



21st Annual LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB TROPHY

International Optimist Team Racing Championship

October 10-11, 2026

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the *rules* as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), including Appendix D, and the event Scoring Procedures.
- 1.2 USCG-approved PFDs shall be worn at all times while on the water except while actively adding or removing clothing. Competitors shall supply their own PFDs. Non-USA competitors may wear a PFD approved by their country or national organization.
- 1.3 No boat or competitor or support person ashore shall discharge trash of any kind into the water.
- 1.4 Boats are prohibited from protesting under Sailing Instructions 1.2 and 1.3. This changes RRS 60.1(a). The protest committee may impose a penalty other than disqualification for a violation of these rules.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located near the Northeast corner of the LYC Property. In case of inclement weather, the notice board may be moved under the pavilion, west of the LYC pool.

3. CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Changes to the Sailing Instructions made ashore will be posted on the Official Notice Board, signified by the hoisting of Code Flag "L," and will take effect at the beginning of the next Flight.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole on the east lawn of the Lauderdale Yacht Club Property.
- 4.2 When AP (Postponement) is displayed ashore, the warning signal will be made not less than 15 minutes after AP is lowered. This changes Race Signals 'AP'

5. BOATS PROVIDED BY THE ORGANIZING AUTHORITY & DAMAGE DEPOSIT

- 5.1 Optimist Dinghies will be provided by the OA. The boats have been equalized in performance potential to the greatest extent possible. Claims regarding the performance of the boats will not be grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS D5.

- 5.2 Redress will not be granted for knots becoming untied or the loss of pins or rings. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 5.3 The boats shall be sailed with the rigging and fittings as supplied. Replacement of broken or damaged gear may only be made with gear sanctioned by the OA. Electrical or rigging tape may be used to help prevent gear from snagging.
- 5.4 Sailors must report any damage suffered to their boats immediately upon returning to the floating docks. Violation of this rule may result in disqualification from the previous race by the protest committee, forfeiture of some or all of the team's damage deposit, or another penalty.
- 5.5 On Sunday, all Sailors are expected to help wash and put away all of the equipment at the end of racing, and prior to presentation of the awards. All colored sails are to be removed from spars. Sail ties are to stay with each sail. Spars are to be grouped in sets, and returned to LYC staff. Teams with travel obligations must check with the OA before ducking the above responsibility.

6. SCHEDULE

- 6.1 A participants' meeting will be held at 0900 Saturday and 0830 Sunday at Lauderdale Yacht Club on the East Lawn. The time of the warning signal for the first race will be announced at the meeting. Competitors should be prepared to launch immediately after the meeting.
- 6.2 The OA shall make every effort to complete sailing by 1530 Sunday. In accordance with Scoring Procedures V1), no new qualifying Flight shall be started after 1200 on Sunday.

7. REGATTA FORMAT

The planned format is a modified Swiss League with as many rounds as possible prior to a final five knock out stage. An even number of teams is required.

8. RACING AREA

The racing area will be the waters adjacent to the east docks of Lauderdale Yacht Club.

COURSE

- 8.1 The courses will be described in Appendix A to these Sailing Instructions.
- 8.2 The Race Committee may change a leg of the course that begins at a rounding mark by changing the position of the next mark or the finishing line, but no mark shall be moved when any boat is on the leg that it terminates. Subsequent legs may be changed to maintain the course configuration. There will be no visual or audible signals for a course change. This changes RRS 33.
- 8.3 Courses will not be shortened. This changes RRS 32 and Race Signals 'S'.

9. SCORING

Scoring will be done by the method described in the event Scoring Procedures.

10. MARKS

Marks will be inflatable balls.

11. CLASS FLAGS

Class flags will be solid color flags determined by the boats assignments for each flight. Each start will show 2 colors simultaneously.

12. START AND FINISH

12.1 Races will be starting by using Appendix U (3-minute starts)

12.2 The start and finish lines will be between the staff from which an orange flag is displayed on a race committee boat and the course side of the nearby mark.

12.3 A boat that does not start within two minutes of her starting signal will be scored "DNS" without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1 and D3.1.

13. INDIVIDUAL RECALLS

Flag X will be used to signify individual recalls, and when used, will remain displayed until all OCS boats are completely on the pre-course side of the starting line or its extensions, or for one minute, whichever occurs first. This changes RRS 29.1 and U4.

14. TIME LIMIT

14.1 There will be no time limit for any race.

14.2 To expedite the rotation, when all boats from one team have finished, at the direction of the PRO, a Race Committee member or Umpire may award finishing positions to the remaining boats of the opposing team and direct them to return to the dock. This changes RRS28.

15. PROTESTS & UMPIRING

15.1 Races will fully umpired *unless* code flag "U" is flown from the signal boat. This changes RRS D2.1.

15.2 If races are not fully umpired (see SI 16.1), RRS D2.3(b) applies, and RRS 61 (Protest Requirements) is changed to require a boat intending to protest or request redress to report to the race committee finish boat, immediately after finishing, the identity of the boat(s) being protested or the reason for the redress request.

15.3 A red protest flag shall be attached to the competitor, clothing or PFD and shall be capable of being concealed and being displayed at arm's length. To indicate a protest, the flag shall be deployed from a concealed position to a position where it is easily visible to the protested boat and Umpires. This changes RRS 61.1(a).

15.4 When races are fully umpired, RRS 61 (Protest Requirements) is modified in that a boat intending to request redress or protest under a rule other than a rule of Part 2 or rules 31.1, 42, 44 or 14 if there is no damage or injury, shall report that fact to an umpire boat for that race (or, if no umpire boat is available, to the race committee on the finish boat) immediately after finishing or retiring from the race, and clearly identify the boat(s) being protested or the reason for the redress request.

17 SAFETY

- 17.1 If Code Flag “O” is flown before the warning signal, multiple obstruction marks will be placed in a line near each other to designate shallow water areas of the racecourse. These marks, and a continuous line between them, qualify as a continuing obstruction. The marks will be described at the Skippers Meeting.
- 17.2 In accordance with RRS 4, the responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone. The responsibility for the safety of the boat and each competitor lies solely with each individual and not with LYC or any of its representatives.
- 17.3 Participants experiencing safety issues while afloat should notify the nearest umpire or race committee boat who will assist them in returning to shore. The sailor should return to the launch and recovery area for assistance.

18 PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded for the top four teams. The Organizing Authority retains the right to award additional prizes.

19 COMMENTARY

Public commentary provided by commentators appointed by the Organizing Authority ashore, if applicable, is intended for the enjoyment of the spectators. For the purposes of RRS 41 it should be considered information freely available to all boats and unsolicited information from a disinterested source. It is for entertainment purposes only, should not be considered valid or accurate by any competitor able to hear it, and may not serve as cause for redress under RRS 62.1.

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LYC Team Race Sailing Instructions Addendum 1: Format of the Regatta

I. Seeding:

Prior to the regatta each coach will have the opportunity to rank the teams 1-24. All rankings that are submitted shall be averaged to rank the teams 1-24 for the beginning of the Qualifying round.

I. Qualifying Round:

*Teams Will Compete in “Flights” until the end of the Qualifying Round. Each team sails 1 race in each flight.

Within each Flight, each race between 2 teams shall be considered a “Bracket”. With 24 teams there shall therefore be 12 Brackets. The brackets for the first Flight shall be:

Race/Bracket 1	1 seed vs 2 seed
Race/Bracket 2	3 seed vs 4 seed
Race/Bracket 3	5 seed vs 6 seed
Race/Bracket 4	7 seed vs 8 seed
Race/ Bracket 5	9 seed vs 10 seed
Race/Bracket 6	11 seed vs 12 seed
Race/ Bracket 7	13 seed vs 14 seed
Race/Bracket 8	15 seed vs 16 seed
Race/Bracket 9	17 seed vs 18 seed
Race/Bracket 10	19 seed vs 20 seed
Race/Bracket 11	21 seed vs 22 seed
Race/Bracket 12	23 seed vs 24 seed

For the 2nd and subsequent Flights, teams shall move up 1 bracket with a Win in the previous flight, or down 1 bracket with a loss in the previous flight. However, the winner of Bracket 1 shall remain in the top bracket, and the loser of Bracket 12 shall remain in the bottom bracket.

For example: the loser of Flight 1 Race 1 (1 seed vs 2 seed) shall be seeded 3rd for the 2nd flight. The winner of Flight 1 Race 3 (5 seed vs 6 seed) shall be seeded 4th for the 2nd Flight.

III. Knockout Round:

1. No new qualifying Flight shall be started after 1200 on Sunday.

1. One of the following three methods will be used to determine the winner of the event.

- A Play-in Race, Quarterfinal, Semifinal, Petit Final and Final Round racing will be used to determine the champion among the top five teams from the Qualifying Flights, according to the following procedure:
- Play in: The teams ranked 5th and 6th after the conclusion of the Final Qualifying flight shall sail 1 race, with the Winner advancing to the quarterfinal as the 5 seed.
 - Quarterfinal: The 2nd ranked team from the qualifying rounds shall race the 5th place team, and the 3rd ranked team shall race the 4th ranked team in the Quarterfinal round.
 - Semi-Final: The winners of each Quarterfinal round shall race each other in the Semi-Final round.
 - Petit Final: The losers of each Quarterfinal round shall race each other in the Petit Final round.
 - Final: The first-ranked team from the Qualifying Rounds and the winner of the Semifinal Round shall compete in the Final for the Championship.
 - Each of the above rounds will be either one race, or the best two- out-of- three, as determined by the OA prior to the start of the Quarterfinal, except the Final, which shall be best two-out-of- three.

The top ranked team from the Qualifying Flights shall have the privilege of selecting which color boat they wish to sail for each round from those made available by the OA. The second ranked team shall have the second choice, and so on. However, each match of the knockout shall sailed in either Yellow vs Red, Blue vs Green or Black vs Pink.

- No Final series. The final results are based on final seeding from after the last qualification flight.
- Some other arrangement as devised by the OA.

LYC Team Race Sailing Instructions Addendum 2: Substitution of Equipment

- I. Teams Shall report any broken equipment to the Boatswain as soon as possible before departing the rotation dock. If a breakdown occurs during a race, whether or not a sailor asks the umpires for redress, they shall report and present the broken equipment to the dock master immediately upon docking. The Boatswain shall be identified at the Skippers Meeting.
- II. Substitution or removal of equipment from the Optis provided, including but not limited to rudders, daggerboards, mainsheets shall be made only with the explicit permission and oversight of the Boatswain. Sailors or coaches wapping daggerboards or rudders the morning of the event or between rounds without the approval of the Boatswain may be grounds for protest.
- III. Bow bumpers that are provided on some of the Optis shall not be removed or stowed inboard. The OA shall seek to have an equal number of bow bumpers on each set/team of boats that is competing.
- IV. Mainsheets may be re-rigged as either a 2:1 or 3:1 configuration and Mast Rakes may be adjusted. Sailors are encouraged to re-tie their sail ties and adjust the vang, outhaul and sprit as they see fit.