

2012 Fall Opti Blast

September 15, 2012

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

1.1 GENERAL. The regatta will be governed by the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing for 2009-2012 (RRS), the rules of the Optimist Class (except as any of these are altered by the Sailing Instructions), and by these Sailing Instructions.

1.2 ALCOHOL AND DRUGS. No competitor shall use, either on or off the water, alcoholic beverages (beer, wine, and distilled spirits) or use any controlled substance (marijuana, cocaine, etc.), the possession of which is unlawful. This regulation is in effect during the entire event, from date any time of arrival through date and time of departure.

On report of a violation of this regulation, a hearing will be held generally in accord with the recommendations of Appendix L of the RRS. Penalties for a violation of the regulation may range from a reprimand to dismissal from the regatta. Additionally, the hearing officers may recommend further action under RRS 69.

The officers for hearing a violation of this regulation will consist of the Chief Judge, acting as chairman of the hearing, the jury, and the Regatta Chairman.

2. LIFE JACKETS — Each competitor shall wear and keep fully secured a Coast Guard-approved PFD at all times while afloat. Whistles attached to the PFDs are required. This amends RRS 40.

3. SAFETY AND CHECK-IN

3.1 Safety. In addition to any other safety equipment required by class rules, each boat is required to have appropriate buoyancy devices, and correct numbers properly located on sails. Each Optimist shall have an IRYU plaque, a mast preventer to keep the mast from unstepping in the event of a capsize, a 10 meter painter securely attached to a fixed point on the bow, a bailer tied to the boat, a properly secured dagger board, and a boom bridle span not exceeding 10 cm.

3.2 Check-In. Upon arrival at the racing area, each competitor must check in with the race committee signal boat by sailing past the stern on a

starboard tack and calling out their sail number before the warning signal of the first race each day.

4. **NOTICES TO COMPETITORS** — Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board(s) located on the outside wall of the main clubhouse.
5. **CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS** — Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted not later than 30 minutes prior to the actual harbor start on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 hours on the day before it will take effect.
6. **SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**
 - 6.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the yardarm of the flagpole on the Club deck.
 - 6.2 Flag AP with two sound signals when raised and one additional sound signal when lowered means 'the race is postponed.' When the postponement signal is made ashore, the warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after AP is lowered.
 - 6.3 International code flag R displayed and accompanied by one sound signal means: "Boats may leave the floats or launching area and proceed to the race area."
 - 6.4 International code flag L displayed and accompanied by one sound signal means: "An official notice has been posted on the notice board."
 - 6.5 Flag B fully hoisted with one sound signal means 'Protest time has begun.' When lowered halfway, it means 'There are less than 30 minutes remaining before protest time ends.' When lowered, it means 'Protest time has ended.'
7. **SCHEDULE OF RACES**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15

 - 1000 Harbor Start
 - 1045 Warning Signal
 - 4 races scheduled (more or fewer at discretion of the Race Committee)
 - No starting sequence to begin after 1300 hours
8. **CLASS FLAGS** — Boats sailing in the Optimist classes must display fleet designation flags from the top of the mainsail. In the Optimist fleet, the fleet designations are red, blue, white and green. Optimist class rules govern eligibility for each fleet.
9. **RACING AREA** — The racing areas are designated on the laminate card provided in the skipper's package at check in.

10. **COURSE** — The courses will be designated by a number from 1-6 displayed from the race committee signal boat, and are diagrammed on the laminate card provided in the skipper's package at check-in.
11. **MARKS** — The color and shape of the marks of the course will be announced at the skippers meeting.
 - 11.1 An offset mark may be used with a windward mark. The offset mark will be located approximately 50-100 yards from the windward mark. Boats shall pass the windward mark to port and then pass the offset mark to port. If an offset mark is in place, it must be honored.
12. **THE START**
 - 12.1 Optimist races will be started using "dinghy starts" with sound signals as described on the laminate card provided in the skippers' package at check-in. If the P, I, Z and/or Black Flags are in use, they will be raised at the three minute signal and lowered at the one minute signal.
 - 12.2 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on the race committee boat at the starboard end and the port-end starting mark.
 - 12.3 Boats that are not in a starting countdown shall keep clear of the starting area and boats that are in a starting countdown.
 - 12.4 The race committee will attempt to hail premature starters in all fleets. The failure to hail premature starters, the hail of some but not all premature starters, or the untimely hail of premature starters shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
13. **CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START** — A change of course after the start will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg. The race committee may shorten the course for any reason. This changes RRS 32.2.
14. **THE FINISH** — The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on the race committee boat at the starboard end and the nearby mark at the port end. If Course 3 is in use, the finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on the race committee boat on the port end and the nearby mark at the starboard end.
15. **EARLY RETIREMENT** — A boat retiring from a race shall notify a Race Committee vessel before leaving the course, or when that is impossible, shall check in immediately after arrival ashore at the Pilot House, Hingham Yacht Club.
16. **PENALTY SYSTEM** — RRS 44.2, the 720 degree Turns Penalty will apply.

17. **TIME LIMIT** — The time limit for the first boat in each class to finish is one hour from the start. Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat finishes will be scored Did Not Finish. This changes RRS 35.

18. PROTESTS

- 18.1** A competitor intending to protest shall inform the skipper or crew of the protested boat at the first reasonable opportunity. If the protest concerns an incident in the racing area in which a competitor is involved or that a competitor sees, that competitor shall hail "Protest" at the first reasonable opportunity for each party. In addition, a competitor intending to file a protest shall inform the race committee signal boat immediately after finishing of his/ her intention to protest, giving the sail number and class of the protested boat. A competitor shall not consult with a coach or parent prior to informing the race committee of his or her intent to protest. Protests shall be written on forms available at the registration desk and delivered there within protest time, which will begin when the race committee signal boat docks and end 60 minutes later.
- 18.2** Protests will be heard in approximately the order of receipt promptly after the expiration of the protest time.
- 18.3** Protest notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the end of protest time to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses.
- 18.4** RRS 66 is changed by adding this sentence: "On the last day of racing, a party to the hearing may ask for a reopening no later than 30 minutes after being informed of the decision."
- 18.5** RRS 63.3 is modified as follows: "A boat that is a party to a protest may be represented only by her helmsman and crew."
- 18.6** The protest committee may penalize without a hearing a boat that has broken RRS 42, provided that a member of the protest committee or its designated observer (which may include any member of the race committee) has seen the incident. A disqualification under Rule 42 shall not be excluded from the boat's series score. A boat so penalized shall be informed by notification in the race results.

- 19. SCORING** — The Low Point scoring system, RRS Appendix A, will apply, modified so that each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, with her worst score (other than a disqualification for violation of RRS 2 or RRS 42) discarded if more than five races are completed. Four races are scheduled, of which one race shall be completed to constitute a series.

20. SUPPORT BOATS

- 20.1** Except when rendering assistance to a boat in danger at that boat's request, or at the request of the race committee, coach boats, support boats, spectator boats, and other support personnel shall stay at least 100 yards outside areas where boats are racing, from the time of the

preparatory signal for the first fleet to start until all boats have finished or the race committee signals an abandonment.

All support boats shall obey the request of official safety boats pertaining to the location of support boats with respect to the competitors. Competitors are responsible for the behavior of their parents and coaches. Violation of this provision may result in disqualification of the competitor or competitors associated with the craft for the race in which the violation occurs. Support personnel — race committee, mark and safety boat operators, parents, etc. — are strongly encouraged to wear fully secured PFDs while on the water.

- 20.2** All coach boats and other support boats/support personnel must agree to aid any competitor in distress or requesting assistance of any sort.
- 21.** **PRIZES** — Trophies will be awarded for the first five places in the Optimist fleets.
- 22.** **OTHER** — All sail numbers **MUST** reconcile with the sail numbers supplied in the registration.