



2026 Pensacola Optimist Week Stitt Chappel Trophy

NOTICE OF RACE

September 4 – 7, 2026

Hosted by Pensacola Yacht Club, FL USA



(This Notice of Race may be amended from time to time pursuant to RRS 89.2b)

The event will be organized by **Pensacola Yacht Club**, known as the organizing authority (OA).

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2 The following US Sailing prescriptions do not apply: RRS 63.1 and RRS 63.2.
- 1.3 In all rules governing this championship:
 - a) [SP] denotes a rule which a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee or Technical Committee without a hearing. (*This changes A5*)
 - b) [NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.
- 1.4 In RRS 90.3(e) the expression "24 hours" is changed by "30 minutes"
- 1.5 **[NP][DP]** RRS 40 and the preamble to Part 4 are changed as follows:
 - 1.5.1 The first sentence of RRS 40.1 is deleted and replaced by: "Each competitor shall wear a USCG approved personal flotation device (PFD), or a personal flotation device that conforms to regulations of their own country, properly secured at all times while on the water except when temporarily adding or removing clothing."
 - 1.5.2 Add to the preamble of Part 4, after 'racing': "...except rule 40.1 as amended by NoR 1.5.1"
- 1.6 The last two sentences of RRS 61.1(a) are changed to 'When her protest will concern an incident in the racing area that she was involved in or saw she shall hail 'Protest'. She shall inform the Race Committee at the finishing line immediately after finishing of the boat(s) being protested or as soon as practicable after she retires.'
- 1.7 **[NP][DP]** Competitors and support persons shall promptly comply with any reasonable request or instructions from the Regatta officials, including the officials in charge of the boat parking, beach master and the harbor/channel traffic.

2 GREEN REGATTA

- 2.1 The events are a Sailors for the Sea "Clean Regatta" which means that any document used by the Organizing Authority, Race Committee, Protest Committee, Measurement Committee and Competitors as a way of communication between them will be online.
- 2.2 There will be no paper format, except for Protest Committee decisions on a hearing request if a party asks for a writer decision.
- 2.3 All communications will be received by each boat in the way established in the Registration Form (email).
- 2.4 A boat may request communication in paper format only if she is a party in the hearing.
- 2.5 **[NP] [DP]** Rule RRS 47 applies at all times on the water and ashore. Trash may be placed aboard support and RC Vessels while on the water and trash cans. The penalty for breaching rule RRS 47 will be decided by the Protest Committee and could be different than a disqualification. (*This changes Preamble of part 4 RRS and rule RRS 47*)
- 2.6 All competitors are encouraged to use refillable water bottles and recycle all appropriate items.

3 ADVERTISING

- 3.1 [DP] Competitor advertising is permitted on the hull as per World Sailing Advertising Regulation but as restricted by Class Rule 2.8.
- 3.2 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organizing authority. See World Sailing Advertising Code.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to all boats of the International Optimist Class.
- 4.2 Eligible boats may enter by completing an entry online at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30399> by selecting 'Register Now' and providing all required competitor information, paying all required fees (as described in NoR 5), and electronically signing the 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 website, then the competitor is not entered.
- 4.5 Online registration will close September 1st at 12:00pm. Requests to enter after the online entry deadline are subject to approval by the (OA).

5 FEES

- 5.1 Entry fees are as follows:
 - a) The entry fee is \$125 for registrations by August 15th, 2026.
 - b) A late fee of \$50 (\$175 total entry fee) shall be paid for registrations from August 16th, 2026 through September 1st, 2026.

6 FORMAT

- 6.1 The Regatta will be raced in fleets Red (13 to 15 years old), Blue (11 and 12 years old) and White (10 years old or under). Each fleet will have separate starts.
- 6.2 Sailors will be assigned to the fleet corresponding to their ages on September 4th 2026.
- 6.3 There will be a Green Fleet if at least five (5) boats are registered by the initial deadline. The Green Fleet is intended for less experienced sailors and will include opportunities for learning and competition.

7 SCHEDULE

- 7.1 Program and Schedule

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Friday, September 4th	All day	Competitors Welcome to Arrive
	1700 – 2000	Competitor and Support Person Registration/Check-in
Saturday, September 5th	0730 - 0930	Competitor and Support Person Registration/Check-in Continental Breakfast or Make Your Own Lunch
	0930	Coaches' meeting
	1100	First Warning Signal
	After racing	Competitors' Dinner
Sunday, September 6th	0730 - 0930	Continental Breakfast or Make Your Own Lunch
	1100	First Warning Signal
Monday, September 7th	0730 - 0930	Continental Breakfast or Make Your Own Lunch
	1100	First Warning Signal
	1500	No warning Signal after this time
	After racing	Awards ceremony

- 7.2 The Green Fleet schedule will be the same through the Competitors' meeting, at which point a second, separate meeting for Green Fleet competitors will be conducted and the remainder of the schedule for the Green Fleet will be announced.
- 7.3 Ten (10) races are scheduled for the Regatta. The Green Fleet will sail as many races as practicable.

8 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT

- 8.1 Competitors are allowed to use only one hull, dagger board, rudder (with tiller and extension), mast, boom, sprit, and sail during the event. Any change of equipment shall be authorized by the Race Committee.
- 8.2 Boats may be inspected at any time during the event.



9 VENUE

- 9.1 The racing area will be on **Pensacola Bay**. See Attachment A.

10 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 10.1 The sailing instructions will be available at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30399>

11 COMMUNICATIONS

- 11.1 The online notice board is located at <https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/30399>

12 THE COURSES

- 12.1 The courses to be sailed will be trapezoidal with details included in the sailing instructions.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1 The IODA Graded Penalty System (GPS) will apply. The GPS will be defined in the sailing instructions.
13.2 RRS Appendix P applies, except that RRS P2.3 does not apply and RRS P2.2 is changed so that it applies to any penalty after the first one.

14 SCORING

- 14.1 One race is required to constitute a series.
14.2 When fewer than six (6) races have been scored, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
14.3 When six (6) to ten (10) races have been scored, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her eligible worst score.

15 SAFETY

- 15.1 Each competitor shall complete a USODA Boat Self-Certification Safety Checklist prior to 0930 on Saturday, September 5th. This checklist shall inform the race committee that all equipment is present and in working order.
15.2 Boats may be subject to a safety inspection at any time during the event.
15.3 [DP] A whistle shall be carried attached to their personal flotation device. (CR 4.2)
15.4 [DP] Each boat shall have a secure loop in the end of the 8m (26ft 3in) painter.

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, an adult (parent, guardian or designated adult) 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 not personally attending any part of the event shall ensure that another adult is authorized and designated to make these decisions for their sailor.
16.4 Each competitor shall indicate in writing at Registration the parent or adult representative that will be responsible for the competitor throughout the event.
16.5 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 event.
16.6 The organizing authority strongly recommends that each sailor have a support (coach or spectator) vessel on the racecourse throughout the event.
16.7 The organizing authority recommends there be at least one support vessel for every 10 sailors.
16.8 Each support vessel shall have a working VHF radio and monitor the radio, an anchor suitable for anchoring in the waiting area, and a basic first aid kit.
16.9 [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.



- 16.10 [DP] There shall be no unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) drone flight permitted above the racing area, waiting area, corridor, coach/spectator boat zones, start line or finish line.

17 BERTHING

- 17.1 [DP] Boats shall be kept in the assigned places while they are in the boat park.

18 RISK STATEMENT

- 18.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The OA will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.
- 18.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor and the responsible adult agree and acknowledges that:
- 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;
 - They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
 - They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
 - Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
 - The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
 - The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.
- 18.1 The organizing authority including the sponsors, the race committee, the officers, directors, employees and members of the **Pensacola Yacht Club** and all those involved in the event 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.

19 PRIZES

- 19.1 Prizes will be given as follows:
- Red Fleet: 1st through 3rd (or 5th if over 80 sailors)
Blue Fleet: 1st through 3rd (or 5th if over 80 sailors)
White Fleet: 1st through 3rd (or 5th if over 80 sailors)
Girls: 1st through 3rd
Green Fleet: Participation awards for all competitors.
- Additional awards and prizes may be presented at the sole discretion of the host and organizing authority and may be based on criteria other than the event.

20 FURTHER INFORMATION

REGATTA CHAIR

Name: TBD
E-mail: TBD

PYC – SAILING DIRECTOR

Name: Cesar Travado
Email: cesar@pycflboard.com

PRINCIPAL RACE OFFICER (PRO)

Name: TBD
Email: TBD

CHARTER BOATS, VENDORS AND SUPPORT VESSEL RENTAL

Charter boats information TBD



Attachment A Race Area

