



**2023 Connaught Optimist Championships
16th & 17th of September 2023**

Lough Ree Yacht Club, Ballyglass, Coosan
Athlone
Co Westmeath
N37 K257

Notice of Race (NoR)

The Organising Authority (OA) shall be Lough Ree Yacht Club in conjunction with the International Optimist Dinghy Association of Ireland (IODAI).

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

The notation '[DP]' in a rule means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the Protest Committee, be less than disqualification.

1. RULES

1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.

1.2 RRS Race Signal AP, A5.1, A5.2, 33, 60.1(a), 60.1(b), 61.1, 63.7, Appendix P2, and Appendix T1(a) will be changed. The changes will appear in full in this NoR or the Sailing Instructions. The Sailing Instructions may also change other racing rules.

1.3 RRS 63.7 is changed so that in the event of a conflict between the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall prevail. In the event of a conflict between the Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions and the Supplementary Sailing Instructions, the Supplementary Sailing Instructions will prevail.

1.4 NOR 2, 7, 8, 10 do not apply to the Regatta Fleet. Please see NoR 7.3 for Regatta Fleet Schedule information.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1 The IODAI Major Event Sailing Instructions will apply and are available online at www.iodai.com.

2.2 Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSIs) will be published online prior to registration.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official notice board will be specified in the SSIs.
- 3.2 Protest hearing requests and scoring enquiries shall be submitted online through the event page on www.racingrulesofsailing.org.
- 3.3 On the water, the Race Committee may make courtesy broadcasts to support person vessels on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SSIs.
- 3.4 [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day], except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Competitors in the Connaught Championship shall be a member of IODAI, Irish Sailing, an Irish Sailing Club and sail under a registered IRL sail number, along with satisfying at least one of the following:
 - Hold an Irish Passport;
 - Were born on the Island of Ireland;
 - Have a parent or grandparent born on the Island of Ireland;
 - Have been resident on the Island of Ireland with their family for 2 consecutive years.

The OA in association with IODAI will have sole discretion in determining eligibility.

- 4.2 Entry is open to a maximum of 120 sailors in the Main Fleet (Junior and Senior) and a maximum of 60 sailors in the Regatta Fleet. Additional entries may be permitted at the discretion of the OA.
- 4.3 Entry is open to all sailors who are under 15 on the 1st of January in the year of the championship.
- 4.4 Entry shall be made through the IODAI.com website.
- 4.5 The Regatta Fleet shall be divided into a Racing fleet and a Coaching Fleet.
- 4.6 Regatta fleet eligibility:
 - 4.6.1 All sailors MUST be able to sail a triangle course with approximately 250m legs competently in light to moderate airs
 - 4.6.2 The Head Coach may at his/her discretion request a Regatta Fleet sailor to remain ashore or sit in a RIB if they deem the sailor not to be capable of sailing in the weather conditions of the day.
 - 4.6.3 In the event of adverse weather conditions, the Regatta Fleet racing may be cancelled by the Head Coach.
 - 4.6.4 It shall be at the sole discretion of the Head Coach to split the Regatta Fleet into groups to enable more competent sailors to sail in more difficult conditions while less able sailors stay ashore.
 - 4.6.5 More information can be found at IODAI.com/documents.

5 FEES

- 5.1 The entry fee for all sailors (Main & Regatta Fleet sailors) is €75 and must be paid when registering for the event at www.iodai.com prior to 11th of September 2023.
- 5.2 Entries made after 11th of September 2023 shall only be permitted be at the discretion of the Organising Authority.
- 5.3 Refunds shall only be given in accordance with the "IODAI Policies on Entry Fees for IODAI Events" published on www.IODAI.com

6 ADVERTISING

- 6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority.
- 6.2 The Organising Authority may provide bibs that competitors shall be required to wear.

7 SCHEDULE

- 7.1 Registration will take place on the 15th of September 2023, 17.30–20.00 and on the 16th of September 2023, 08.30–09.30. The racing schedule will be as set out below, however the Race Committee may get ahead of schedule but shall not sail more than 4 races on any one day.

Date	No. races	Warning signal
Saturday 16 th of September	3	11.55
Sunday 17 th of September	3	10.55

- 7.2 On the last scheduled day of racing, the first warning signal of a race shall not be made after 15.00.
- 7.3 Regatta fleet racing and coaching times will be scheduled at the direction of the Head Coach and Regatta Fleet Race Officer. All communications will be made on the Regatta Fleet's WhatsApp group.

8 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 8.1 Each boat in the Main Fleet is required to complete the IODAI Measurement Self Declaration Form (available on www.iodai.com) and submit this form prior to registration. Each boat shall produce or verify the existence of a valid measurement book and each sail shall be accompanied by the corresponding sail measurement certificate.
- 8.2 [DP] Boats may be inspected at any time ashore or on the water at the discretion of the race committee.

9 VENUE

- 9.1 The championship will be held in Lough Ree Yacht Club, Ballyglass, Coosan, Athlone, Co Westmeath, N37 K257

10 COURSES

- 10.1 The course as set out in the IODAI Major Event SIs will be used.

11 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 11.1 Appendix P will apply, except that RRS P2.3 is deleted and in RRS P2.2 "second" is changed to read "second or subsequent".

- 11.2 RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply. If a party, having been informed that an Arbitration Meeting will be held, does not attend, other parties may take a Post-Race Penalty at any time until the protest committee has completed taking evidence. This changes RRS Appendix T1(a).
- 11.3 [NP]A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under RRS 44.1 shall complete an acknowledgement form at the Race office within the protest time limit.
- 11.4 Whistle System: To encourage boats to take penalties afloat, Jury members may blow a whistle when they see what they believe to be a breach of a rule.

12 SCORING

- 12.1 3 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 12.2 Discards
 - (a) When 3 or fewer races have been completed, a boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores.
 - (b) When 4 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

13 SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

- 13.1 [DP]Support person vessels shall be registered and marked as set out in the SSIs.
- 13.2. [DP]Support person vessels shall comply with the directions from the Race Committee (please refer to the SSIs for further details).
- 13.3. [DP]All Support person vessel crews, safety crews and coaches shall attend briefings by the race committee and Organising Authority as published in the event schedule.
- 13.4. [DP]All Support person vessels shall carry on board and operate while on the water a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF channels and agree to assist the Race Committee if directed to do so. See RRS37.
- 13.5 [NP][DP]Support teams, including all support persons and support person vessels shall stay 100m outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired, or the Race Committee signals a postponement or abandonment other than during a start sequence.
- 13.6 [NP][DP]Except when requested by, or agreed with, the race committee, support person vessels shall not tow competitors to or from the race area or enter the race area. When the Race Committee permits towing, support person vessels shall take a minimum of 4 boats on tow.
- 13.7 [NP][DP]When afloat, all persons on a support person vessel shall wear a personal flotation device at all times. When the engine is running the support person vessel driver shall use a kill cord at all times.
- 13.8 [DP]Only IODAI and nominated local club coaches shall provide coaching to the Regatta fleet.
- 13.9 [NP][DP] Competitors shall not approach any vessel other than an official vessel or a registered support person vessel from their first warning signal of the day until they finish their last race for the day or the Race Committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later.

14 BERTHING

- 14.1 [DP][NP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.
- 14.2 [DP][NP] Support person vessels shall be kept in their assigned places.

15 DATA PROTECTION

15.1 Any personal information provided to the organising authority will be used to facilitate participation in the event. Competitors and support persons are bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. For any person not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest.

15.2 Personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organising authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with Irish Sailing, a competitor or support person's national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

16 IMAGE RIGHTS

16.1 Competitors and support persons accept that the Organising Authority may arrange for images or videos to be taken at the event both on the water and on shore. Competitors and support persons give consent to the taking of such images and to the use, reuse, publication, and republication of such images in any media, in conjunction with the competitor's name or not, without compensation and without the competitor's approval of such images or any use thereof. The images may only be used for the promotion of the event, its sponsors, the organising authority, and the class association.

17 RISK STATEMENT

17.1 RRS 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone".

Sailing by its nature is an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that:

(a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;

(b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;

(c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;

(d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;

(e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;

(f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions as can be practically provided in the circumstances;

(g) It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

18 INSURANCE

18.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with adequate minimum cover per incident.

19 PRIZES

19.1 Other prizes shall be awarded at the discretion of the OA and IODAI. The prize list will be published on a separate document.

20 FURTHER INFORMATION

20.1 For further information please contact: query@lryc.ie

21. COVID STATEMENT

21.1 [DP] [NP] By taking part in any of the events covered by this notice of race, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that they are responsible for complying with any regulations in force from time to time in respect of COVID-19 and for complying with the host club and IODAI COVID-19 procedures.

21.2 Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be misconduct. Reasonable actions by event officials to implement COVID-19 guidance, protocols or legislation, even if they later prove to have been unnecessary, are not improper actions or omissions.