



CH Marine 2026 Ulster Optimist Championships

Saturday 16 & Sunday 17 May 2026
Strangford Lough Yacht Club

NOTICE OF RACE (NOR)

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

The notation '[SP]' denotes a rule for which a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee without a hearing, or a discretionary penalty applied by the Protest Committee at a hearing.

ORGANISING AUTHORITY

The Organising Authority (OA) is Strangford Lough Yacht Club (SLYC) in conjunction with the International Optimist Dinghy Association of Ireland (IODAI).

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS). The prescriptions of Irish Sailing will apply.
- 1.2 RRS 63.5(c) is changed so that in the event of a conflict between the NOR and Sailing Instructions (SIs), the SIs will prevail. In the event of a conflict between the NOR or the SIs and the Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSIs), the SSIs will prevail.
- 1.3 NOR 2.1 does not apply to the Regatta Coached Fleet. NOR 7 (other than 7.7) and NOR 8 do not apply to Regatta Racing or Regatta Coached Fleets. Unless stated otherwise, all other rules of this NOR apply to all fleets.



2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The IODAI Major Event Sailing Instructions (SIs) will apply and are available online at www.iodai.com.
- 2.2 SSIs will be published on the official notice board prior to registration and may also be published on the IODAI website.

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official notice board is located online at:
<https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/documents/13869/event?name=iodai-optimist-ulster-championship-2026>
- 3.2 On the water, the Race Committee may make courtesy broadcasts on VHF radio. The channel will be stated in the SSIs.
- 3.3 [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, except for boats in the Regatta Fleet as set out in the SSIs.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to all boats of the International Optimist class.
- 4.2 Competitors must be a member of IODAI. Members of equivalent national Optimist Class Associations will obtain temporary membership of IODAI through the entry process.
Perpetual trophies and regional/national titles will only be awarded to sailors who are members of IODAI, Irish Sailing, a sailing club on the island of Ireland 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 two consecutive years.
- 4.3 Entry is open to a maximum of 100 sailors in the Main Fleet (Junior and Senior) and a maximum of 60 sailors in the Regatta Fleet (Racing and Coached). Additional entries may be permitted at the discretion of the OA.
- 4.4 Entry is open to all sailors who are under 15 on 1 January in the year of the championship.
- 4.5 Entry shall be made online at www.iodai.com.
- 4.6 Regatta Fleet eligibility (in addition to 4.3 to 4.5):



- 4.6.1 All sailors **MUST** be able to sail a triangle course with approximately 250m legs competently in light to moderate conditions.
- 4.6.2 The Head Coach may at their 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 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.

5 FEES

- 5.1 The entry fee for all sailors (both Main & Regatta Fleet) is €75.01 and must be paid when entering the event at www.iodai.com on or before 1 May 2026.
- 5.2 A late entry fee totalling €100.01 will apply to entries made from Saturday 2 May 2026 to up to 2200 on Friday 8 May 2026.
- 5.3 Any family entering a third sailor will receive a full refund for that sailor after the event.
- 5.4 Refunds shall only be given in accordance with the *Policies on entry fees for IODAI events* on www.iodai.com.

6 ADVERTISING

[DP] The OA may provide bibs that competitors are required to wear.

7 SCHEDULE

- 7.1 Registration will take place on Friday 15 May, 1600 to 2000, and Saturday 16 May, 0830 to 1000.
- 7.2 Briefing – A briefing will be held at 1015 on Saturday 16 May 2026.
- 7.3 The scheduled time of the first warning signal on Saturday is 1155 and on Sunday is 1055.

Date	Warning Signal	Scheduled No. Races
Saturday 16 May	1155	3
Sunday 17 May	1055	3

- 7.4 Six races are scheduled.
- 7.5 A fourth race may be run on the Saturday at the discretion of the Race Committee. To indicate this intention, the finish boat will display an orange flag at the end of Race 3.



7.6 No warning signal may be made after 1500 on Sunday 17 May 2026.

7.7 Regatta Racing and Coached Fleets:

7.7.1 Race times will be scheduled at the direction of the Head Coach and Race Officer.

7.7.2 Communications will be made on the Regatta Fleet WhatsApp group. It is the responsibility of guardians/ parents to register for this group.

7.7.3 A briefing will be held for Regatta Fleet competitors following the Main Fleet briefing and competitors may receive further communications orally on the water.

8 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION/ MEASUREMENT

Each boat shall produce, or verify the existence of, a valid measurement book or equivalent digital measurement certification.

9 CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT

RRS 40.1 applies at all times while afloat.

10 VENUE AND RACE AREAS

10.1 The championship will be held at SLYC.

10.2 The Race Areas will be set out in the SSIs.

11 COURSES

11.1 Course A as set out in Attachment A of the IODAI SIs will be used for the Main Fleet.

11.2 The course for the Regatta Racing Fleet will be specified in the relevant SSIs.

11.3 The course(s) for the Regatta Coached Fleet will be described to competitors by coaches at the event.

12 PENALTY SYSTEM

Appendix P and T will apply as set out in the SIs.

13 SCORING

13.1 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

13.2 Discards

(a) When three races or fewer have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

(b) When four or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

This amends RRS Appendix A2.

14 [DP] [NP] SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS



- 14.1 Support Person Vessels shall comply with the directions of the Race Committee. The OA may request that a minimum of two persons be in support vessels.
- 14.2 All Support Person Vessel crews, safety crews and coaches shall attend briefings by the Race Committee and OA as published in the event schedule.
- 14.3 Further instructions for Support Persons will be available in the SSIs and at briefings.

15 BERTHING

- 15.1 [DP][NP] Boats shall be kept in their assigned places while in the boat park.
- 15.2 [DP][NP] Support Person Vessels shall be kept in their assigned places.

16 CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

RRS G3 Chartered or Loaned Boats shall apply.

17 DATA PROTECTION & IMAGE RIGHTS

- 17.1 Any personal information provided to the OA 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.
- 17.2 Personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the OA'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.
- 17.3 Competitors and support persons accept that the OA 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 OA, and the class association.

18 RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 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 and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, 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, safety boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities.
- (f) The provision of safety 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.

19 INSURANCE

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

20 PRIZES

20.1 Main Fleet prizes will be awarded as follows:

- Senior Gold 1,2,3,4,5
- Senior Silver 1,2,3,4,5
- Senior Bronze 1,2,3,4,5
- Junior Gold 1,2,3,4,5
- Junior Silver 1,2,3,4,5
- Junior Bronze 1,2,3,4,5

20.2 Regatta Fleet prizes will be awarded as follows:

- Regatta Racing 1,2,3,4,5. Further prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the coaches.
- Regatta Coached prizes will be awarded at the discretion of the coaches.



END OF NOTICE OF RACE

FURTHER INFORMATION

Below is further information about: safeguarding; arrival arrangements; support boats; and Friday and Saturday evening meals.

Safeguarding

The SLYC and IODAI safeguarding policies can be found on their respective websites: www.slyc.co.uk and www.iodai.com
SLYC's Welfare Officer is Fiona Chamberlain. Mobile: +44 7729 171694
IODAI Children's Officer is Fiona Ryan. Mobile +353 86 173 2428
The Event Safety Officer is Colin Cushley. Mobile +44 7590 809066

Arrival

Upon arrival at SLYC, please follow the instructions of our Welcome Team to ensure that boats are unloaded and road trailers are taken away as quickly as possible. Road trailers may be stored, at your own risk, in a field close to the club. They may not be left on the club grounds.

Our club is in a residential area. We ask you to help us to minimise disruption for our neighbours. In particular, please respect the yellow lines and no parking cones. If you are unsure where to go, our Welcome Team will be pleased to help.

Support boats

If you are bringing a support boat, you must register it with IODAI. You will be advised when your boat may be launched and recovered. We will endeavour to provide either moorings or pontoon space overnight on Friday and Saturday. However, SLYC accepts no liability for any harm to or caused by your boat.

Meals

There will be a food van at the club on Friday evening and the bar will be open. No booking is required. On Saturday evening there will be a buffet meal served at 1800. **Booking is required and places will be limited**, so you are encouraged to book early. For further information, including about the social programme and link to the meal booking form, please see <https://slyc.co.uk/optimist-ulsters-16th-17th-may/> or contact office@slyc.co.uk