

OPTIMIST CLASS

The Optimist Class is the worlds largest International One Design Class.

There is Optimist racing in all of the countries that feature competitive sailing.

The International Optimist Class features National, Continental and World Championships annually.

Optimist can be found on every pond in Europe. Sailing is an elective in many schools throughout Europe and the Optimist is the primary equipment used. It is responsible for the great success that Europe enjoys in worldwide competitive sailing.

The International Class has one course which is a modified Trapezoid with an upwind finish near mark 2 and provision for a coach's area within the course area. This standardized course is used in all of their major championships.

In BC we use a simplified form of this course or Windward/Leeward

Some of the conditions for Optimist racing are:

- Optimist are divided into four fleets
 - Red - ages 13 - 15 in that calendar year
 - Blue - ages 11 - 12 in that calendar year (cannot turn 13)
 - White - ages 8, 9, 10 in the calendar year
 - Green - ages 7 - 15 , every 7 year old must have a coach on their course.
- Optimist racing starts at the earliest at noon on Saturdays.
- Coaching while racing is encouraged for all Green Fleet sailors and for the last half of the championship Fleet.
- A sailor has to be turning 7 in the calendar year to be allowed to enter a BC Sailing Circuit.
- In the year the sailor turns 7, he/she must be in the Green Fleet only and have a coach present on his /her course.
- The Green fleet will have no scoring or results, but will have a participant list. All participants will be awarded.
- Optimist fleets will have awards for the top five finishers in each of the Red, Blue and White fleets.
- The Optimist Green and White competitors will be on the water a maximum of 3.5 hours per day.
- Adequate support boats for safety must be in place. These can consist of the mark set boats, coaches and spectator boats. They should all be included in the safety plan.
- Rule 26 starting sequence is used.