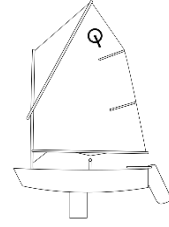




TRED AVON YACHT CLUB

2026 Junior Sailing Program



Introduction to Sailing

Description: *Introduction to Sailing* is TAYC's introductory course for our youngest sailors. The course is intended to make new sailors comfortable and confident with being on the water and basic boat handling. Activities emphasize fun as well as building basic sailing skills. Sailors will sail in Optimist dinghies and in small keelboats with instructors. Basic sailing instruction and sailing in groups is combined with activities at the club.

Schedule: Introduction to Sailing runs for eight one-week sessions, with full-day classes (9 am to 3 pm). Sailors are encouraged to sign-up for more than one session to continue to build their skills and confidence. Curriculum for the intro program will be on a repetitive rather than cumulative basis.

Prerequisite: Sailors must have completed Kindergarten or 1st grade. 2nd grade graduates should strongly consider Beginner Optimist. Sailors must pass a water comfort check which consists of floating in the water wearing an approved PFD and being able to enter the water, swim 25 yards and exit the water wearing an approved PFD.

Boats: All boats required for *Introduction to Sailing* are included.

Start Dates: June 15, June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27, and August 3.

Beginner Optimist

Description: *Beginner Optimist* is a two-week class intended for younger sailors who are either complete beginners or who are continuing from Introduction to Sailing. *Beginner Optimist* focuses on building the skills and independence necessary for sailors sailing their own boats. At the end of the two weeks, sailors should be able to rig, launch, and sail their own Optimist dinghies in a variety of conditions and should be ready to join the TAYC Club Team.

Schedule: *Beginner Optimist* runs for three two-week sessions, with full-day classes (9 am to 3 pm). Sailors are encouraged to sign-up for more than one session to continue to build their skills and confidence.

Prerequisite: Sailors should **EITHER** have completed second grade **OR** have successfully completed *Introduction to Sailing* with instructor's recommendation to advance. Must be able to pass required swim/float competencies.

(The Optimist is generally intended for younger and smaller sailors. Beginner sailors who are over 13 years old or who weigh more than 120 lbs. should consider signing up for the *C420 Club Team*. Please contact juniorsail@tayc.com for more details.)

Boats: Boats required for *Beginner Optimist* are not included and are an extra \$100 per week.

Start Dates: June 15, July 6, and July 20.

Optimist Club Team and C420/ILCA Club Team

Description: Sailors on the *Optimist Club Team* and *C420/Laser Club Team* will continue to master sailing skills and grow as sailors in whichever direction they choose. The *Club Teams* are intended to provide sailors and their families with as much flexibility as possible, and to let sailors compete as much or as little as they want.

The *Club Teams* will offer the opportunity for some sailors to build on boat handling and tactics and participate in racing at the club or at regattas at other clubs. *Club Team* members are welcome to travel with the Travel Teams to compete at any regatta that TAYC attends in the Chesapeake Bay region (subject to the availability of transportation and trailer space). *Optimist Club Team* sailors will generally compete in the Green Fleet division at Regattas. Coaching at a regatta that occurs in a week a *Club Team* sailor is registered for is included in the registration fee.

The *Club Teams* will also offer the opportunity for sailors to enjoy sailing and spending time on the water with friends. Sailors who are not interested in competing will still build strong sailing and seamanship skills while having fun on the Tred Avon River with teammates.

The *Club Teams* have multiple coaches, and sailors on the *Club Teams* will be grouped according to their interests and skill levels. For example, sailors interested in preparing for competition may sail with the Green Fleet coach while sailors interested in adventure sailing may sail with another group exploring the river.

Schedule: The *Club Teams* will be run as a series of eight one-week sessions. Sailors must register for **at least** two weeks of *Club Team* sailing. **However**, the two weeks do not need to be consecutive (*i.e.*, sailors can select any two weeks during the program). Sailors are encouraged to sign-up for at least four weeks although eight is preferable. Club Teams practice from Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 3 pm.

Prerequisite: Sailors should **EITHER** have successfully completed *Beginner Optimist* **OR** have prior sailing experience with a recommendation from their last instructor or the director.

Boats: *Club Team* sailors should bring their own boats or can charter boats from the club. Note that ILCA/Laser dinghies are not available to charter from the club – please contact juniorsailing@tayc.com if you need to charter an ILCA/Laser.

Start Dates: June 15, June 22, June 29, July 6, July 13, July 20, July 27, and August 3

Optimist Travel Team and C420/ILCA Travel Team

Description: *The Optimist Travel Team and C420/ILCA Travel Team* are intended for experienced and dedicated sailors who want to pursue racing at a high level and compete in regattas on and off the Chesapeake Bay. The *Optimist Travel Team* includes sailors in the Optimist Red, White, and Blue Fleets, as well as Green Fleet sailors committed to sailing for the full summer. The *C420 Travel Team* and *ILCA Travel* team will sail in the C420 and ILCA/Laser divisions at regattas. Please sign up as soon as possible because we need a minimum number of sailors attending events to commit coaching staff.

The *Travel Teams* require a commitment for the full eight weeks of the sailing program. When the *Travel Teams* are in Oxford, practices run from Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 3 pm. *Travel Team* parents are expected to support travel to regattas (e.g., towing trailers and/or providing other support).

Schedule: The *Travel Team* will be run as a single eight-week session. The *Travel Teams* practice Monday through Friday, from 9 am to 3 pm.

Prerequisite: Sailors should be experienced competitive sailors and have a recommendation from their last instructor or the director.

Boats: *Travel Team* sailors should bring their own boats or can charter boats from the club. Note that ILCA/Laser dinghies are not available to charter from the club – please contact juniorsailing@tayc.com if you need to charter an ILCA/Laser.

Start Date: June 17
