



2026 Optimist New England Championship

Hosted by Sail Newport

Newport, RI USA

August 11-13, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI)

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 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official online notice board at <https://usoda.org/regatta/yrT9f2bOVg>. There is no physical notice board at the venue; the online notice board is the only official notice board.
- 3.2 Unofficial 'RC actions' may be broadcast on VHF channel **79A** as a courtesy to coaches and spectators.
- 3.3 A competitors' WhatsApp group will be used for event updates and social information. Competitors and coaches are encouraged to join at <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FfU3W7Hf8EIJ7HbydSHuyx>. Posting to the WhatsApp group does not constitute an official notice.

4. FORMAT OF THE CHAMPIONSHIP

- 4.1 The Championship Fleet will be divided into divisions.
- 4.2 The Championship 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 1-2-3-3-2-1, etc. plus random assignment determined by the scorer for those who have not competed in a recent event.
- 4.4 At the end of each day's racing, provided that at least two complete "Sets" have been sailed and scored, competitors will be assigned to divisions for the next day on the basis of the cumulative regatta results as of the posted protest time limit. Assignment will be with a system like 1-2-3-3-2-1, 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 Sail Newport Youth Dock**.
- 6.2 When flag “AP” is displayed ashore, “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 Tuesday, August 11

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|------|---|
| 0845 | Coaches’ Meeting (Jason Titunik Racing Education Center, 60 Fort Adams Drive) |
| 0900 | Competitors’, Coaches’ and Parents’ Meeting |
| 0930 | Harbor Launch |
| 1030 | First Warning Signal |

Wednesday, August 12

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|--------------|----------------------|
| 0930 | Harbor Launch |
| 1030 | First Warning Signal |
| After Racing | Dinner Social |

Thursday, August 13

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| 0930 | Harbor Launch |
| 1030 | First Warning Signal |
| 1430 | No Warning Signal for a race or “Set” of races after this time |
| After Racing | Awards Presentation |

- 7.2 Three (3) “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 3 division colors: Yellow, Pink, Blue.

9. RACING AREA

- 9.1 The racing area will be in the vicinity of Potter Cove, north of the Newport (Pell) Bridge. See SI Addendum 3.

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, 2, 3P and 3S will be orange MarkSetBots.
- 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 one end of the finishing line and a yellow MarkSetBot at the other end of the finish 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, Pink, Blue.
- 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.
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- 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 on the middle floor of the Sail Newport Building.
- 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.
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- 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 England 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, competitors shall check-out at the corner of the grass triangle field, 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.
- 19.2 [SP] [DP] Immediately upon returning to shore, **but not later than 30 minutes** after the RC signal vessel docks, competitors shall check-in at the corner of the grass triangle field, 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.

20. [SP][DP] REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT

- 20.1 Any request to consider approving equipment substitutions shall be submitted in writing to the Race 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:

- a) 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.
- b) Support vessels shall follow the instructions of race officials at all times.
- c) 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:

- a) 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.
- b) 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.
- c) 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.
- d) There shall be no anchoring inside the course or in the vicinity of the finishing line.

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

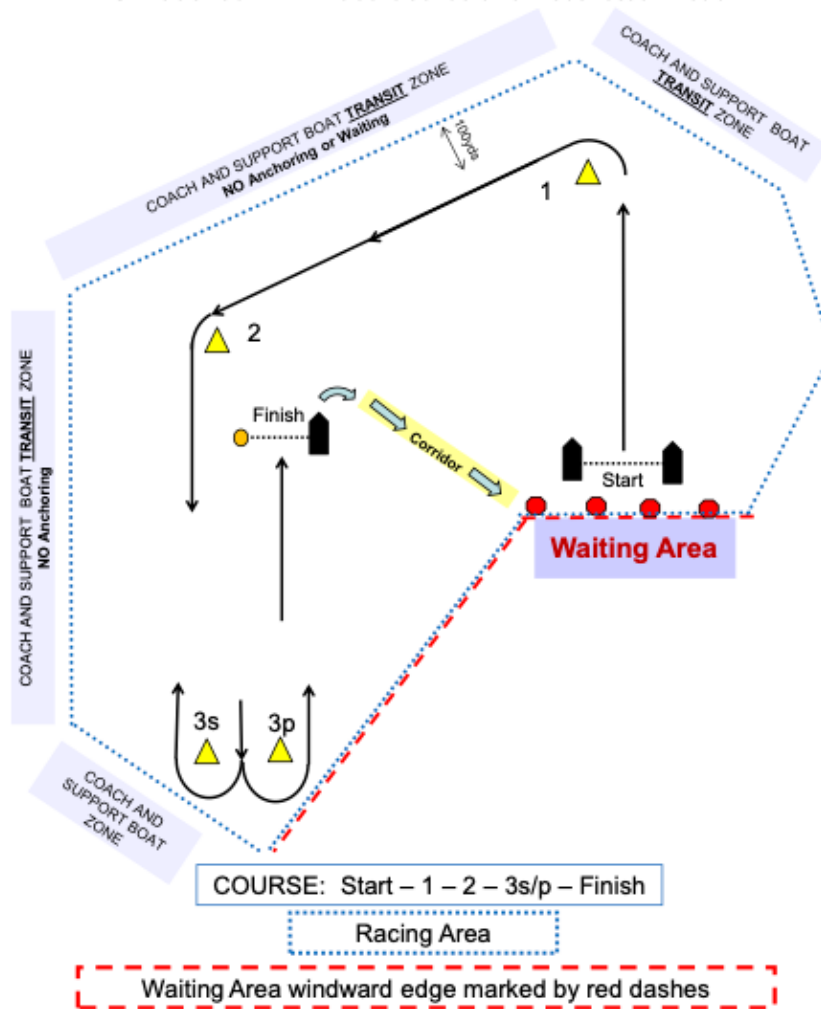
22.6 Penalties:

- a) 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.
- b) 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





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 22, Support Teams

3. **Intermediate class rule penalties** - *Penalty approximately equal to 30% of fleet*

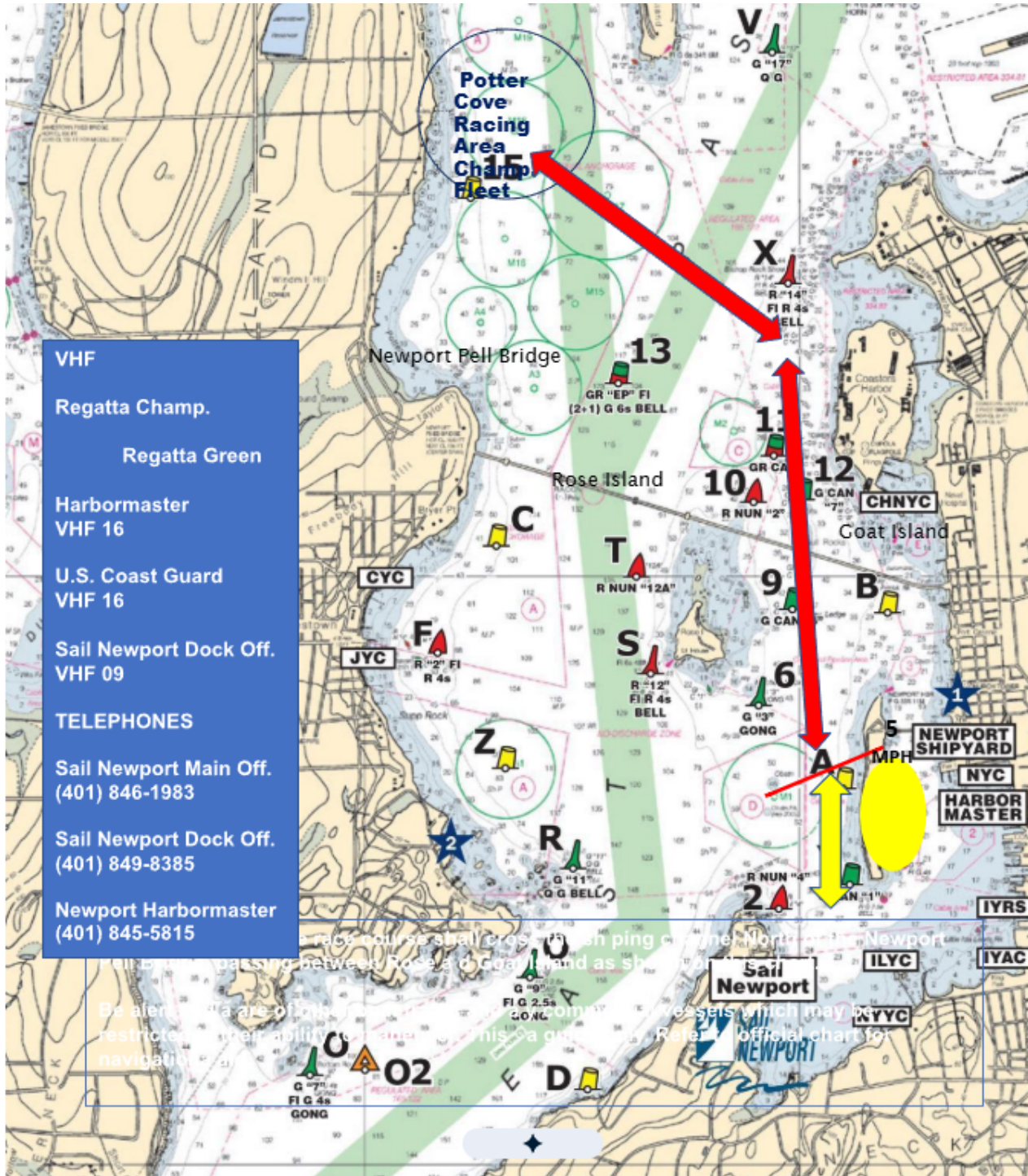
- a. No bailer, paddle or painter in boat (CR 4.3)
- b. No whistle (CR 4.2)
- c. Lanyard, locking device or other arrangement used to attach mast to the hull not in position (CR 3.5.2.11)
- d. Sail outside limits of bands (CR 3.5.2.7 and CR 6.6.3.1)
- e. Distance between edge of sail and mast and/or 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

SI Addendum 3

Race Area and Travel Plan





SI Addendum 4 - GREEN FLEET SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Opti Class Philosophy: USODA is a teaching class and GREEN FLEET is its introductory fleet for novice sailors. The Rules of Sailing are important and taught but learning to race while having fun is equally stressed. These sailing instructions are structured within *The Racing Rules of Sailing* to provide a flexible, less structured and less formal racing environment. Green Fleet is not scored. All participants receive participation awards. While race placement and progress may be tracked, who places first is less important than learning, improving, and having fun along the way. Parents and competitors who are looking for a more competitive environment should consider the Championship Fleet red, white and blue racing divisions.

1 CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board and/or announced at the Green Fleet Competitors Meeting.

2 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in race signal AP.

3 SCHEDULE OF RACING

Green Fleet sails an informal schedule. After the competitors' meeting for all sailors, a separate Green Fleet Competitors' Meeting will take place in the same vicinity. At this meeting, the Green Fleet PRO will announce the plan for the day and the time of the first warning. This information may be posted on the notice board. The schedule may change based on conditions and the requirements of the sailors.

4 CLASS FLAG

The class flag will be a green flag.

5 RACING AREA

The racing area will be announced at the Green Fleet meeting. This may change each day based on conditions.

6 THE COURSES

The courses may be windward/leeward, triangles or other courses as described by the PRO at each day's Green Fleet Meeting. On the water, the course will be posted on a white board on the Signal Boat and/or hailed by the RC.

7 MARKS

Rounding marks will be **orange tetrahedrons**, and **yellow cylinders** will be used at the start and finish lines.

8 THE START AND FINISH

- 8.1 Races will be started with sounds according to Appendix U (3-minute sequence). The RC may verbally hail the countdown. The class flag will be displayed on the signal boat during the start sequence.
- 8.2 The starting and finishing line will be between a staff on the signal boat displaying an orange flag and the nearby inflatable mark.
- 8.3 The start-finish line will not be an "obstruction" and will be open to boats sailing downwind.
- 8.4 Boats that have finished shall immediately sail to the right of the finishing line and stay clear of all other boats that are still racing.



9 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the RC will move the original mark (or move the finishing line) before the first boat has rounded the previous mark. No signals are required for this change. This changes rule 33.

10 PENALTY SYSTEM

The penalty system described in rule 44.1 and 44.2 is changed so that only one-turn, including one tack and one jibe is required. This changes rule 44.1.

11 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

Since Green Fleet is not scored, protests are teaching opportunities. An open discussion of the protest process (mock protest) may be held if resources are available. All competitors, parents and coaches are encouraged to attend and observe.

12 SCORING

Green Fleet is not scored. All participants receive participation awards. While placement and progress may be tracked, scores are less important than learning, improving, and having fun along the way.

13 COACHING

Coaching is encouraged by the RC. Coaching should focus on the bottom half of the fleet. Coaching on the water is for all, and all coaches are required to assist all sailors. All coaches are required to prominently display their coach flag and to have VHF radios on and operating on the Green Fleet RC channel, **VHF 69**, at all times while racing is underway. The RC has the right to remove from the Green Fleet course any coach who disregards the instructions of the RC.

14 SAFETY

14.1 All boats may be inspected for proper rigging and safety prior to racing.

14.2 All Green Fleet sailors, NOT PARENTS, are required to personally Check-Out at the corner of the grass triangle field, indicating their departure to the race course. If a competitor will not be racing that day, he or she shall notify a volunteer at the safety table. Immediately upon returning to shore, **but not later than 30 minutes** after the RC signal boat docks, competitors shall personally Check-In at the corner of the grass triangle field indicating their safe return to shore.

14.3 An adult (parent, guardian or designated adult) is responsible for the safety of their sailor. It is the responsibility of this adult to decide if the sailor 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.

14.4 Parents not personally attending any part of the event shall ensure that another adult is authorized and designated to make these decisions for their sailor, and each competitor shall indicate in writing at Competitor Registration the parent or adult representative that will be responsible for the competitor throughout the event.

14.5 The designated adult shall accept full responsibility for all actions of the competitor during any activity related to the event. This includes on-shore activities before, during, and after the regatta.

14.6 Any sailor retiring from a race must notify a RC boat or safety boat before leaving the course.



SUSTAINABILITY

Sail Newport is committed to maximizing our sustainability practices and limiting our environmental impact. We work closely with sailors, regatta competitors, sponsors and partners to keep our ocean clean.



Clean Ocean
Green Earth



LEED-COMPLIANT
HEADQUARTERS



SOLAR POWER



RAIN WATER
HARVESTING



RECYCLE



GREEN TEAM



STRAW FREE
CAMPUS



NO SINGLE-USE
PLASTIC BOTTLES



COMPOSTIBLE
FOODWARE



LOCALLY
SOURCED FOOD



OCEAN
CONSERVATION
EDUCATION



PAPERLESS REGATTA
MANAGEMENT



ELECTRIC
GPS-CONTROLLED MARKS



PROVISION
WITHOUT PLASTIC



REUSEABLE
ICE PACKS



COMPOST
FOOD SCRAPS