



2026 Optimist New Jersey State Championship

Hosted by Toms River Yacht Club

Toms River, NJ USA

July 13-14, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI) – GOLD FLEET

1. RULES

- 1.1 RRS 60.2(a)(1) is changed as follows: 'If the protestor is a boat, she shall hail 'Protest' at the first reasonable opportunity and she shall inform the Race Committee immediately after finishing, or as soon as practicable after she retires (and before discussing her intent with any support person), of the boat(s) she intends to protest'.
- 1.2 RRS 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: (2) if it alleges a breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in, and did not see, the incident, or

2. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 Any changes to the sailing instructions will be posted before 0900 on the day that it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by the 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located online at <https://usoda.org/regatta/tkK8DroGsf>.
- 3.2 Unofficial 'RC actions' may be broadcast on VHF channel **72** as a courtesy to coaches and spectators.

4. FORMAT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 4.1 The Gold Fleet will be divided into divisions.
- 4.2 The Gold Fleet will race in "Sets" of races where a "Set" is a group of scored races in which all divisions have competed. The RC will endeavor to run complete "Sets" of races each day, and at its discretion may abandon incomplete "Sets".
- 4.3 For the first day of racing competitors will be assigned based on the results from recent optimist events, as determined by the USODA Regatta Committee in its sole discretion, seeded 1-2-2-1, etc. plus random assignment determined by the scorer for those who have not competed in a recent event.
- 4.4 At the end of the first day of racing, provided that at least two complete "Sets" have been sailed and scored, competitors will be assigned to divisions for the second day on the basis of the cumulative regatta results as of the posted protest time limit. Assignment will be with a system like 1-2-2-1, etc..
- 4.5 Division assignments will be made at the discretion of the organizing authority and RC whose decision will be final and shall not be grounds for a boat to request redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).
- 4.6 [SP] [DP]The organizing authority will provide each boat with colored streamers identifying division assignments. While on the water, each boat shall at all times display the colored streamer



corresponding to her daily division assignment. The streamer shall be attached securely to the sprit loop at the top of the sail, and its size shall not be changed.

5. [DP] CODE OF CONDUCT

- 5.1 In addition to completing an online Sailor Code of Conduct, competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

6. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 6.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flag pole located at the rear (water side) of the TRYC main building.
- 6.2 When flag "AP" is displayed, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than 60 minutes" in Race Signal "AP".
- 6.3 [SP][DP] Flag D with one sound indicates Harbor Launch. Boats shall not leave their assigned space until this signal is made. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 60 minutes after flag D is displayed.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

7.1 Monday, July 13

0915	Coaches' Meeting
0930	Competitors', Coaches' and Parents' Meeting
1000	Harbor Launch
1100	First Warning Signal
After Racing	Post Race Hospitality

Tuesday, July 14

0900	Coaches' Meeting
0930	Harbor Launch
1030	First Warning Signal
1500	No Warning Signal for a race or "Set" of races after this time
After Racing	Awards Ceremony & Post Race Hospitality

- 7.2 Four (4) "Sets" of races are scheduled for each day of racing. One extra race per day may be sailed, provided the championship never becomes more than one race ahead of schedule.
- 7.3 [DP] If the last race of a "Set" cannot be completed before the end of racing on a given day, that "Set" will be completed first on the succeeding day, using the same division assignment. For succeeding "Sets" on that day, assignments to divisions will be based on cumulative results through the latest completed "Set" as of the Protest Time Limit on the day prior. Competitors should display the colored streamer assigned to their new division.

8. CLASS FLAGS

- 8.1 The class flags will be the 2 division colors: Yellow, Purple.

9. RACING AREA

- 9.1 The racing area will be **approximately 2 nm East of the TRYC on the mouth of the Toms River entering Barnegat Bay.**



10. COURSES

- 10.1 The diagram in SI Addendum 1 shows the course, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. The length of each leg and exact configuration will be based on the sailing conditions.
- 10.2 If one of the gate marks (mark 3P or 3S) is missing, boats shall round the remaining mark 3 to port.
- 10.3 The angle from Mark 2 to Mark 3P/3S may be changed up to 15 degrees in either direction to compensate for wind / current differences on that side of the course, without signals or change marks, provided the change is made before any boats begin that leg. This is added to RRS 33.

11. MARKS

- 11.1 Rounding marks 1 and 2 will be yellow cylinders. Rounding marks 3P and 3S will be green cylinders.
- 11.2 The starting marks will be a RC vessel displaying an orange flag at each end of the starting line.
- 11.3 The finishing marks will be a RC vessel displaying a blue flag at each end of the finishing line.

12. [NP][DP] OBSTRUCTIONS/RESTRICTED AREAS

- 12.1 The **racing area** is the space encompassing the course, the starting area, and the finishing area. It extends 100 yards beyond any racing boat and all marks. Except as permitted by **SI 22**, only competing boats and official vessels (designated as such by the RC) may enter the racing area while boats are racing.
- 12.2 The **waiting area** is the area to leeward of the racing area below the starting line, marked by a series of small balls or marks, or, in the absence of small buoys, at a distance specified by the Principal Race Officer

13. THE START

- 13.1 The starting rotation for a “Set” of races will be by division in the following order: Yellow, Purple.
- 13.2 The starting line is between staffs displaying orange flags on the starting marks.
- 13.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flags will be displayed with one sound at least four (4) minutes before a warning signal is made for a “Set” of races.
- 13.4 [SP] [NP] All boats not in the next start shall proceed immediately to the waiting area and remain there until the RC displays flag “F” or removes the starting line flags.
- 13.5 Shortly after any start, the RC will display flag “F”, indicating that boats in the next start may leave the waiting area.
- 13.6 A boat that does not start within five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS), without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and RRS A5.2.
- 13.7 Any starting penalties from races that are abandoned or recalled after the starting signal and not re-sailed on the same day will not carry over to those races if they are re-sailed on another day in the regatta. This changes RRS 30.4 and 36.

14. THE FINISH

- 14.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying a blue flag on one finishing mark and the course side of the other finishing mark.



14.2 [SP][DP][NP]Immediately after finishing all boats shall sail clear of the finishing area, leaving the RC finishing vessel to starboard, and promptly return to the waiting area via the corridor shown in SI Addendum 1.

14.3 Flag “A” displayed (with no sound) while boats are finishing means “No more racing today.”

15. PENALTY SYSTEM

15.1 The “Graded Penalty System” will apply and is attached as Addendum 2. “Fleet” is defined as the number of registered boats in the largest division. Percentage penalties will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.

15.2 [SP]A boat that has taken a penalty under RRS 44.1 shall, as soon as practical after racing, complete a penalty acknowledgement log at the Protest Desk.

15.3 The application of any standard penalties [SP] or discretionary penalties [DP] shall not cause a boat’s score to be worse than the score for a “DSQ”.

16. TIME LIMITS

16.1 The Race Time Limit is 90 minutes, and the Finishing Window will be 20 minutes

16.2 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes. Boats failing to finish within the finishing window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35 and A5.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 The protest time limit is 45 minutes after the RC signal vessel docks. The protest time limit (filing deadline) will be posted on the official notice board as soon as practical.

17.2 Hearing request and scoring review forms are available from the Protest Desk located upstairs in the main building of the TRYC.

17.3 Hearing request and scoring review forms shall be delivered to the Protest Desk.

17.4 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.

17.5 [NP]Hearings will be held in the assigned protest room, beginning at the time posted. Representatives of boats who are parties to a hearing and their witnesses shall report to the Protest Desk at the scheduled hearing time and remain there until called for their hearing.

17.6 RRS 63.1(a)(4) is changed as follows: delete ‘unless there is good reason for the protest committee to decide otherwise.’

17.7 A list of boats that have been penalized for breaking RRS 42 under Appendix P will be posted.

17.8 Scoring reviews, if not resolved by the RC, may be considered requests for redress per RRS 61.4(b)(1).

17.9 RRS 61.2(b)(3) is changed as follows: After the second sentence, add, ‘If the RC posts a list of boats scored OCS, NSC, UFD, or BFD on the official notice board before the protest time limit, a request for redress based on such a posted score shall be made no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit. Requests for redress relating to a score determined by the RC shall state the procedural error the boat believes the RC may have made. Further, the boat will be expected to establish that it started properly.’



All other requests shall be made as soon as reasonably possible after the relevant information is available.'

18. SCORING

- 18.1 The Low Point Scoring System of RRS Appendix A will apply as revised below.
- 18.2 The number of boats entered in the event will be defined as the number of boats which complete registration at the regatta venue. Race scores will be based on the number of registered boats in the largest division. This changes RRS A5.2.
- 18.3 One (1) completed "Set" of races will constitute the **2026 Optimist New Jersey State Championship**.
- 18.4 When five (5) or more "Sets" of races have been completed, a boat's final score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

19. [SP][DP] SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 19.1 Prior to launching each day, coaches shall check-out their sailors with the designated race officials at the sailing center, indicating their departure to the race course. A competitor who will not be racing that day shall notify a host venue volunteer before the Harbor Launch, or by email at bhull@donovancatholic.org.
- 19.2 [SP] [DP] Immediately upon returning to shore, but not later than 30 minutes after the RC signal vessel docks, coaches shall check-in their sailors with the designated race officials at the sailing center, indicating their return to the venue.
- 19.3 A competitor retiring from a race or intending not to start a race shall notify a RC vessel or safety vessel before leaving the course, or if that is not possible, notify the OA immediately upon returning to shore by email at bhull@donovancatholic.org.

20. [SP][DP] REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 Any request to consider approving equipment substitutions shall be submitted in writing to the Technical Committee before the end of the protest time limit the day prior to the day for which the substitution is to be made. If changes are required during a day's racing, approval may be made verbally and the written request submitted before that day's protest time limit.

21. OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 21.1 On-water Rule 42 Judge vessels will display a J Flag. A Rule 42 Judge may also be aboard the RC signal vessel and will not display a flag.

22. [SP][DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

- 22.1 Coaches are expected to be good role models for young sailors and conduct themselves accordingly ashore and on the water.
- 22.2 Support persons who serve on RC vessels (including patrol and safety vessels) may not communicate in any way with their sailors or their coaches from the time the orange starting line flags are displayed until their sailor has finished his or her race (the "No Communication Period"). The only exception to this rule is when directed by the Principal Race Officer or they are involved with safety and rescue. During periods of time when communication with coaches and/or sailors is permissible, these persons shall not transfer any strategic or tactical information (including audio or video recordings) gained due to their advantageous location on the race course or their access to RC communications, unless such information



is made available to all sailors, coaches and other support persons. Communications of a personal nature (e.g., 'great race', 'get something to drink', 'go see your coach', etc.) are always permissible outside the "No Communication Period".

22.3 General support (coach and spectator) vessel requirements:

22.3.1. No 'team' flags, private signal flags, or any object that might be construed as a signal shall be flown from coach or support vessels while racing is underway.

22.3.2. Support vessels shall follow the instructions of race officials at all times.

22.3.3. No support vessels shall tie up to or congregate around any aid to navigation, such as buoys or channel markers, or tie up to any fixed fishing gear or fishing floats.

22.4 Restrictions:

22.4.1. All support vessels shall stay out of the racing area while boats are racing and at least 100 yards away from any racing boat, and move slowly and with minimal wake, except where permitted in this instruction.

22.4.2. Certain support vessels may be designated as rescue craft by the Principal Race Officer or Safety Officer and given permission to enter the racing area for the purposes of rescue operations only.

22.4.3. When the RC displays (or is displaying) its orange starting line flags, all support vessels in the starting area shall proceed immediately to the waiting area and shall remain there until the RC lowers the orange starting line flags, except that, after first and subsequent start(s) of a "Set" of races, support vessels may exit the waiting area and proceed slowly with minimal wake to the weather mark, only on the starboard side of the course. The RC may close the starboard side of the course to support vessels.

22.4.4. There shall be no anchoring inside the course or in the vicinity of the finishing line.

22.5 There shall be no unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) drone flight permitted above the racing area, waiting area, corridor, coach/spectator boat zones, starting line or finishing line.

22.6 Penalties:

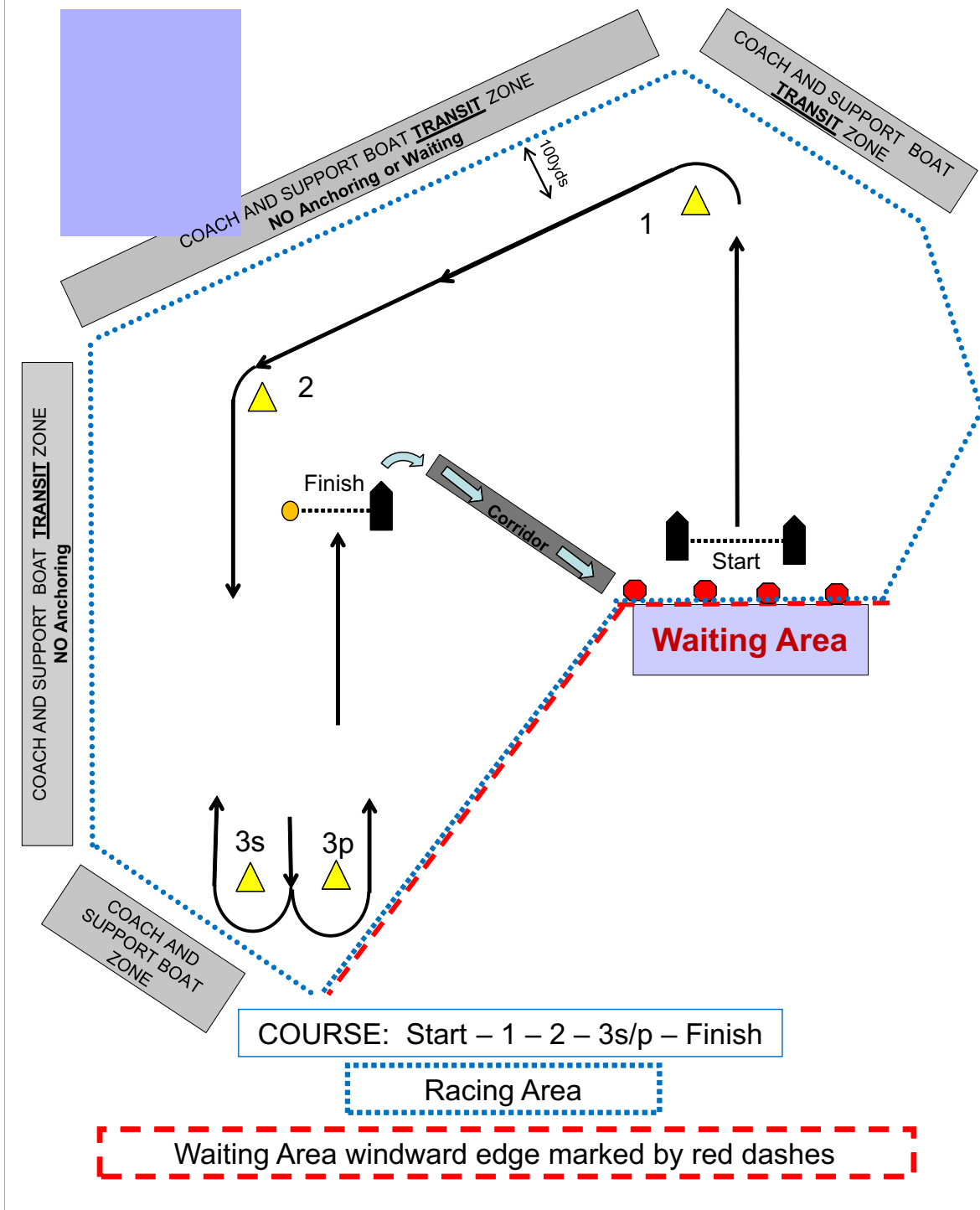
22.6.1. Competitors affiliated with any support person vessel that breaks a rule may be protested and penalized under RRS 41, Outside Help, in which case the Preamble to Part 4 will not apply. This changes RRS 41.

22.6.2. Support persons that repeatedly and/or intentionally break a rule may be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including exclusion from the venue.

23. [DP][NP] TRASH DISPOSAL

23.1 Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

SI Addendum 1 – Race Course and Restricted Areas



Note: Diagram not to scale. Mark colors and shapes are illustrative only.



SI Addendum 2 – USODA Graded Penalty System

Percentage Penalties rounded up to the next whole number. Penalties apply to the race of infringement; otherwise to the first race of the day.

1. Minor SI penalties

Penalty approximately equal to 5% of fleet

- a) Not displaying the assigned colored division streamer
- b) Launching before 'Harbor Launch' signal
- c) Failure to return promptly to waiting area after finishing
- d) Failure to report penalty taken
- e) Failure to comply with Safety Check-Out/Check-In procedures

2. Minor class rule penalties and intermediate SI penalties

Penalty approximately equal to 10% of fleet

- a) Bailer/paddle/daggerboard/painter not correctly attached to hull (CR 4.3)
- b) Painter not attached to mast step (CR 4.3 (b))
- c) Whistle not attached to personal flotation device (CR 4.2 (a))
- d) Distance between edge of sail and mast and/or boom at one eyelet 15mm or more (CR 6.6.3.3 and/or CR 6.6.3.4)
- e) Distance between edge of sail and mast and/or boom at two eyelets 13mm or more (CR 6.6.3.3 and/or CR 6.6.3.4)
- f) Loss of sail tie (CR 6.6.3.3 and/or CR 6.6.3.4)
- g) Clearance between span and boom between 101 mm and 115 mm (CR 3.5.3.8)
- h) Ring(s) on span of boom slipping (CR 3.5.3.8)
- i) Sailing across a race in progress before starting or after finishing (RRS 23.1)
- j) Out of the waiting area
- k) Breaches of SI 23, Support Teams

3. Intermediate class rule penalties

Penalty approximately equal to 30% of fleet

- a) No bailer, paddle or painter in boat (CR 4.3)
- b) No whistle (CR 4.2)
- c) Lanyard, locking device or other arrangement used to attach mast to the hull not in position (CR 3.5.2.11)
- d) Sail outside limits of bands (CR 3.5.2.7 and CR 6.6.3.1)
- e) Distance between edge of sail and mast and/or boom at two eyelets 15mm or more (CR 6.6.3.3 and/or CR 6.6.3.4)
- f) Distance between edge of sail and mast and/or boom at three or more eyelets 13mm or more (CR 6.6.3.3 and/or CR 6.6.3.4)
- g) Clearance between span and boom more than 120 mm (CR 3.5.3.8)
- h) Edge of sail at throat, tack or clew eyelet positioned 3 mm or more from mast and/or boom (CR 6.6.3.3 and/or CR 6.6.3.4)
- i) Failure to report for measurement after finishing
- j) Failing on-water measurement inspection
- k) Failure to wear an approved PFD
- l) Repeated infringement of Section 1 or Section 2 penalties, above

4. Major class rule penalties (as per RRS)

Penalty up to DSQ – requires Protest Hearing

- a) All RRS, except as amended
- b) All SI, including amendments, except as specified above
- c) Use of uninspected equipment
- d) Use of unapproved fittings
- e) Repeated infringement of Section 3 penalties, above