



**The Grafham Easter Egg -
Optimist Open Meeting and Youth Regatta.
Friday 19th & Saturday 20th April 2019
Organising authority - Grafham Water Sailing Club
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in the *Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2 Competitors will be required to wear adequate personal buoyancy at all times whilst afloat. Flag Y will not be displayed – this changes RRS 40.1 and Race Signals Y.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board in the ground floor café of the Clubhouse

3 CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted not later than 30 minutes before boats are launched for the first race in which it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 hours on the day before it will take effect.

Note: If there are any changes to Sailing Instructions, flag L will be displayed ashore until the warning signal of the first race affected.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from flag pole 2 on the water side of the Club house.

Note: Signals may be displayed over a fleet flag (see SI 6.1-6.4 and 6.2) signifying that they only apply to that fleet.

- 4.2 Flag AP displayed ashore means that launching is postponed and will start after AP is lowered. This changes race signal AP when displayed ashore.
- 4.3 Flag D with one sound means that competitors may launch as instructed by the beachmaster. The warning signal will not be made until boats that launch promptly as instructed have had the opportunity to sail directly to the race area.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 5.1 Dates of racing:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Races</i>	<i>Scheduled start time for first fleet</i>	
Friday	19 th April	Race 1 Followed by races 2 & 3	1200
Saturday	20 th April	Race 4 Followed by races 5 & 6	1100

Note: A competitors' briefing will be held on Friday at 1050 for all fleets.

- 5.2 There will be a maximum of six races. The intention is that there will be three races each day, although a 4th race may be sailed if weather or other reasons dictate.
- 5.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange starting line flag will be displayed on the committee signal boat with multiple sounds at least one minute before a warning signal is made.

5.5 On the last day of the event no orange flag signal will be made after 1500.

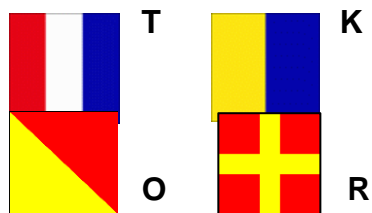
6 FLEET FLAGS

6.1 The Topper fleet warning signal will be flag T.

6.2 The Handicap fleet warning signal will be flag K

6.3 Optimist main fleet warning signal will be flag O.

6.4 Optimist regatta fleet warning flag will be flag R.



7 RACING AREA

The intended racing area will be displayed on the Official Notice Board.

8 THE COURSES

8.1 The diagrams in Attachment 1 show the courses, including the approximate angles between the legs, the order in which the marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

8.2 There may be a lead boat, displaying flag G.

8.5 Verbal outside assistance (“coaching”) may be given to sailors by designated coach boats only, to assist them to complete the course.

9 MARKS

9.1 Marks 1, 2, 3, 4 will be orange inflatable buoys.

9.2 The starting marks will be the race committee signal boat at the starboard end and a dan buoy flying an orange flag at the port end.

9.3 The finishing marks will be a committee boat at the windward end and a dan buoy flying an orange flag at the leeward end.

10 THE START

10.1 The starting line will be between the masts displaying orange flags on the starting marks.

Note: The starting sequence will not be 5-4-1-Go. See Attachment 2 below.

10.2 When the orange starting line signal is displayed, boats that are not in the next fleet to start shall keep clear of the start area.

10.3 A boat starting later than 3 minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS rule A4.

10.4 If flag U has been displayed as the preparatory signal, no part of a boat’s hull, crew, or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing but not if the race is restarted or resailed or postponed or abandoned before the starting signal.

10.5 When a race started under rule 30.4 (Black Flag rule) is recalled or abandoned, the sail numbers of disqualified boats will be displayed on the committee signal boat, with a long sound signal, for at least three minutes. If the race is restarted or resailed, a disqualified boat shall neither sail within 100 metres of the starting line during the starting sequence, nor during the race within an imaginary line drawn 100 metres outside any area where a boat might sail whilst racing.

Note: The rules state that if a hearing finds that she has done so, her disqualification shall not be excluded (DNE) in calculating her series score.

10.6 If there are insufficient entries for the regatta fleet to have separate start, all Optimists will start together.

10.7 If there is a general recall, then that fleet will move to the back of the sequence.

11 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

The race committee will not move marks whilst racing is in progress.

12 THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finishing line will be between the masts displaying orange flags on the finishing marks.
- 12.2 After finishing and clearing the finishing line boats shall avoid the finishing area and all boats not yet finished.
- 12.3 Each race will be approximately 40-50 minutes duration, at the discretion of the race committee. When a race is to finish, the Race Committee will signal a shortened course in accordance with RRS 32.2. All boats racing on that course will finish the next time they pass through the gate/finishing line. The first boat to be finished may not necessarily be the leading boat. Handicap fleet results will be calculated on an average lap time basis.

13 PENALTY SYSTEM

Appendix P will not apply.

14 TIME LIMIT

- 14.1 Time limits and target times are as follows.

<i>Time limit</i>	<i>Target time</i>
65 minutes	40-50 minutes

Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a)

- 14.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes rules 35, A4 and A5.

Note: In this case see instruction 16.1 for details of points to be awarded.

15 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1 Boats intending to protest or ask for redress shall (unless it is impractical for them to do so) register their intention immediately upon finishing with the protest boat, which will be a race committee measurement or jury or other boat near the finishing line displaying a red flag. A boat that does not finish shall (unless it is impractical for it to do so) inform either the committee boat, or a safety boat. This adds to the requirements of RRS 61.1.
- 15.2 Protest forms are available from the race office. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 15.3 The protest time limit is one hour after the last boat is finished in the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is the later.
- 15.4 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. The notices will state the location for the hearings and the time of the first hearing.
- 15.5 Notices of protests by the race committee or protest committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b)
- 15.6 Breaches of the following instructions will not be grounds for protest by a boat:
- | | |
|------------|---|
| 10.3, 12.2 | Avoiding the starting and finishing areas |
| 17.5 | Towing |
| 20 | Event advertising |
| 22 | Support Boats |
- Receiving outside assistance under instructions 8.4 and 8.5 will not be grounds for protest by a boat.

15.8 When the protest committee decides that an infringement, other than an infringement of a rule of Part 2, has had no significant effect on the outcome of the race, it may impose a penalty of one or more points or make such other arrangement as it thinks fair. This may be to impose no penalty. This amends RRS 64.1.

Note: The terms of reference of the protest committee are set out in Attachment 2.

16 SCORING

16.1 The Low Point system of Appendix A will apply, except that boats that are racing when the time limit expires (and therefore recorded as DNF) will be scored points halfway between the points scored by the last boat to finish and points equal to the number of starters and any fractions will be rounded up to the next whole number. This changes A4.2.

16.2 One race is required to be completed to constitute a series.

16.3 A boat's series score will be the total of her race scores except as set out below:

<i>Races completed</i>	<i>Worst scores to be excluded</i>
1 - 3	<i>None</i>
4 - 6	<i>One</i>

17 SAFETY REGULATIONS

17.1 If the Black Flag is flown ashore, **Competitors must wear wetsuits or drysuit**

17.2 When the race committee considers that a boat, its equipment or crew 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 race committee's decision is final.

17.3 At all times whilst afloat all competitors shall comply with all instructions given from an official boat. Before, between and after races, official boats may require boats to pass or remain on a specified side of a mark or other object. Instructions given to competitors by the official boats are for the safety of the fleet, and the efficient and fair completion of the racing, and must be complied with. In particular, prior to the preparatory signal for any sequence of races, and after the finish, boats may be directed to a designated holding area where they must remain until directed otherwise.

17.4 Towing:

On any day that racing is scheduled, the towing or other artificial propulsion of boats by any other craft is strictly forbidden. Infringement of this instruction may result in the immediate disqualification of the boat without a hearing from the race completed nearest in time to the infringement. This alters rule 63.1. The only exceptions to this are:

- a) When a boat has retired from a race and is being escorted by a support boat either ashore or to the nearest mother ship, or
- b) When the race committee signal boat has displayed flag T and informed all support boats that towing is permitted.

18 REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT

Note: International Optimist class rule 4.5 states that only one hull, sail, mast, boom, sprit, rudder and daggerboard may be used throughout an event

Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorised by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.

19 EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 19.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions.
- 19.2 Immediately after each race several boats may be advised to proceed for an equipment check. Boats notified shall report immediately to the nearby measurement boat displaying a yellow flag marked "Measurer". After finishing all boats are forbidden to alter any settings on their boat until after they have cleared the measurement boat area. Boats failing to comply with this instruction will be protested by the race committee.
- 19.3 Any competitor whose boat fails a measurement check will be subject to a penalty as posted on the official notice board.
- 19.4 For the purpose of this instruction, the Event Technical Officer is part of the race committee.

20 Fleet Identification

Optimist regatta fleet may be required to fly a ribbon which will be supplied at the top of their sprit.

Optimist main fleet must not fly any ribbons from the top of their sprit.

21 OFFICIAL BOATS

Official boats not part of the race committee must register with the organisers and will be required to display identification flags at all times while in the course area. Official Boats shall stay outside the racing area from the time of the preparatory signal for the first groups to start until all boats have finished or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment, unless instructed to assist the Race Committee or Safety Control.

22 SUPPORT BOATS

No support boats are allowed.

23 RUBBISH DISPOSAL

Rubbish may be placed aboard official boats.

24 RADIO COMMUNICATION

A boat shall neither make nor receive radio transmissions while racing. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

25 PRIZES AND TITLES

Prizes will be awarded according to the entry.

26 RISK STATEMENT

Rule 4 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." 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:

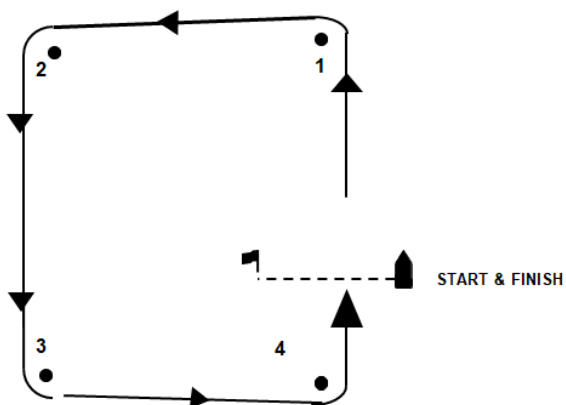
- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their 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 boats, and other officials and volunteers by the organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;

- f) The provision of patrol boat 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 safety briefing held for the event.

27 INSURANCE

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £2,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.





ATTACHMENT 1: COURSE







1, 2, 3, 4, G, etc where G denotes going through the start/finish line




ATTACHMENT 2: START SEQUENCE



Time	Flag signal	Meaning
-1	Orange Flag Displayed	We are beginning a sequence
0	Flag T displayed	Topper fleet warning
1	Prep Flag displayed [P,U or Black]	Topper fleet prep.
2	Prep flag removed	
3	Flag T removed	Topper fleet start
4	Flag O displayed	Optimist main fleet warning
5	Prep Flag displayed [P,U or Black]	Optimist main fleet prep
6	Prep flag removed	
7	Flag O removed	Optimist main fleet start
8	Flag R displayed	Optimist regatta fleet warning
9	Prep Flag displayed [P,U or Black]	Optimist regatta fleet prep.
10	Prep flag removed	
11	Flag R removed	Optimist regatta fleet start
12	Flag K displayed	Handicap fleet warning
13	Prep Flag displayed [P,U or Black]	Handicap fleet prep.
14	Prep flag removed	
15	Flag K removed	Handicap fleet start

Flags: **Warning**    

Topper  **Optimist Main**  **Optimist regatta**  **Handicap** 

Prep

P  **U**  **Black** 

Recall  **X –individual recall**  **General recall**