



2026 TOYOTA NEW ZEALAND OPTIMIST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP



2026 Toyota Optimist Nationals Green Fleet

3 April 2026 - 7 April 2026

Organising Authority: New Plymouth Yacht Club

Ocean View Parade, New Plymouth, New Zealand

The Organising Authority is
New Plymouth Yacht Club

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES

1.1. The event will be governed by the NZIODA Green Fleet Rules for Racing.

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

1.2. The Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations Part 1, will apply.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located in the New Plymouth Yacht Club.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1. Any change to the Sailing Instructions will be posted before 0930 hours on the day it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole in front of the club room.

4.2. When a visual signal is displayed over a fleet(s) flag, the signal applies only to that fleet(s). This changes the Race Signals preamble.

4.3. When Flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in race signal, AP.

4.4. Flag D together with the Green Optimist Flag and with a sound signal means: 'the warning signal will be made not less than 30 minutes after Flag D is displayed.' Boats shall not go afloat until this signal is made.



5. REGISTRATION

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

6. BRIEFINGS

6.1. A sailors' briefing will be held each day at 1000. All sailors should attend as it will contain information regarding the format of the day's racing.

6.2. Support Vessel Briefing for the Green Fleet will follow immediately after the sailors' briefing.

6.3. Briefings will be held in or adjacent to the Clubhouse.

7. SCHEDULE OF RACES

7.1. The schedule of races is as follows:

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

7.2. The warning signal for a subsequent race on the same day will be made as soon as practicable but not sooner than 10 minutes after the last boat finishes the previous race.

7.3. To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will begin soon, the orange flag defining the starboard end of the starting line will be displayed, with one sound signal. On the last day of the event, no warning signal will be made after 1500.

8. CLASS FLAGS

8.1. The class flag will be a green flag with the class insignia.

9. RACING AREAS

9.1. The racing area will be described at the Sailors Race Day Briefing.

10. THE COURSES

10.1. A variety of race types and courses are scheduled for Green Fleet. These may consist of several of the following and will be explained at the sailor's briefing each day:

- Destination sail.
- Le Mans Start (Start and / or Finish from shore)
- Team / Individual games
- Relays
- Slalom course with a reaching start.
- Rectangle course
- Triangle course
- Windward / Leewards (with an offset top mark)
- Sail around a course with RIBS distributing drinks / food as markers
- Obstacle course
- Onshore races (rigging / treasure hunt etc)

11. MARKS

11.1. The description of marks will be advised at the briefing.

11.2. The starting and finish marks will be advised at the sailors briefing.

12. THE START

12.1. The starting line (except for a Le Mans start) will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel and the port end mark.

13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

13.1. The Race Committee will not change a leg of the course after the start signal.

14. THE FINISH

14.1 The finishing line (except in a Le Mans and destination finish) will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the race committee vessel and the port end mark.

15. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

15.1. The target time will be between 10 and 25 minutes depending on the type of race being sailed.

15.2. Mark one and finishing window times will be at the Race Officers discretion.

16. IF A BOAT BREAKS A RULE

16.1. If you think that you or another boat has broken a rule, or if you are unclear about the rules at any time during the race, you must describe the incident to an Advisor after the race. An Advisor can be approached after racing at the club.

17. SCORING

17.1. A sailor's daily score will be determined by their placings in all of the races sailed that day.

17.2. There will be no overall series scored.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1. All boats intending to race shall sign on at the Sign On Tent prior to going afloat for any races.

18.2. Immediately on returning to shore, all boats shall complete the sign off process at the Sign On Tent

18.3. Personal flotation devices shall always be worn while afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wetsuits and drysuits are not personal flotation devices.

18.4. Competitors who require assistance shall blow a whistle or wave the paddle or an arm.

18.5. A boat that retires from a race or returns to the launching area before she finishes the last race of the day shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible.

19. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

19.1. Substitution of competitors will not be allowed. The person on-board shall be the person named on the entry form.

19.2. Change of sail numbers will not be allowed without prior written approval of the Race Committee.

20. EQUIPMENT AND SAFETY INSPECTION

20.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Class Safety Rules.

21. ADVERTISING

21.1. The Organising Authority may require all participating boats to display the event sponsor's advertising in accordance with World Sailing Regulation 20, *Advertising Code*. Sponsors' logos are to be carried 150 mm back from the bow, and 50 mm below the gunwale on both sides of the hull.

22. OFFICIAL VESSELS

22.1. The Advisor's boats will fly a yellow flag with a black "A".

23. SUPPORT VESSELS

23.1. All occupants of support vessels shall always wear an appropriate size personal flotation device (PFD) while afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Each PFD shall comply with Maritime Rules Part 91, *Navigation Safety Rules*, wetsuits and drysuits are not PFDs.

23.2. All support vessels shall always have a kill-cord attached to the driver while the engine is running, unless prior written exemption has been provided by the Organising Authority.

24. RUBBISH DISPOSAL

24.1. As sailors, we seek to protect and restore our oceans and coastal waters. Sailors, coaches and support personnel shall not intentionally put rubbish in the water. Rubbish may be placed aboard support and Race Committee vessels.

25. HAUL OUT RESTRICTIONS

25.1. All boats will be required to launch and retrieve from the beach adjacent to the yacht club except with, and according to the terms of, prior written permission of the Race Committee.

26. RADIO COMMUNICATION

26.1. 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.

27. PRIZES

27.1. Trophies will be awarded in accordance with NZIODA guidelines. <https://optimist.org.nz/trophies/>

27.2. A daily prize giving will take place as soon as possible after the last race each day.

27.3. Spot Prizes may be presented to those competitors present at prize givings during the event.

28. RISK STATEMENT

28.1. Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. RRS 4, *Decision to Race*, 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 inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor and the responsible adult agrees and acknowledges that:

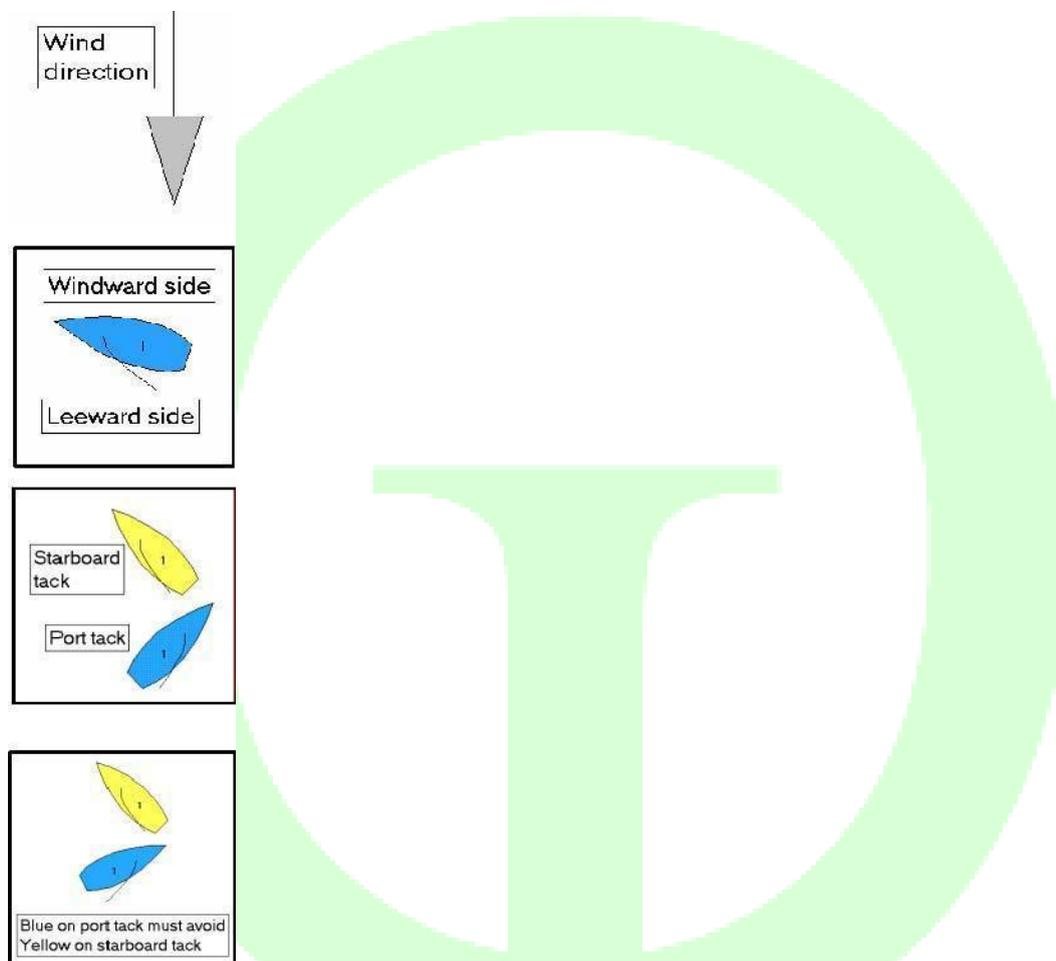
- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event.
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their boat and their other property whether 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.

Green Fleet Rules for Racing

For Sailors

Version 2010-01 – May 2010

Based on and modified from the ISAF Introductory Rules for Sailing Version 1.01 - February 2008



These rules should be used for all Green Fleet races

Some Explanations

Windward and Leeward: The *leeward* side of your boat is the side where your mainsail lies. The *windward* side is the other side.

Port and Starboard tack: You are on *port* or *starboard* tack according to your *windward* side.

Advisor: A person appointed by the race organizers to assist competitors in understanding the rules and, when appropriate, to penalize a boat.

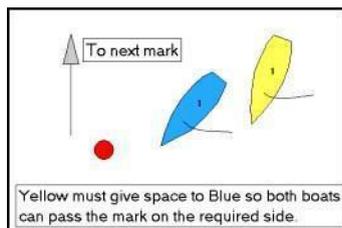
Basic Rules

1. You must comply with the principles of good sportsmanship.
2. You must try not to collide with another boat.

Rules When Boats Meet

3. When you and the other boat are on opposite tacks, if you are on port tack you must avoid the boat on starboard tack.
4. When you and the other boat are on the same tack, you must avoid the other boat

- (a) if she is in front of you, or
- (b) if she is on your leeward side.



- 5. After starting, when you and the other boat approach a mark or an object that both boats need to avoid, and the other boat is between you and the mark or other object, you must give her sufficient space to pass it safely on the same side. However, when the boats are on opposite tacks at a windward mark, this rule does not apply.
- 6. When the other boat is required to avoid you, if you change course, you must give the other boat enough time to avoid you.

Other Rules

- 7. At the starting signal you must be behind the starting line.
- 8. After the starting signal, you must sail the course described by the race organizers.
- 9. You shall not propel your boat by paddling, sculling with your rudder, rocking your boat, pumping your sail or by being towed.
- 10. If you know you have broken a rule you may take a one-turn penalty by turning in a circle and doing one tack and one gybe. Avoid other boats when you do this.
- 11. If you think you or another boat has broken a rule or if you are unclear about the rules at any time during the race, you must describe the incident to the advisor after the race so they can follow up with the sailor/s involved.