



2026 Optimist Team Trials

Fairhope Yacht Club
in conjunction with
U.S. Optimist Dinghy Association (USODA)
collectively, the Organizing Authority (OA)
April 18-26, 2026
Fairhope, Alabama USA

NOTICE OF RACE

Amended 3/23/2026: 13 Penalty System

1 RULES

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. The [USODA Conditions for Sanctioned Events and Championships](#) will apply.
- 1.3. The US Sailing prescriptions to the Preamble to Part 5, Section B and to RRS 63.1(b) do not apply.
- 1.4. [SP] denotes a rule to which a standard penalty from the “USODA Graded Penalty System” may be applied by the race committee or technical committee without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty applied by the protest committee with a hearing. This changes RRS 60.5(b) and A5.1.
- 1.5. [NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.2(a) and 61.1(a).
- 1.6. [SP][DP] RRS 40.1 will apply at all times while afloat.
- 1.7. [DP][NP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable requests from an event official. Failure to comply with requests may be considered misconduct.
- 1.8. [DP][NP] Except for sailors signed up for and Coaches hired by USODA for the USNT/DT Practice on April 10-12, Competitors and Support Persons shall not arrive at Fairhope Yacht Club before April 18 and those that do will be denied entry to the club grounds.
- 1.9. [DP][NP] Competitor access to and training from Fairhope Yacht Club is restricted to those who are Team Trials Eligible, Team Trials Qualified (as defined in the [USODA Conditions for Sanctioned Events and Championships](#)) AND registered for Team Trials

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available after April 19 at <https://usoda.org/regatta/MJPltRIXPA>.

3 COMMUNICATION

The online notice board is located at <https://usoda.org/regatta/MJPltRIXPA>.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to USODA TTQ or Host Club invited boats of the International Optimist class that fulfill the eligibility requirements as defined in the [USODA Conditions for Sanctioned Events and Championships](#).



- 4.2 Eligible boats may enter by completing an entry online at <https://usoda.org/regatta/MJPltRIXPA> and providing all required competitor information, paying all required fees, and electronically signing the USODA Waiver of Liability.
- 4.3 Each competitor shall confirm their entry by checking the Event Registration page. If a competitor is not listed on the USODA website, then the competitor is not entered. **Entry fees are NON-REFUNDABLE and may not be transferred to another USODA event.**
- 4.4 As part of sailor registration online, competitors agree to be bound by the Sailor Code of Conduct (Addendum A) and Boat Self-Certification Safety Checklist (Addendum B). When applicable, entry is not complete until the competitor has submitted a signed USODA **Measurement Form**.
- 4.5 Online entries will open on Monday, January 1st at 9:00 am ET and will close Friday, April 10th at 12:00 PM ET. Requests to enter after the online entry deadline are subject to approval by the OA.

5 FEES

Entry fees are as follows:

- a) The entry fee is \$300 for applications received by March 25, 2026.
- b) A late fee of \$25 (\$325 total entry fee) shall be paid for applications received March 26, 2026 through April 1, 2026.
- c) An additional late entry fee of \$25 (\$350 total entry fee) shall be paid for applications received after April 1, 2026.

6 ADVERTISING

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the OA.

7 [NP][DP][SP] CAMERAS AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT

- 7.1 Boats may be required to carry cameras, sound equipment or positioning equipment as specified by the OA. Information from this equipment shall not be used by a boat as evidence in a hearing. This changes RRS 63.4(b).
- 7.2 The equipment provided, once placed on the boat as instructed by the OA, shall not be manipulated by the competitor or coach in any way, except when so required by the OA.
- 7.3 There shall be no unauthorized unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) drone flight permitted above the racing area, waiting area, corridor, coach/spectator boat zones, start line or finish line.

8 FORMAT

- 8.1 The Championship Fleet will race as one or more divisions depending on the number of entries. The process for allocating boats to divisions and the format will be specified in the Sailing Instructions.
- 8.2 There will not be a Green Fleet.

9 SCHEDULE

- 9.1 Program and Schedule

Saturday, April 18

All Day

Competitors and Support Persons Welcome to Arrive. **Except for sailors signed up for and Coaches hired by USODA for the USNT/DT Practice on April 10-12,**



Competitors and Support Persons shall not arrive at Fairhope Yacht Club before April 18 and those that do will be denied entry to the club grounds.

Monday, April 20 – Tuesday, April 21

0900-1300 Mandatory Measurement and Competitor Check-in and Support Person Registration/Check-in by appointment

Wednesday, April 22

0900-1700 Mandatory Measurement and Competitor Check-in and Support Person Registration/Check-in by appointment

Thursday, April 23

0815 Coaches' Meeting
0830 Competitors', Coaches' and Parents' Meeting
0900 Harbor Launch
1000 First Warning Signal
After Racing Snacks

Friday, April 24-Saturday, April 25

0845 Coaches' Meeting
0900 Harbor Launch
1000 First Warning Signal
After Racing Snacks

Sunday, April 26

0845 Coaches' Meeting
0900 Harbor Launch
1000 First Warning Signal
1530 No Warning Signal for a race or "Set" of races after this time
After Racing Awards Ceremony

- 9.2 Twelve (12) "Sets" of races are scheduled for the Championship Fleet. Three (3) "Sets" of races are scheduled for each day of racing, however up to four (4) "Sets" of races may be sailed in one day provided the Championship never gets more than one "Set" of races or races ahead of schedule. A "Set" is a group of scored races in which all divisions competed.

10 [SP] EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 10.1 Each boat shall submit a completed USODA Measurement Form online during Measurement. This form will inform the technical committee that all equipment is present and in compliance with class rules.
- 10.2 All equipment shall be measured and approved during measurement and have a USODA measurement decal applied.
- 10.3 All sails shall be dry and removed from the boom for inspection. Sails shall be stamped and signed by the **Team Trials** technical committee regardless of previous event stamps or signatures.
- 10.4 Boats may be inspected at any time during the event.

11 VENUE

The racing area is on Mobile Bay, west of Fairhope Yacht Club.



12 THE COURSES

The courses to be sailed will be described in the sailing instructions.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 **The right of appeal from a protest committee decision is denied as provided in RRS 70.3(b). US Sailing has granted their approval. If US Sailing's requirements are not met, the decisions of the protest committee may be appealed.**
- 13.2 The "USODA Graded Penalty System" will apply and will be provided in the sailing instructions. Percentage penalties will be rounded up to the nearest whole number.
- 13.3 RRS Appendix P, Special Procedures for Rule 42, will apply and is changed as follows: RRS P2.2 is changed so that it applies to any penalty after the first one. RRS P2.3 is deleted.

14 SCORING

- 14.1 Three "Sets" of races is required to constitute a series.
- 14.2 Rule 90.3(e) will be in effect.

15 SAFETY

- 15.1 Each competitor shall agree to abide to the USODA Boat Self-Certification Safety Checklist as part of registration for this event.

16 ADULT RESPONSIBILITY AND SUPPORT (COACH OR SPECTATOR) VESSELS

- 16.1 All coaches, parents, guardians and 'designated adults' are support persons (See RRS definition *Support Person*).
- 16.2 In addition to the requirements of RRS 3 Decision to Race, a *Support Person* is responsible for the safety of their competitor. It is the responsibility of this adult to decide if their competitor 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.
- 16.3 Parents or guardians not personally attending any part of the event shall ensure that another *Support Person* is authorized and designated to make these decisions for their competitor.
- 16.4 Each competitor shall designate, in writing at Registration, the *Support Person* that will be responsible for the competitor throughout the event.
- 16.5 The designated *Support Person* shall accept full responsibility for all actions of the competitor during any activity related to the event. This includes onshore activities before, during, and after the event.
- 16.6 The OA strongly recommends that each competitor have a support (coach or spectator) vessel on the racecourse throughout the event.
- 16.7 The OA recommends there be at least one support vessel for every 10 sailors.
- 16.8 All support vessels shall register online at <https://usoda.org/regatta/MJPltRlXPA> and pay a \$1 entry fee. A numbered flag, supplied by the OA, shall be displayed at all times while on the water. A \$24 hold will be placed on the credit card provided as a security deposit for the flag. Coaches shall be current members of USODA at the Coach or Sustaining Membership level.
- 16.9 [DP] Each support vessel shall have a working VHF radio monitoring the designated race committee channel, an anchor suitable for anchoring in the waiting area, and a basic first aid kit.



- 16.10 [DP] All support vessels shall be equipped with a functioning engine safety cut-out switch (kill switch) which shall remain attached to the operator at all times while the engine is running.

17 CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

Boats shall carry the national letters and number of the competitor entering the boat. This may mean a contravention of the Class Rules and is allowed by RRS G3.]

18 BERTHING

- 18.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.
- 18.2 [DP] Trailers must be tagged and stored in specified areas. Trailer tags may be obtained at the Race Office.
- 18.3 [DP] Support person vessels shall be kept in **FYC Harbor** or other location assigned at check-in.
- 18.4 Parking/storage fees may apply to vehicles, trailers and support vessels.
- 18.5 To arrange for storage outside of the event period, contact the Race Office at fycharbor@gmail.com and holly@fairhopeyachtclub.com.

19 RISK STATEMENT

- 19.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.**
- 19.2 The OA including the sponsors, the race committee, the officers, directors, employees and members of the OA, USODA, and all those involved in these organizations will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.

20 PRIZES

Prizes will be given as follows:

Championship Fleet

Overall:	1 st through 10 th
Red Fleet:	1 st through 5 th
Blue Fleet:	1 st through 5 th
White Fleet:	1 st through 5 th
Girls:	1 st through 3 rd

Silver Fleet:

Overall:	1 st through 10 th
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Age Outs

Gary Sprague Cup (perpetual to Overall Winner)

Trevor Moore Memorial (Perpetual White Fleet Winner)

Mark McNamara Memorial (top finisher at 1st team trials - Perpetual & Keeper)

Additional awards and prizes may be presented at the sole discretion of the host and OA and may be based on criteria other than the event.



21 QUALIFICATION FOR FUTURE EVENTS

- 21.1 Qualification for **summer** international teams will be in accordance with the selection criteria established by USODA and posted in the 'Teams' section of the USODA website at www.usoda.org/international-team. In the event of a tie that cannot be resolved by use of the rules governing this event, the matter shall be decided by a game of chance supervised by the Principal Race Officer (PRO).
- 21.2 Invitations to the U.S. National Team and ODP2 Program will be in accordance with the criteria established by the USODA and posted in the 'Teams' section of the USODA website at www.usoda.org/national-team and www.usoda.org/odp2

22 FURTHER INFORMATION

Registration: USODA Executive Director, Beth Danilek, usoda@usoda.org

Regatta Chair: Scott Hartwell, hartwells251@yahoo.com

Principal Race Officer: Todd Fedyszyn

Protest Committee Chair: Jerry Thompson

Technical Committee Chair: TBD

OPTI CHARTERS, VENDORS, POWERBOAT RENTALS & MORE

Professional Boats, www.professionalboats.com, 321-946-2572

Simmons Boatworks, 203-506-9333, rob@simmonsbw.com, <https://simmonsbw.com/>

US One-Design/Sail McLaughlin, www.sailmclaughlin.com, (508) 827-7902

Zim Sailing, charters@zimsailing.com, (401) 237-6117, www.zimsailing.com/charters

Event Website: <https://usoda.org/regatta/MJPltRIXPA>

Host Website – <https://fairhopeyachtclub.com/>

Facebook - https://www.facebook.com/US-Opti-Sailing-138942536154313/?ref=aymt_homepage_panel

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/USOptiSailing>



Notice of Race – Addendum 1

SAILOR CODE OF CONDUCT FOR United States Optimist Dinghy Association

Code of Conduct

This Code of Conduct applies to me as a member of the United States Optimist Dinghy Association (“USODA”). It applies when I participate in a USODA Sanctioned Event. This includes USODA sponsored regattas, USODA National Team (“USNT”) and USODA Optimist Development Program (“ODP2”) practices and international regattas which I attend as a representative of the USODA (each an “event”). This Code of Conduct starts to apply to me when I arrive at an event and ends when I leave the event. This Code of Conduct applies to my behavior both on and off the water. I understand that this Code of Conduct applies in addition to the Racing Rules of Sailing and in addition to any behavior rules that my club or private team may require of me. I understand that I may be subject to additional conduct rules if I participate in an international event, USNT, or ODP2 event. I understand that violations of this Code of Conduct may result in a hearing or punishment from the USODA directly and that my violation of this Code of Conduct may additionally violate the Racing Rules of Sailing, subjecting me to hearing, punishment or sanction imposed by US Sailing.

- I will use my best efforts to learn and follow the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- I will be honest, fair, courteous, respectful and a good sport, whether I am winning or losing.
- I will treat competitors, coaches, regatta officials, parents, hosts and all others with respect, even if I believe that person is wrong.
- I will comply with the reasonable requests of any regatta official, USODA team coach and/or parent chaperone that may be associated with an event.
- I will not use another's property without permission, steal or damage another's property.
- I will not hit, abuse, bully, make fun of or call anyone names.
- I will not swear or curse.
- I will not abuse my equipment in anger.
- I will follow all safety procedures and instructions given by race officials, regatta hosts and other responsible adults. I will promptly notify a race official, coach or responsible adult if another person is in danger.
- I will not engage in any conduct that endangers the health or safety of another competitor.
- I will only use class legal equipment.
- I will not use (including by vaping) alcohol, tobacco, or any drugs that were not prescribed specifically for me.

By completing registration, the sailor agrees to have read and reviewed these rules of conduct and understands that they are expected to follow all of them.



Notice of Race – Addendum 1 (cont'd)

Code of Conduct Hearings:

Any competitor, coach, parent, Race Committee member, member of the Organizing Authority, judge or umpire may report an alleged breach by me of this Code of Conduct during an event.

I may report an alleged breach by another competitor or support person.

All reports must be made in writing (a Conduct Report), though no special form is required, which identify the sailor being complained of and the basic facts of the alleged breach of this Code of Conduct.

The Conduct Report must be presented to any one of the following persons:

the Chief Judge of the event, or in the absence of a Protest Committee, the Principal Race Office (PRO),
the Head Coach of the event (if this is a practice event).

The party taking the Conduct Report shall communicate the report to the USODA Executive Director and as outlined in Appendix L of the World Sailing Misconduct Guidance Manual, they shall determine the appropriate path for addressing the alleged misconduct.

Any decisions of the Conduct Committee are final and non-appealable.

Possible Discipline:

If, after hearing, the Committee determines that a breach has occurred, it may:

- a. Impose any of the following disciplinary actions and is not restricted to imposing just one:
 - i. Require a written or verbal apology to be either privately or publicly made;
 - ii. Issue a written or verbal warning to the competitor, record of which warning shall be maintained with such sailor's membership file;
 - iii. Issue a written report concerning the competitor's behavior to his or her home club or sailing team;
 - iv. In the case of property damage or theft, award damages to the owner of the injured property plus a fine if deemed appropriate in the case of intentional property damage or theft;
 - v. Suspend such sailor's eligibility to attend a future USODA event;
 - vi. Suspend such sailor's eligibility to receive an invitation to attend an international event with a USODA team; and/or
 - iv. Suspend such sailor's membership within USODA for a period of time deemed appropriate by the Committee in its sole discretion. The Committee may consider any prior warnings issued to a sailor previously in a suspension determination.

or

- b. In the event of a serious or material breach of the Code of Conduct for conduct which may violate either Rule 2 or 69 in its opinion, make a report to the Chair of the Protest Committee (or Chief Judge/Umpire) with a recommendation to hold a Rule 2 hearing or to consider a possible Rule 69 hearing under the US Racing Rules of Sailing.

By completing registration, the sailor agrees to have read the above paragraphs regarding hearings and punishment for a Code of Conduct violation and understands the possible consequences to them for a Code of Conduct violation.



Notice of Race – Addendum 2

BOAT SELF-CERTIFICATION SAFETY CHECKLIST

By completing this registration, the sailor certifies they will be in compliance with these minimum safety standards required to compete at this event and is therefore granted permission to compete.

- Painter (bow line) Loop - Two-inch loop of line out of bow gunwale
- Painter (also known as the bow line) tied to mast step, knot free, 8 meters, w/ bowline at the outboard end
- Bailer 1 minimum, 2 preferred tied to boat
- Air Bags 3 (even w/boats with side tanks)
- Rudder Retainer Clip (prevents rudder from popping out)
- Centerboard Retainer (prevents centerboard from popping up)
- Centerboard Retainer Line (ties centerboard to boat)
- Mast Tie in Line or Collar
- Main Sheet Snap - Closed Snap
- U.S. Coast Guard approved PFD (lifejacket) with whistle securely attached
- Mainsheet Bridle - No looser than 100 mm from the boom at any point
- Paddle attached to hull by lanyard or elastic cord (weighs no less than 200g, having corner radii of minimum 5mm and a blade able to contain a rectangle of 200mm x 130mm)