



BERMUDA OPTIMIST OPEN & NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Road to the 2026 North Americans!



Royal Hamilton Amateur Dinghy Club
November 8,9 & 11, 2025

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)

The notation '[NP]' means Rules that are not grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the 'rules' as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. Bermuda Sailing Association (BSA) Prescriptions shall apply and may be found at [BSA PRESCRIPTIONS 2025-2028](#)
- 1.3. The class rules of IODA apply and may be found at www.optiworld.org.
- 1.4. RRS 40.1 shall apply at all times while afloat. Personal flotation devices shall conform to Class Rule 4.2 (a).
- 1.5. RRS 60.2 (a) (1) is changed to; A boat intending to protest shall inform the other boat at the first reasonable opportunity. When her protest concerns an incident in the racing area that she was involved in or saw, she shall hail 'Protest'. She shall inform the Race Committee (RC) at the finishing line immediately after finishing of the boat(s) being protested or as soon as practical after she retires'.
- 1.6. If there is a conflict between the Notice of Race (NoR) and these SIs, the rules in these SIs will take precedence. This changes RRS 63.5 (c).

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board (ONB) located at: [NOB OPTIMIST NATIONALS 2025](#)

- 2.1. As a courtesy to competitors, a WhatsApp Group will be used to alert competitors of official noticeboard changes. Competitors and Support Persons are encouraged to join this group – [CLICK HERE TO JOIN WHATSAPP GROUP](#). On the water, the Race Committee (RC) intends to monitor and communicate with Support Persons on VHF channel 73.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1. Any change to the SIs will be posted before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed on the RHADC flagpole.
- 4.2. Flag AP displayed with one sound means: 1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 60 minutes' in the race signal AP.
- 4.3. [NP][DP] Flag D displayed with one sound means: 'the warning signal will be made not less than 60 minutes after flag D is displayed.' Boats shall not launch until this signal is made.

5. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1. As described in NoR 6.
- 5.2. To alert boats that a race will begin soon, an orange flag defining the starboard end of the starting line will be displayed with one sound approximately 5 minutes before a warning signal is displayed.

6. CLASS FLAG

- 6.1. Class flag will be white with blue class logo.

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7. RACING AREAS

- 7.1. The racing area will be communicated each day at the Competitors Briefing.

8. THE COURSES

- 8.1. Attachment #1 – Course Card shows the course, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be rounded.

9. MARKS

- 9.1. The starting mark shall be an orange tetrahedron. Rounding marks 1, 2, 3S, and 3P shall be yellow tetrahedrons. The finishing mark shall be a whip buoy with burgee.
- 9.2. If a gate mark is missing and has not been replaced with an object displaying flag M, the remaining mark shall be rounded to port.

10. THE START

- 10.1. Races will be started by using RRS 26.
- 10.2. The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC signal vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port end starting mark.
- 10.3. A boat that does not start within 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 11.1. To change the next leg of the course, the RC will move the original mark (or move the finishing line) provided that no boat is sailing to the mark.
- 11.2. The RC may, without signal, move a mark to change the direction up to 10 degrees or the length up to 10% of the previous length, provided that no boat is sailing to the mark. This changes RRS 33.

12. THE FINISH

- 12.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the RC finish line vessel at one end and the course side of the finishing mark at the other.

13. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 13.1. Time limits for each race shall be 90 minutes. If no boat has passed Mark 1 within 30 minutes the race will be abandoned.
- 13.2. The target time for each race shall be 45 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.1.
- 13.3. Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

14. HEARING REQUESTS

- 14.1. The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the RC docks. The end of protest time limit will be posted on the ONB.
- 14.2. Hearing request forms may be submitted online; accessed from the ONB.
- 14.3. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the RHADC JUNIORS ROOM. Hearings will not take place before 1630 following racing.
- 14.4. The posting of hearing notices shall be considered notices as required by RRS 63.1.

- 14.5. On the last day of racing a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered:
- 14.5.1 within the Protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous scheduled day;
 - 14.5.2 no later than 15 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on that day.
- 14.6. On the last day of racing a request for redress based on a jury decision shall be delivered no later than 15 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 61.2 (b).

15. SCORING

- 15.1. As described in NoR 11.

16. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 16.1. [DP] Competitors shall check in with the RC signal vessel before the warning signal of the first race each day by sailing on starboard tack past the stern of the signal vessel and hailing their name and sail number until they are acknowledged.
- 16.2. [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 16.3. When the RC displays flag V with repetitive sounds, all official and support vessels shall monitor the RC VHF 73 channel for instructions and assist in search and rescue operations.

17. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 17.1. [DP] Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorized in writing by the RC. Requests for substitution shall be made to the RC at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

18. OFFICIAL VESSELS

- 18.1. Official RC vessels shall be described at the Competitor Briefing and may fly a blue or yellow RC flag.

19. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS [DP]

- 19.1. Support vessel operators shall wear an engine kill cord while afloat when the engine is running.
- 19.2. Support vessels, including spectators, shall not be in the racing area from the time of the warning signal until the race has finished or the RC signals a postponement, general recall, or abandonment, unless specifically authorized by the RC as a matter of safety. Attention is drawn to Attachment #1 – Course Card.
- 19.3. All boats associated with the infringing support person vessel may be penalized at the discretion of the protest committee for the race on which the support personnel failed to comply with these SIs or the NoR. This changes RRS 62.4.

20. TRASH DISPOSAL

- 20.1. Trash may be placed aboard support or official vessels.

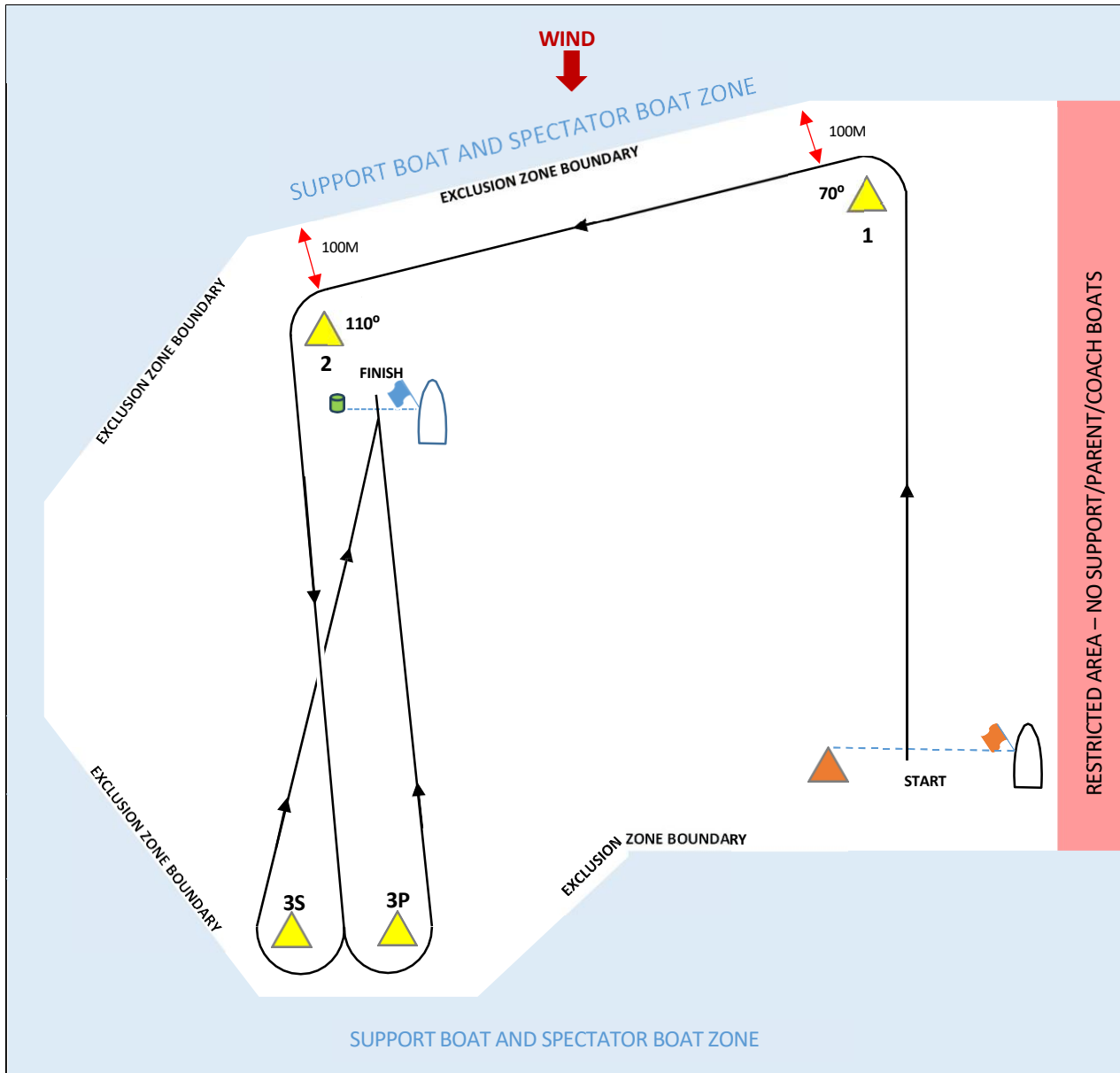
21. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 21.1. [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from event officials. Failure to comply may be misconduct.

22. RISK STATEMENT

- 22.1. RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing 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.

COURSE 1 – START, 1, 2, 3S/3P, FINISH



END OF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS