



**2021 MAINE STATE OPTIMIST  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
PYC 420 INVITATIONAL  
August 3, 2021  
PORTLAND YACHT CLUB  
Falmouth, Me.**

**SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SIs)**

**1. RULES**

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021-2024, Including US Sailing Prescriptions* ("RRS"), except as altered by these Sailing Instructions.
- 1.2. The Class Rules for purposes of the definition of "rules" are the International Optimist Association Class Rules and the Club 420 Class with spinnaker Rules.
- 1.3. RRS 42, Propulsion, and Appendix P will apply.

**2. ENTRIES**

- 2.1. Boats that have completed registration are eligible to race

**3. SAFETY**

- 3.1. Competitors who are US citizens or US residents must wear a US Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD), properly secured at all times, from dock to dock except when temporarily adding or removing clothing. Competitors who are citizens or residents of another country shall wear either a US Coast Guard approved PFD or a PFD approved by the country of their citizenship or residence, properly secured at all times, from dock to dock except when temporarily adding or removing clothing. Wetsuits, dry suits and inflatable PFD's do not constitute adequate personal buoyancy.

3.2. A boat retiring from a race shall notify a race committee boat before leaving the course, or, when that is impossible, the Regatta Personnel immediately after arrival ashore.

#### **4. CHECK-IN**

4.1. Competitors shall check in with the Race Committee Signal Boat before the initial warning signal of the first race.

#### **5. COMPETITOR ARRIVAL AT SAILING AREA**

5.1. Each coach is responsible for ensuring that the competitors from his/her club have arrived at the Race Area. If a competitor is absent from the Race Area his or her coach is responsible for informing the Race Committee Signal Boat of the status of the competitor.

#### **6. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

6.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board(s) located under the tent next to the PYC Club House.

#### **7. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

7.1. Any change to the SIs will be posted before 9:00 AM on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 5:00 PM on the day before it will take effect.

#### **8. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

8.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the mast located at the head of the PYC pier.

8.2. Flag AP with two horn signals means "The race or Harbor Start is postponed. The initial Warning Signal will be made not less than forty-five (45) minutes after Flag AP is lowered." When Flag AP is lowered one horn signal will be made. This use of Flag AP only applies to signals made ashore.

#### **9. SPECIAL SIGNALS**

9.1. Code Flag A (White and Blue vertical stripes) displayed with no sound while boats are finishing means "no more racing today."

#### **10. SCHEDULE OF RACES AND OTHER EVENTS**

Monday, Aug 2 5:00 – 7:00 PM Distant Opti/420 Unloading, Coach and Parent Spectator Boat launching at the PYC.

Tuesday, Aug 3 7:00 – 8:30 AM Opti/420 Unloading.

8:00 – 9:30 AM Check-in, Opti/420 Unloading, Coach and Parent Spectator Boat launching at PYC.

9:30 AM Coaches Meeting

- 10:00 AM Skippers' meeting followed by Harbor Start\*
- 11:15 AM After all Optis & 420s have been launched, late power boat launching at PYC.
- 12:00 PM Approximate time of first warning gun for the day
- 4:00 PM No warning signal after this time
- 4:45 PM Food served immediately after getting off the water.

After racing - Awards Ceremony ASAP

\* Harbor Start shall mean leaving the vicinity of the PYC Docks. There will be three harbor starts. The first one will be for the Opti Championship Fleet, and the second one will be for the 420 Fleet, followed by the Opti Green Fleet.

Should conditions make it impossible to complete the scheduled number of races, the regatta shall be terminated and the results based on the races completed and scored.

## **11. CLASS FLAGS**

- 11.1 For the Championship Fleet the class flag shall be a White Optimist class flag. For the Green Fleet the class flag shall be a Green Optimist class flag. The 420 Fleet class flag shall be a White 420 class flag.

## **12. RACING AREA**

- 12.1. The racing area for the Opti Championship Fleet and the 420 Fleet will be announced at the Skippers' Meeting each day but is expected to be either to the Northeast or South of Clapboard Island.
- 12.2. The racing area for the Green Fleet will be announced at the Skippers' Meeting each day but is expected to be just outside the anchorage and inside Clapboard Island.

## **13. THE COURSE**

- 13.1. The diagram(s), the order of rounding, and the side on which each mark is to be rounded or passed will be provided at the Skippers' Meeting.
- 13.2. For the Opti Championship Fleet and the 420 Fleet, the identifying letter of the course will be displayed from the Race Committee Signal Boat.

13.3. For the Green Fleet the course for each race will be signaled by and verbally given to the competitors from the Green Fleet Race Committee Signal Boat.

#### **14. MARKS**

14.1. Marks of the course will be colored inflatable marks. The starting and finishing marks will be colored inflatable marks except that the port end of the starting line may be an anchored boat with an orange flag displayed. At the option of the Race Committee, a mid-line starting boat may be utilized on the Opti Championship Fleet Line.

#### **15. THE START**

15.1. Races will be started in accordance with RRS 26 for the Optimist Championship Fleet and 420 Fleet. At the discretion of the Race Committee, the Race Committee may give verbal time sequencing in addition to the RRS 26 signal sounds, but shall not be required to. The Optimist Green Fleet may additionally utilize the three-minute dinghy starting sequence, Appendix U.

15.2. The starting line will be between: (1) the staff from which an orange flag is displayed on the Race Committee Signal Boat at the starboard end of the line (looking upwind) and the staff from which an orange flag is displayed on an anchored boat at the port-end; or, (2) the staff from which an orange flag is displayed on the Race Committee Signal Boat at the starboard end of the line (looking upwind) and the course side of the port-end starting mark. At the option of the Race Committee, a mid-line starting boat may be utilized on the Opti Championship Fleet Line in which case the starting line will be between the staff from which an orange flag is displayed on the midline boat and: (1) the staff from which an orange flag is displayed on the Race Committee Signal Boat at the starboard end of the line (looking upwind); and (2) the port-end starting mark or port-end anchored boat, as applicable.

15.3. In the two minutes before the start, the race committee may notify competitors if they are on the course side of the starting line.

15.4. A boat shall not start later than five (5) minutes after her starting signal. A boat starting later than five (5) minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4.1 and A5.

#### **16. RECALLS**

16.1. The Race Committee intends to attempt to hail OCS boats after the starting signal. The failure to make or receive such communication shall not be grounds for redress and no other notification to any boat shall be required. This changes RRS 41 and 62.1 (a).

## **17. THE FINISH**

- 17.1. The finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on a Race Committee boat and a yellow inflatable mark.

## **18. TIME LIMIT**

- 18.1. The time limit will be 90 minutes for all classes. Boats failing to finish within 20 minutes after the first boat finishes or within the time limit, whichever is later, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, 63.1, A4.1, and A5.

## **19. PROTESTS**

- 19.1. An addition to RRS 61 is: A competitor shall inform the Race Committee finish boat of its intention to protest, including sail number of the protested boat, immediately after finishing.
- 19.2. Protests shall be in writing on forms available at a table under the tent near the PYC senior clubhouse and delivered to the Protest Committee within 45 minutes after the time of the docking of the Race Committee signal boat for that competitor's course. Completed protest forms shall be delivered to the Protest Committee at a table under the tent near the PYC clubhouse and shall be marked as to the time of submission upon filing.
- 19.3. Protests will be heard as soon as practicable in an order to be determined by the Protest Committee.
- 19.4. Protest notices will be posted within 30 minutes of the protest time limit to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing in which they are parties to a hearing or named as witnesses. This posting shall constitute the notification required by RRS 63.2 and RRS 61.1(b). Unless otherwise noted, protest hearings will be held on the second floor of the PYC clubhouse.
- 19.5. The following sentence is added to RRS 66. "On the last day of racing, a party to the hearing may ask for a reopening no later than one hour after being informed of the decision." This changes RRS 66.
- 19.6. Infringements of SIs 3, 4, and 22 are not protestable by another boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 19.7. The penalty, if any, for an infringement of a rule other than a rule of Part 2 will be at the discretion of the Protest Committee and may be less than disqualification. This changes RRS 64.1(a).
- 19.8. Competitors in the Green Fleet are encouraged to do penalty turns if they commit fouls. However, formal protest hearings will not occur for the Green Fleet. If time and resources allow "mock" protest hearings may occur for Green Fleet competitors.

19.9. All competitors are expected to maintain the highest level of conduct throughout the entire event. When the Protest Committee, from its own observation or a report received from any source believes that a competitor may have committed a breach of a rule, good manners or sportsmanship, or may have brought the sport into disrepute, it may call a hearing. After a proper hearing the penalty may range from a reprimand to dismissal from the regatta and additional action may be taken under RRS 69.

## **20. PENALTIES TAKEN AFTER A RACE**

20.1. After a race, a boat that may have broken a rule of RRS Part 2 or RRS 31 while *racing* may take a Post-Race Penalty for that incident. The penalty shall be a Scoring Penalty, calculated as stated in RRS 44.3(c). However, RRS 44.1(a) and (b) apply. A boat takes a Post-Race Penalty by informing the race committee in writing and identifying the race number and when and where the incident occurred. RRS 44.3 (a) and (b) are changed so that a competitor does not have to display a yellow flag in order to take a scoring penalty.

20.2. The Post-Race Penalty shall be

20.2.1. 20%, if taken before the protest time limit, or

20.2.2. 30%, if taken after the protest time limit but before the beginning of a protest committee hearing involving the incident.

## **21. SCORING**

21.1. The Low-Point Scoring System of Appendix A shall apply for the Opti Championship Fleet and 420 Fleet. A maximum of 10 races are scheduled, of which 1 race shall be completed to constitute a series. If 5 or more races are sailed, a boat's worst score shall be discarded. This changes RRS A2.

21.2. Consistent with the USODA Conditions for Sanctioned Regattas and Championships, section 18, the Green Fleet will not be scored.

21.3. Overall Championship Fleet scores shall be used to determine red, blue, and white fleet awards.

## **22. SUPPORT BOATS**

22.1. Except as noted in 22.2, team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall not be in the racing area from the time of the preparatory signal for the first class to start until all boats have finished or the Race Committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment. The penalty for failing to comply with this requirement may result in disqualification or other alternative penalty at the discretion of the Race Committee for all boats associated with the support personnel who do so.

22.2. Optimist Green Fleet: Coaching is encouraged during the starting sequence, around marks, and for staying generally "on course." Green Fleet support boats must identify themselves to the Race

Committee and be careful not to interfere with any racing boats.  
Safety is paramount.

- 22.3. Coaches must wear fully secured PFDs while on the water. Other support people – Race Committee, mark and safety boat operators, parents, etc. – are strongly encouraged to wear fully secured PFDs while on the water.
- 22.4. All coach boats and other support boats/support personnel must agree to aid any competitor in distress or requesting assistance of any sort.
- 22.5. All Opti Championship and 420 Fleet Line boats, coach boats and spectator boats shall monitor VHF Channel 71, boats assisting on the Green Fleet Line will use VHF Channel 78 while on the water.

### **23. Equipment**

- 23.1. Optimist competitors are allowed to use only one hull, dagger board, rudder (with tiller and extension), mast, boom, sprit and sail during the Regatta. Substitution of such equipment due to damage shall occur only with the Race Committee's approval

### **24. RRS 47 – Trash Disposal**

- 24.1. Competitors are reminded of RRS 47, which states that competitors and support persons "shall not intentionally put trash in the water."