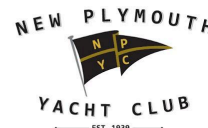




# TOYOTA



## 2026 TOYOTA NEW ZEALAND OPTIMIST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



3 April 2026 - 7 April 2026

Organising Authority: New Plymouth Yacht Club

Ocean View Parade, New Plymouth, New Zealand

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# NOTICE OF RACE

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NB: The notation "[DP]" in a rule in the Notice of Race means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

## 1. RULES

1.1 For the Open and White fleets the regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in 'The Racing Rules of Sailing 2025-28'.

<https://optimist.org.nz/2022-ioda-class-rules/>

For the Green Fleet, the NZIODA Optimist Green Fleet Rules for Racing will apply.

<https://optimist.org.nz/green-fleet/>

1.2 The Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations Part I shall apply.

<https://www.yachtingnz.org.nz/racing/safety-regulations>

- 1.3 Appendix P, Special Procedures for Rule 42, will apply as amended by the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.4 Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply.
- 1.5 Appendix G3, Chartered or Loaned Boats, will apply.
- 1.6 If there is a conflict between languages, English text takes precedence.

## 2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The Sailing Instructions will be available no later than 28 Feb 2026, 1800 hours, at <https://www.npyc.co.nz/events/opti-nats>. Printed copies of the Sailing Instructions will not be made available to competitors.

## 3. COMMUNICATION

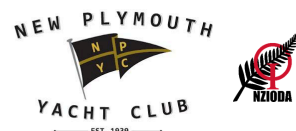
- 3.1 Prior to the regatta, the Official Notice Board will be located online at <https://www.npyc.co.nz/events/opti-nats>
- 3.2 Notices to competitors that are posted during the regatta, will be posted on the physical Official Notice Board inside the New Plymouth Yacht Club.
- 3.3 Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones. [DP]

## 4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The regatta is open to boats of the Optimist class, competing in the Open, White and Green Fleets.
- 4.2 For all fleet entry guidelines refer to Addendum A.
- 4.3 The regatta is open to competitors born in the year **2011** or later.
- 4.4 All competitors must be financial members of a yacht club affiliated to YNZ, or a member of an organisation affiliated to another World Sailing Member National Authority unless dispensation has been given by World Sailing.
- 4.5 All competitors must be a financial member of NZIODA (class association) <https://optimist.org.nz/sailor-registration/> or their country equivalent class association



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4.6 This regatta is an NZIODA Ranking Regatta. Sailors who go on to be selected to a NZIODA travelling or development team will be required to be a New Zealand National or Resident in New Zealand. They will also be required to be eligible for an NZIODA representative team. Further details - <https://optimist.org.nz/nz-optimist-sailing-team/>

4.7 Eligible boats may enter by going to <https://www.npyc.co.nz/events/opti-nats> and completing the online entry form and paying the correct entry fee by midnight 1st April 2026.

4.8 Late Entries will not be accepted.

4.9 Overseas competitors will need to provide proof of age and club membership with their entry. A copy of their passport is acceptable at club registration.

4.10 Sailors wishing to charter a boat for the regatta should contact NZIODA for recommendations <https://optimist.org.nz/>

## 5. FEES

5.1 Required fees NZD (incl. GST) are as follows:

Class	Entry Fee
Open or White Fleet	\$240
Green Fleet	\$190
Late Entry Fee	No Late Entry

5.2 Where more than one sailor from the same family enters the regatta, the second and subsequent sailor will receive a \$20 discount.

5.3 There will be no refunds if entered competitors withdraw their entry after the entry closing date 1st April 2026.

## 6. ADVERTISING

6.1 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organising Authority. If this rule is broken, World Sailing Regulation 20.9.2 applies. [DP]

6.2 The Organizing Authority may provide bibs that competitors are required to wear as permitted by the World Sailing Advertising Code.



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## 7. QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES

7.1 At the discretion of the Organising Authority the Open and White Fleets may be split into two or more fleets. In which case the regatta will consist of a Qualifying Series followed by a Final Series. The Green Fleet will sail each race as a single fleet.

## 8. SCHEDULE

8.1 Registration, safety and equipment inspection: Friday 3rd April 0800-1800

8.2 Regatta welcome and sailors' briefing: Saturday 4th April, 0900. Support boat briefing to follow sailors' briefing.

8.3 Green Fleet daily briefing: 1000

8.4 Dates of racing:

Date	Fleet	Scheduled races per day	Time of first warning signal
Saturday 4th April	Open & White	3	1100
Saturday 4th April	Green	Communicated at Sailors' Daily Briefing	1130
Sunday 5th April	Open & White	3	1000
Sunday 5th April	Green	Communicated at Sailors' Daily Briefing	1030
Monday 6th April	Open & White	3	1000
Monday 6th April	Green	Communicated at Sailors' Daily Briefing	1030
Tuesday 7th April	Open & White	3	1000
Tuesday 7th April	Green	Communicated at Sailors' Daily Briefing	1030

8.5 One extra race per day may be sailed, provided that no class becomes more than one race ahead of schedule.

8.6 12 races are scheduled for Open and White fleets. If the fleets are split, Boats **may** be split into Finals Fleets after the earlier of (a) the completion of six qualifying races or (b) 1700hrs on Sunday 5th April 2026. Until that time, all boats will race in qualifying fleets.

A variety of racing is scheduled for the Green fleet which will be communicated each day at the sailors' briefing.



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8.7 The target time for races for the Open fleet will be 40 minutes. The target time for races for White fleet will be 30 minutes. The target time for the Green fleet will be between 10 and 25 minutes depending on race format. The target maximum time to be spent on the water is up to 5 hours.

8.8 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 1500 hrs.

8.9 Prize giving will follow as soon as possible after racing is complete on the final day for Open and White fleets and as soon as possible after racing each day for the Green fleet.

## 9. MEASUREMENT AND SAFETY

9.1 All boats will need to adhere to the safety standards as outlined by NZIODA.  
<https://optimist.org.nz/boat-safety-checklist-2/>

9.2 Open fleet competitors shall use only one hull, daggerboard, rudder (with tiller and extension), mast, boom, sprit and sail during the regatta. These shall all have valid measuring certificates which will be required to be made available for inspection at registration and during the regatta. <https://optimist.org.nz/measurement/>

9.3 Each boat sailing in Open Fleet from sail number NZL 4726 onwards shall have a valid Registration Book.

9.4 Green and White Fleet boats are not required to hold current measurement certificates (alters International Optimist Class Rule 2.4.1) but any plywood hulls used will need to gain dispensation from the Race Committee.

9.5 Wet clothing, measurement and equipment checks may be made throughout the regatta at the discretion of the Technical Committee.

## 10. VENUE

10.1 The regatta venue will be New Plymouth Yacht Club, New Plymouth Refer to Addendum B.

10.2 The racing area for the Optimist Open and White Fleets will be the waters off Port Taranaki, New Plymouth . The Optimist Green Fleet will race predominately on the waters inside the Harbour of Port Taranaki, New Plymouth.

## 11. THE COURSES

11.1 The courses to be sailed for Open and White Fleets will be trapezoid. The White Fleet will sail a shorter course than the Open Fleet.

11.2 Green Fleet will sail on a separate course to the Open and White Fleets. Their courses will be a variety of the following: destination sails, windward-leeward, novelty races, relays, obstacle courses, triangular courses, etc



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## 12. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 12.1 Appendix P, Special Procedures for Rule 42, will apply as per the sailing instructions.
- 12.2 For the Open Fleet, to encourage boats to take penalties afloat, on-water judges may blow a whistle when they see what they believe to be a breach of a rule.

## 13. SCORING

### Open / White Fleets:

- 13.1 Five races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
- 13.2 a) When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- b) When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

### Green Fleet:

- 13.3 Will not have an overall series scored.

## 14. SUPPORT VESSELS

- 14.1 All support vessels are required to register via the [online form](#)
- 14.2 A representative from each support vessel shall attend the daily support vessel briefings.
- 14.3 All support and coach vessels are asked to have VHF communications and be available to assist the race committee if required. The VHF channel to be used will be communicated at the support vessel briefing.
- 14.4 Support vessels' launching is available from the Lee breakwater boat ramp.
- 14.5 All support vessels shall have an engine safety cut out switch (kill cord) attached to the driver AT ALL TIMES while the engine is running unless prior written exemption has been provided by the Organising Authority. [DP]

## 15. LAUNCHING AND STORAGE

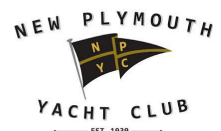
- 15.1 All competing boats shall be launched and retrieved from inside the club compound, unless instructed otherwise by the Organising Authority. [DP]



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15.2 Beach trolleys shall be prominently marked with the boat's sail number [DP]

## 16. PRIZES

16.1 Prizes for Open and White fleets will be awarded in accordance with NZIODA Guidelines at the conclusion of the regatta. Prizes for the Green fleet will be awarded at the end of each day.  
<https://optimist.org.nz/trophies/>

16.2 There may be draws for spot prizes throughout the regatta.

## 17. INSURANCE

17.1 Yachting New Zealand recommends that for national championships, each participating boat shall be insured with valid marine third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$1,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

## 18. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

18.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. RRS 3, Decision to Race, states as follows:- "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 inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor and the responsible adult 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 and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, 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 omission;
- 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 and other officials and volunteers by the event 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.

18.2 The Organising Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

## 19. RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

19.1 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the Organising Authority and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue, until their final departure, without compensation.

## 20. USE OF DRONES

20.1 All those who take part in this event as competitors, support crew, or spectators agree to be overflown by an event-approved drone for promotion or media purposes. This consent applies to your person and your property (including boats).

20.2 [DP] Port Taranaki is a No Drone Zone. No drones may be flown within Port Taranaki, including the port secure area, Centennial Drive, Ngāmotu Beach, and the Lee Breakwater, unless prior written permission has been obtained from both Port Taranaki (via permit process) and the Race Committee. Unauthorized drone flights are a breach of the Civil Aviation Authority Rule 101 and may lead to prosecution.

20.3 All drone operations must comply with Port Taranaki bylaws and CAA regulations. For details or permit applications, see [www.porttaranaki.co.nz/access-and-security/drones-and-airspace/.2](http://www.porttaranaki.co.nz/access-and-security/drones-and-airspace/.2)

## 21. SUSTAINABILITY

21.1 A competitor shall not intentionally put trash in the water. RRS 55 applies at all times while afloat. [DP]

21.2 The 2026 Toyota Optimist National Championship is a Clean Regatta and we request that competitors, supporters and officials support this initiative:

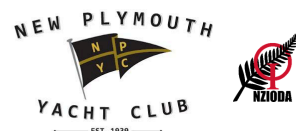
- a) Bring your own reusables: water bottle, coffee cup, lunch box/bag for yourself and your support team and avoid single-use plastics.
- b) Carefully choose the correct waste stream at the regatta venue - landfill, compost, recycling
- c) Choose electronic viewing over printing out NOR or Sailing instructions
- d) Try to minimise your environmental impact when travelling to the event. Plan your journey <https://at.govt.nz/>. Consider carpooling, community minibus or [Toyota hybrid rental](#) and offsetting carbon emissions. Refer to the NZ [Carbon Footprint Calculator](#).

## 22. FURTHER INFORMATION

22.1 For further information please contact:



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New Plymouth Yacht Club

npccommodore@gmail.com

<https://www.npyc.co.nz/events/opti-nats>

## 23. AMENDMENTS TO THE NOTICE OF RACE

23.1 The Notice of Race may be changed. Changes will be posted on the regatta website at

<https://www.npyc.co.nz/events/opti-nats>



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# ADDENDUM A

## NZIODA Fleet Guidelines

### 1.1 **Green Fleet:**

The Green Fleet is open to less experienced Optimist sailors. The emphasis is on fun and the objective is to offer less experienced sailors the opportunity to sail and participate at the same venue as an Optimist Open and White regatta without their feeling the need, or burden, to sail in these more competitive fleets.

In the Green Fleet equipment used is not required to hold current measurement certificates (alters International Optimist Class Rule 2.4.1) however if plywood hulls are to be used sailors will need to gain dispensation from the Race Committee. All boats in this fleet will need to adhere to the same safety standards of the White and Open fleets as outlined by NZIODA.

<https://optimist.org.nz/boat-safety-checklist-2/>

In Green Fleet :

- Any sailors can be involved; there are no restrictions for age or experience.
- Success will be awarded per race OR per day, NOT for an overall series.
- Sailors will experience a range of sailing experiences that include destination sails, novelty races, long course races as well as more traditional race courses.

<https://optimist.org.nz/green-fleet/>

### 1.2 **White Fleet:**

The White Fleet provides an introduction to a racing series without the high physical and mental demands that are experienced in the Open Fleet. It provides an opportunity for sailors to compete in more traditional racing on a similar course to the Open fleet. This is a more competitive fleet than the Green fleet and a great transition between Green and Open fleets.

In the White Fleet equipment used is not required to hold current measurement certificates (alters International Optimist Class Rule 2.4.1) however if plywood hulls are to be used sailors will need to gain dispensation from the Race Committee. All boats in this fleet will need to adhere to the same safety standards of the Green and Open fleets as outlined by NZIODA.

<https://optimist.org.nz/boat-safety-checklist-2/>

In White Fleet:



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- Races will likely be shorter in length than Open Fleet races
- Less races MAY be sailed each day than the Open Fleet
- Races are sailed on the same body of water as Open Fleet races
- Sailors are awarded prizes / trophies for their overall series result
- Sailors are unable to compete in this fleet if they have received a podium place in White Fleet at a previous Toyota Optimist National Championship

<https://optimist.org.nz/white-and-open-fleet/>

### 1.3 **Open Fleet:**

Open Fleet is the most competitive fleet in the class where sailors can compete at a high level for the overall prize of being the Optimist National champion for each gender.

In Open fleet:

- Sailors are awarded prizes / trophies for their overall series result
- NZIODA will select IODA and Development team members from this fleet based on their ranking at the Nationals.

Each boat sailing in Open Fleet from sail number NZL 4762 onwards shall have a valid Registration Book.

Open fleet competitors shall use only one hull, daggerboard, rudder (with tiller and extension), mast, boom, sprit and sail during the regatta. These shall all have valid measuring certificates. These documents shall be available for inspection at registration and during the regatta.

<https://optimist.org.nz/measurement/>

All boats in this fleet will need to adhere to the same safety standards of the White and Green fleets as outlined by NZIODA. <https://optimist.org.nz/boat-safety-checklist-2/>



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## ADDENDUM B

### Location of Race Venue

The regatta venue will be 📍 New Plymouth Yacht Club

### Map of the Local Area and Harbour



Red Zones - Out of Bounds (Port and reef)

Yellow Zone - Indicative Racing areas for Open / White Fleets

Orange – Public Launching Ramp

Dark Blue – Vehicle and Trailer Parking

Pale Blue - Indicative Racing areas for Green Fleets