notice of Race, the Sailing Instructions, results, and other information will be available at https://theclubspot.com/regatta/rlkCffjcrd .

REGATTA CHAIR Jon Zaskorski jonathan@thewaterfrontcenter.org

PRINCIPAL RACE OFFICER	George J. Ellis	george@thewaterfrontcenter.org
DEPUTY RACE OFFICER	Henriette Rohl	rohl.sea.cliff@gmail.com
PROTEST COMMITTEE CHAIR	Eric Johnson	eejohnso@optonline.net

Appendix A

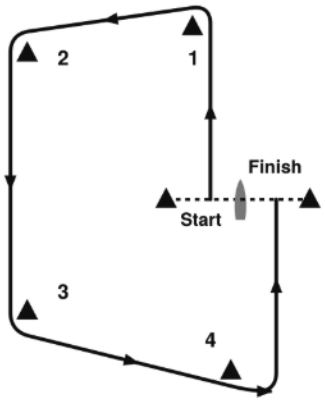
Racing Area



APPENDIX B

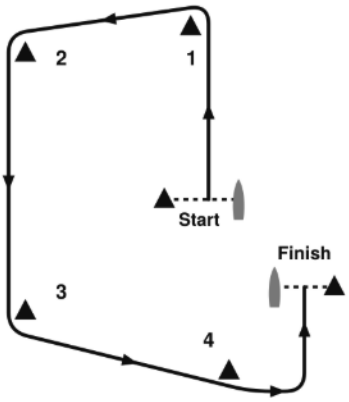
THE COURSE

OPTIMIST TRAPEZOID #1



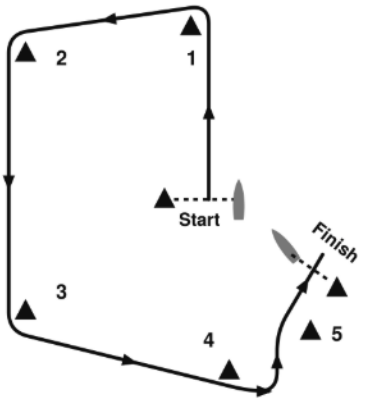
Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – Finish

OPTIMIST TRAPEZOID #2



Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – Finish

OPTIMIST TRAPEZOID #3



Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – 5 – Finish