



2024 BRITISH NATIONAL AND OPEN OPTIMIST CHAMPIONSHIPS

3rd – 8th August 2024
Pwllheli

The Organising Authority is the International Optimist Class Association (UK), in conjunction with [Plas Heli](#), the Welsh National Sailing Academy and Events Centre, Pwllheli.

Event website:

<https://www.optimist.org.uk/events/2024-events/british-national-and-open-championships-3-8-august-2024/>

NOTICE OF RACE
Main Fleet (Junior and Senior), Racing Regatta and Coached Regatta Fleets

[NP] denotes a rule that shall not be grounds for protests by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

[DP] denotes a rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the Protest Committee.

[SP] denotes a rule for which a standard penalty may be applied by the Race Committee without a hearing (which changes RRS 63.1), or a discretionary penalty applied by the Protest Committee at a hearing.

1. RULES

- 1.1. Racing will be governed by the rules as defined in the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. The current International Optimist Class Rules will apply.
- 1.3. IOCA (UK) implements the [RYA Racing Charter](#) and competitors will be expected to sail in compliance with it.
- 1.4. RRS Appendix T (Arbitration) applies.
- 1.5. RRS 63.7 is changed so that if there is a conflict, the Sailing Instructions (SSIs) this Notice of Race.
- 1.6. RRS 61.1a is changed by the addition of 'The protesting boat shall inform the Race Committee of the boat/s being protested at the finishing line immediately after finishing.' For the purposes of this rule, Race Committee includes the Measurers when they are located near the finish. The Protest Committee may waive this requirement if it decides that it was impractical for a boat to comply with this rule.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board at least three days before the event.
- 2.2. The sailing instructions will consist of the instructions in RRS Appendix S, Standard Sailing Instructions, and supplementary sailing instructions.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. All notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board which is on-line, on the event page on [OurClubAdmin](#)
- 3.2. Any change to the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions will be posted on the official notice board not less than 30 minutes before Flag D is displayed, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 19:00 hours on the day before it will take effect.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1. Entry is open to all boats of the International Optimist Class.
- 4.2. Participants must be members of IOCA (UK) or an equivalent National Optimist organisation.
- 4.3. Participants shall be Optimist age 8 to 15 years inclusive (on 31st December 2024). Younger competitors may apply to compete; however, the Organising Authority has absolute discretion to accept or refuse such an entry.
- 4.4. Entry shall be made via the IOCA (UK) OurClubAdmin page, and the official Entry Form shall be submitted with the declaration of the Parent/Guardian prior to midnight on the closing date.
- 4.5. The early entry period ends at midnight on Monday 17th June 2024, and the event closes for entry at midnight on Monday 15th July 2024.
- 4.6. In line with the standard IOCA conditions of entry, entries will only be confirmed once the entry fee has been paid. While the entry fee remains unpaid that entry will remain on the waiting list.

- 4.7. All promotions from waiting list to confirmed entries will depend on payment of entry fees and available space at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority.
- 4.8. Late entries will be accepted at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority.

5. RACING FLEETS

- 5.1. The Main Fleet is intended for experienced racers able to be reasonably self-sufficient for several hours afloat at a time.
- 5.2. The Racing Regatta Fleet is intended to provide a full, competitive, race experience for developing sailors proportionate to their experience and capabilities, without the physical demands of the Main Fleet. The Racing Regatta Fleet shall sail in their own race area with the aim of completing a greater number of shorter races than Main Fleet. Depending on weather conditions, the Racing Regatta Fleet will usually aim to stay afloat for the duration of their racing, with a lunch break supported by the Safety Boat fleet.
- 5.3. The Coached Regatta Fleet is intended for younger, less experienced sailors, generally in their first year of travelling to events. Sessions afloat will be shorter than other fleets and support will be provided. The Coached Regatta Fleet will participate in a mixture of coaching activities and racing depending on the ability of the sailors and the conditions. The sailors will return to shore for lunch. (Further details on the choice of fleets are provided on the [Class website](#)).
- 5.4. To ensure as far as possible that sailors are enrolled in the most suitable fleet, the organisers may (after consultation with a sailor’s parent or guardian) move sailors between fleets. Any such decisions by the Organisers are at their sole discretion.
- 5.5. Any request for a sailor to transfer to a different fleet shall be made in writing to the IOCA Sailing Secretary or IOCA Admin before entry closes. Transfers between fleets shall be accepted at the sole discretion of the Organising Authority.

6. FEES

- 6.1. The entry fees and refund policy are as follows:

	Before Early Entry Date	Before Closing Date	After Closing Date (if accepted)
Main Fleet	£250	£275	£300
Racing Regatta Fleet	£275	£300	£325
Coached Regatta Fleet	£300	£325	£350
Refund for Cancellation	Full fee, less £5	50%	None

- 6.2. A sibling discount, in the form of a refund, is available for families with three or more sailors across the Main and Regatta Fleet events. Entries should be completed as normal and the sibling discounts must be applied for at the event from the race office after registration has closed and will subsequently be refunded by bank transfer. For a third sailor, the discount is £65 for that entry only. For a fourth or subsequent sailor the discount is £130 for that entry only.

7. [NP] [DP] EVENT ADVERTISING

- 7.1. The Race Committee may require advertising space for event sponsors in accordance with WS Regulation 20. Boats shall display any such advertising as directed by the Race Committee.

8. FORMAT OF RACING

Main Fleet

- 8.1. Main Fleet entries will be divided into Senior and Junior Fleets by age, with those of Optimist age 13, 14 and 15 years (born in 2011, 2010 or 2009 respectively) racing in the Senior Fleet, while younger entries shall race in the Junior Fleet.
- 8.2. The championships for both Senior and Junior fleets may consist of a qualifying series and final series.
- 8.3. The Senior and Junior fleets may be divided into flights for the qualifying series and re-flighted at the end of each day of the qualifying series. Following the qualifying series the Senior and Junior fleets may then be divided into divisions (for example Gold, Silver and Bronze). The number of divisions will depend on the size of entry and the size of divisions within each fleet will be similar. If an equal division is not possible the gold fleet will have more sailors than the silver fleet and so on.

Regatta Racing Fleet

- 8.4. The championships for Racing Regatta Fleet may consist of a qualifying series and final series.
- 8.5. The Racing Regatta Fleet may be divided into flights for the qualifying series and re-flighted at the end of each day of the qualifying series. Following the qualifying series the Senior and Junior fleets may then be divided into divisions (for example Gold, Silver and Bronze). The number of divisions will depend on the size of entry and the size of divisions within each fleet will be similar. If an equal division is not possible the gold division will have more sailors than the silver division, and so on.

Coached Regatta Fleet

- 8.6. The Coached Regatta Fleets shall race separately to the Racing Regatta Fleet but may be on the same course for some of the sessions, for example racing an Inner Loop on a trapezoid course.

9. SCHEDULE

- 9.1. The table below gives the key dates and times, a full Event Schedule will be posted on the official notice board with the sailing instructions.

Day	Event	Time, hrs
Saturday 3rd August 2024	Registration	14:00 – 17:00
	Racing Regatta & Coached Regatta Fleet Safety Inspection	14:00 – 17:00
	Volunteer Briefing & Safety Fleet Briefing (refer to Event Schedule, when published, for location and who to attend)	14:00
	Opening Ceremony	17:00
Sunday 4th August 2024 (Day 1)	Late Registration (by prior arrangement)	08:30 – 09:30
	Competitors' Briefing	09:30

	1 st Warning Signal Not Before	11:25
	Number of Races	Main Fleet: 2 scheduled Racing Regatta: 4 scheduled
Monday 5th August 2024 (Day 2)	1 st Warning Signal Not Before	10:55
	Number of Races	Main Fleet: 3 scheduled Racing Regatta: 4 scheduled
Tuesday 6th August 2024 (Day 3)	Competitors' Briefing for Raid Race (Main Fleet & Racing Regatta sailors) Optional Sail Away for Coached Regatta)	12:30
	Raid Race 1 st Warning Signal Not Before	14:00
	Number of Races	1
	Raid Race Prize Giving	19:00
Wednesday 7th August 2024 (Day 4)	1 st Warning Signal Not Before	10:55
	Number of Races	Main Fleet: 3 scheduled Racing Regatta: 4 scheduled
Thursday 8th August 2024 (Day 5)	1 st Warning Signal Not Before	10:55
	Number of Races	Main Fleet: 2 scheduled Racing Regatta: 4 scheduled
	No Warning Signal After	14:00
	Prize Giving	ASAP After Racing

9.2. No warning signal shall be made after 14:00 on the final day of the championship.

Main Fleet

9.3. The Championship shall consist of up to 10 races.

9.4. The intention is to run all races scheduled for a given day consecutively. There will not be time to go ashore between races. Additional races may be sailed either in advance or arrears in order to complete the programme if weather or other reasons dictate. An additional race does not constitute a change to the schedule.

9.5. The intended maximum time on the water each day is 5 hours but the decision rests with the PRO.

9.6. If racing a qualifying and final series, the qualifying series shall last for 2 days, if at least 4 races have been completed for all flights. Otherwise, the qualifying series shall continue until the end of the day on which 4 qualifying races have been completed for all boats.

9.7. On Tuesday (Day 3) a Raid Race is scheduled, this race does not form part of the Championship series. Further information shall be published in the Sailing Instructions.

9.8. If weather or other reasons dictate, the Raid Race day (Day 3) may be used instead to complete the Championship race programme.

Racing Regatta Fleet

- 9.9. The Championship shall consist of up to 16 races.
- 9.10. The Racing Regatta fleet will plan to have lunch afloat, subject to conditions.
- 9.11. Additional races may be sailed either in advance or arrears in order to complete the programme if weather or other reasons dictate. An additional race does not constitute a change to the schedule.
- 9.12. The intended maximum time on the water each day is 5 hours but the decision rests with the PRO
- 9.13. If racing a qualifying and final series, the qualifying series shall last for 2 days, if at least 4 races have been completed for all flights. Otherwise, the qualifying series shall continue until the end of the day on which 4 qualifying races have been completed for all boats.
- 9.14. On Tuesday 6th August (Day 3) a Raid Race is scheduled, this race does not form part of the Championship series. Further information shall be published in the Sailing Instructions. Sailors from the Racing Regatta fleet are encouraged to take part in the Raid Race, although may attend the Sail Away with prior agreement with Coached Regatta Lead and subject to having the necessary safety vessels available.
- 9.15. If weather or other reasons dictate, the Raid Race day (Day 3) may be used instead to complete the Championship race programme.

Coached Regatta Fleet

- 9.16. The event shall consist of any number of races for the Coached Regatta Fleet and will depend on the ability of the sailors and the conditions.
- 9.17. The Coached Regatta Fleet will come ashore for lunch.
- 9.18. A "Sail Away" is planned as an optional activity for the Coached Regatta Fleet on Tuesday 6th August (Day 3). This is likely to be a passage sail to a nearby location for a picnic lunch.

10. [NP] [DP] EQUIPMENT CHECKS

Main Fleet

- 10.1. Each boat shall have a valid measurement certificate.
- 10.2. Participants shall complete the online Equipment Declaration before the end of registration, including evidence of a successful buoyancy test on their boat within the previous 12 months.
- 10.3. Equipment Inspection may be made throughout the event on the instructions of the Measurer.
- 10.4. Immediately after each race one or more boats may be required to proceed for an equipment check. Boats notified shall report immediately to a nearby measurement vessel displaying a yellow flag marked "Measurer". Measurement checks may be made using photography.
- 10.5. After finishing boats shall not alter any settings on their boat until after they have cleared the measurement boat area.

Racing Regatta & Coached Regatta Fleets

- 10.6. Prior to registration, boats and equipment will be checked. Competitors shall not be able to register until they have successfully completed the measurement check. The measurement check for Racing Regatta and Coached Regatta fleet relates to items of safety and seaworthiness and should not be confused with requirements for the Main Fleet.
- 10.7. Every sailor shall produce at the equipment check or registration evidence of a successful buoyancy test on their boat within the previous 12 months.

11. [NP] [DP] REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT

- 11.1. Damaged or lost equipment (spars, sail, foils etc) shall only be substituted if authorised by the Technical or Race Committee. Boats shall make requests for substitution at the first reasonable opportunity.

12. VENUE

- 12.1. The venue is [Plas Heli](#), the Welsh National Sailing Academy and Events Centre, Pwllheli, Gwynedd LL53 5YT
- 12.2. Racing will take place in Tremadog Bay, see Appendix 1.

13. THE COURSES

Main Fleet and Racing Regatta Fleet

- 13.1. The courses will be published in the Sailing Instructions, and shall be predominantly windward leeward in nature with reaching legs to separate the fleets (e.g. trapezoid or worlds course). The Raid Race may be an exception to this and separate information shall be published in the Sailing Instructions.
- 13.2. The target time for the first boat in each fleet is 45 minutes for the Main Fleet and 25 minutes for the Racing Regatta Fleet. The target time for the Raid Race will be longer and will be confirmed in the Sailing Instruction.

Coached Regatta Fleet

- 13.3. The Coached Regatta Fleet may sail on the same course as the Racing Regatta Fleet but on a separate start, for example on the inner loop of a trapezoid course. When racing alone, other race courses may be used by the coaches, for example a triangle course.

14. PENALTIES

- 14.1. Appendix P will apply, except as changed by NOR 14.2.
- 14.2. Appendix P2.3 is deleted. P2.2 is changed to apply to the second and each subsequent penalty of a boat.
- 14.3. The penalty for breaches of Class Rules shall be the Graded Penalty System detailed in Appendix 2 and will be applied by the Technical Committee/Event Chief Measurer.
- 14.4. [DP] The penalty for breaking RRS 41 Outside Help shall be at the discretion of the Protest Committee.
 - 14.4.1. Clarification of Outside Help: A boat that is alongside or communicating with a support vessel is receiving outside help.
- 14.5. At the discretion of the Race Committee the Racing Regatta Fleet may be provided with outside help while racing. This will usually take the form of a designated coach providing verbal advice to those sailors nearer the back of the fleet. This changes RRS 41.

15. SCORING

- 15.1. Points for the Senior Main Fleet and Junior Main Fleet shall be calculated separately.
- 15.2. Points for the National trophies shall be calculated including all competitors, whether eligible for the trophies or not.
- 15.3. Points for the Boys and Girls trophies shall also be calculated including all competitors, whether eligible for the trophies or not.

Main Fleet and/or Racing Regatta Fleet, when racing a Qualifying and Final Series

- 15.4. Three (3) races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 15.5. During qualifying, a race is only deemed to be completed when it has been completed by all flights. During the Finals series, each division (Gold, Silver, etc.) need not have completed the same number of races.

- 15.6. The boats in the Gold division will be ranked highest, followed by those in the Silver, Bronze (and subsequent divisions, if used), however, a boat that is scored DNE in all races shall be ranked in last place overall.
- 15.7. The total score for each boat will be the sum of her scores as follows:
- 15.7.1. Qualifying series
- 4 or more completed races - All scores except her worst race score
 - Fewer than 4 completed races - All race scores
- 15.7.2. Final series
- 4 or more completed races - All scores except her worst race score
 - Fewer than 4 completed races - All race scores.
- 15.8. Both the qualifying and final series will have its own separate excluded races (discards shall not float between series)

Main Fleet and/or Racing Regatta Fleet when racing a single championship series and Coached Regatta Fleet

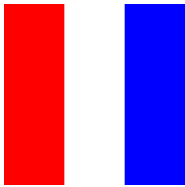
- 15.9. Three (3) races are required to be completed to constitute a series
- 15.10. The total score for each boat shall be the sum of her scores excluding her worst scores as follows:

Races Completed	Scores Excluded
1 - 3	0
4 - 7	1
8 - 11	2
12 or more	3

16. SAFETY

- 16.1. [NP] [DP] On any day that racing is scheduled boats shall not go afloat without the permission of the Race Committee.
- 16.2. RRS 40 (Personal Flotation Devices) applies at all times when afloat.
- 16.3. [SP] When the Race Committee (including Beach Master and Class Measurer) considers that a boat, its equipment or crew's clothing are not adequate for the existing or anticipated conditions, or that a boat or crew is in difficulty, it may instruct the boat and crew not to launch, or to retire or to sail ashore or to accept outside help. The boat and crew shall comply with such instructions without delay. The penalty for a breach of this rule shall be a major class rule penalty (Appendix 2, C4).
- 16.4. Additional safety information may be listed in the SSIs.
- 16.5. [NP] [SP] Tallies (NOR 16.5 only applies if it is stated in the SSIs.)
- 16.5.1. A tally board will be situated at the place specified in the SSIs.
- 16.5.2. After flag T is displayed ashore and before going afloat each competitor intending to race shall personally take the appropriately coloured tally band bearing their tally number from the tally board and place it securely and visibly on their wrist, leg or arm.
- 16.5.3. Immediately after coming ashore, each competitor shall remove their tally band from their person and place it back on the tally board.
- 16.5.4. The penalty for infringing NOR 16.5 shall be 5 points added to the boat's overall final score. The Protest Committee may change this penalty at its discretion.

Flag Tango



17. OFFICIAL VESSELS

17.1. Vessels will be marked as follows:

Role	Status	Identification
Safety Control	Official	Orange Flag
Jury, Official, Measurer, Medic, Press	Official	Yellow Flag
Main Fleet Safety	Official	White Flag (numbered)
Racing Regatta Fleet Safety	Official	Blue Flag (numbered)
Coached Regatta Fleet Safety & Coach Boats	Official	To correspond with allocated group ribbon colour
Mark Layer	Official	Red band on engine
Support Person vessels	Non-Official	Green flag (numbered)

18. SUPPORT VESSELS AND SUPPORT PERSONS

- 18.1. DP] [NP] Support Person vessels must register and pay a £50 administration fee to IOCA (UK) via the [event page](#) on OurClubAdmin. Registration shall include a list of the boats which any Support Persons on board will be supporting. They are also responsible for arranging berthing fees payable to Plas Heli.
- 18.2. All vessels listed in NOR 17 are under the control of the Race Committee which includes the Safety Officer.
- 18.3. All Support Person vessel crews will attend the Safety Fleet briefing published in the Event Schedule.
- 18.4. All Support Person vessels shall carry on board and operate while on the water a VHF radio capable of transmitting and receiving on VHF channels and agree to assist the Race Committee if directed to do so. See RRS37 [DP].
- 18.5. Unless carrying out official duties as directed by the Race Committee, a Support Person vessel shall not be in the racing area (see NOR 18.8) from the display of the warning signal until all boats in that race (or races if there are groups) have finished or the Race Committee signals a postponement or abandonment.
- 18.6. Support persons aboard *unregistered* vessels shall not be in the racing area (see NOR 18.8) nor have any communication with competitors from the time the orange flag is raised for the first race until the finish of the last race of the day.
- 18.7. For official vessels displaying their identification (See NOR 17.1), the racing area is defined as 100m from anywhere that a boat may reasonably sail when racing.

- 18.8. For all other vessels, including non-official vessels (see NOR 17.1), this distance is increased to 250m. If holding marks are laid, non-official vessels shall not be on the course side of these marks.
- 18.9. The penalty for failing to comply with NOR 18 will be determined by the Protest Committee and may include penalising of boats associated with the Support Persons who break this rule. Note that this also applies for official vessels which do not adhere to the Race Committee's positioning instructions. This changes RRS 64.5(b).

19. CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

- 19.1. RRS G3 applies. A boat chartered or loaned for the event may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of her class rules, provided that the race committee has approved her sail identification before the first race.

20. BERTHING

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

21. TOWING

- 21.1. Boats shall not be towed. Boats breaking this rule shall be disqualified without a hearing from the race completed nearest in time to the infringement. This changes RRS 63.1.
- 21.2. The only exceptions to this are:
- a) If a boat has retired from a race and is being escorted by a support vessel either ashore or to the nearest mothership.
 - b) If the Race Committee or Event Safety Officer informs all support vessels that towing is permitted.

22. DATA PROTECTION

- 22.1. The personal information you provide to the organising authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be 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. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, OurClubAdmin and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published. Your personal information will be stored and published in accordance with IOCA(UK)'s Privacy Policy and Publishing of Information Policy which can be downloaded from the Class documents page of <http://www.optimist.org.uk>
- 22.2. Still or video photography may be used as part of the Race Management processes for the event. These images will only be used for Race Management purposes and will not be published.

23. RISK STATEMENT

- 23.1. RRS 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone".
- 23.2. Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore 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, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;

- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, 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, patrol vessels, umpires and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f. The provision of patrol vessel 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 and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any competitors briefing held at the venue.

24. INSURANCE

- 24.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

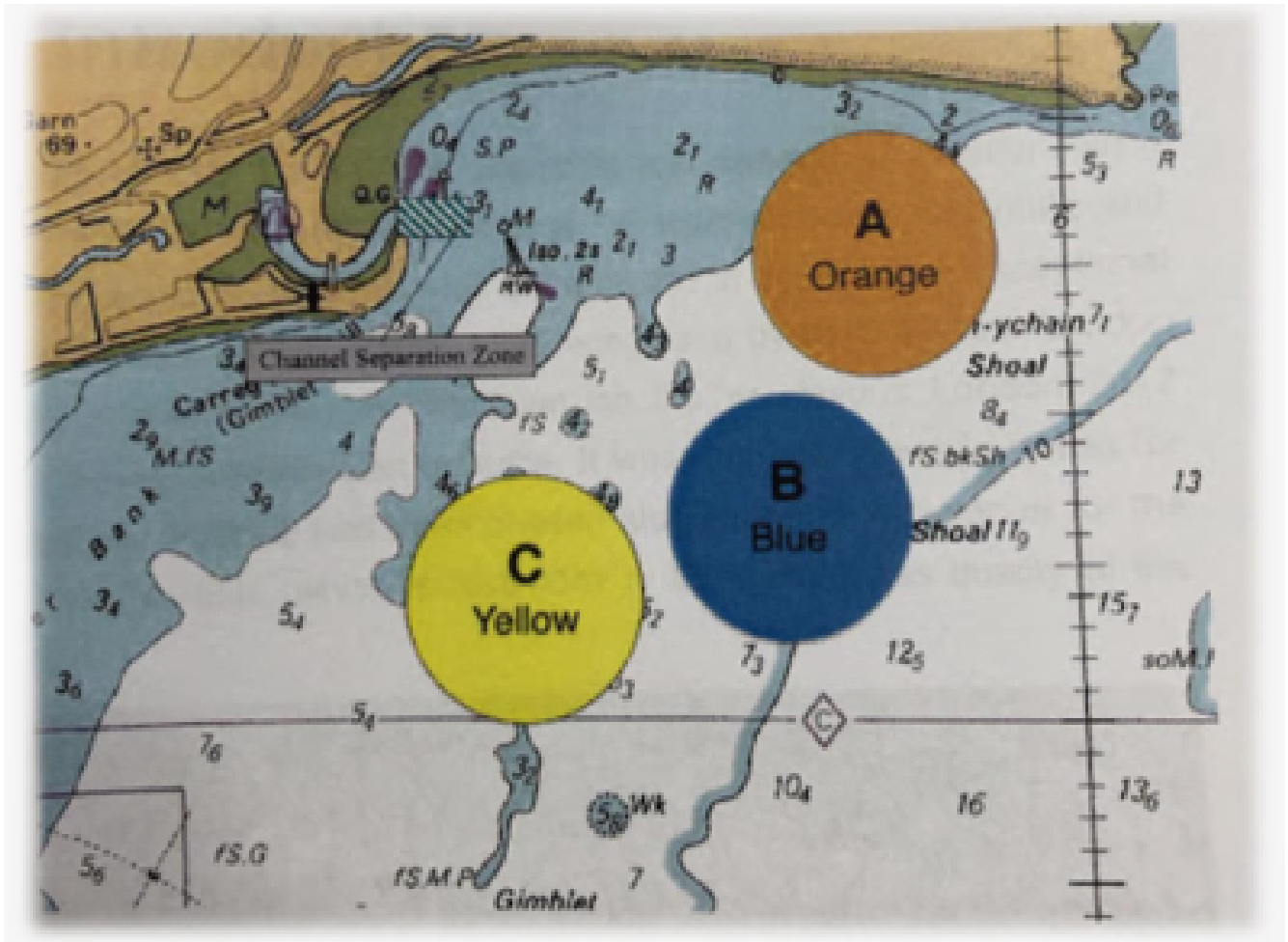
25. PRIZES

- 25.1. Prizes will be listed in a separate document and posted on the official notice board.
- 25.2. To be eligible to receive a British Trophy participants shall be a British citizen, a full member of IOCA(UK) and sail a British-registered boat in the Championships.

26. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 26.1. For further information please contact admin@optimist.org.uk

APPENDIX 1



APPENDIX 2: Graded Penalties

(CR refers to class rule)

C.1 Minor (Technical Penalties)

First offence warning, 2nd and subsequent offences 2 points

- a) Breaches of Safety Regulations if no danger was involved (NOR 16)

C.2 Minor class rule penalties

First offence warning, 2nd and subsequent offences 3 points

- a) Bailer not attached to hull (CR 4.3)
- b) Paddle not attached to hull (CR 4.3)
- c) Daggerboard not attached to hull (CR 3.3.4)
- d) Painter not attached to mast step or thwart (CR 4.3)
- e) Whistle not attached to personal flotation device (CR 4.2)
- f) Two sail ties 3mm or more loose (CR 6.6.3.4)
- g) Accidental loss of sail tie (CR 6.6.3.4)

C.3 Intermediate class rule penalties

First offence warning, 2nd and subsequent offences 5 points

- a) No bailer, paddle or painter in boat (CR 4.3)
- b) No whistle (CR 4.2)
- c) No lanyard, locking device or other arrangement to attach mast to hull (CR 3.5.2.11)
- d) Sail outside limits of bands (CR 3.5.2.7)
- e) Three or more ties 3mm or more loose (CR 6.6.3.4)
- f) Throat, tack or clew eyelet 3mm or more loose (CR 6.6.3.4)
- g) Buoyancy bags deflated, deteriorated or damaged (CR 3.2.7)

C.4 Major class rule penalties (as per RRS)

First offence penalty of a minimum of 10 points and up to DSQ subject to protest by the Technical Committee or Race Committee, 2nd and subsequent offences DSQ

- a) Use of uninspected equipment
- b) Use of unapproved fittings
- c) Breaches of Safety Regulations where danger may have been involved including NOR 16.3