



THE ROYAL  
YACHT CLUB  
OF TASMANIA



# 2026 Musto Australian Optimist Team Racing Championship

9 January 2026

## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

### Organising Authority

Australian International Optimist Dinghy Association

In conjunction with the Royal Yacht Club of Tasmania

# MUSTO

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

The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the sailing instructions means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule.

## **1. RULES**

The Championship will be governed by:

- 1.1 The 'rules' as defined in the World Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS);
- 1.2 The Prescriptions and Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS) Part 2;
- 1.3 The Team Racing Rules (Appendix D of the RRS);
- 1.4 All races will be umpired as per RRS Appendix D2;
- 1.5 RRS Appendix G3, Chartered or Loaned Boats will apply;
- 1.6 A boat which capsizes, after the preparatory signal, such that the gunwale enters the water and the skipper leaves the cockpit to right the boat shall retire from the race.

## **2. CHANGE TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 2.1 Any change to the sailing instructions before racing commences will be communicated no later than 1 hour before the first scheduled warning signal, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2900 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.2 After racing has commenced sailing instructions may be changed verbally by the Race Committee and/or the Umpires before the Warning Signal, when Code Flag L is displayed. It is the responsibility of each team to obtain any verbal instructions given. These changes will also be communicated to the coaches on VHF channel 10.

## **3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS**

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at [www.optimist.org.au/nationals](http://www.optimist.org.au/nationals).
- 3.2 Secondary to the official notice board "instant messaging system" WhatsApp may be used to notify skippers of timely information, protest time limit etc. Join the notification group.



- 3.3 [NP] [DP] While afloat, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

## **4. CODE OF CONDUCT [DP]**

- 4.1 [NP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
- 4.2 Sailors, parents, team members and officials shall observe the following 2026 Musto Optimist Australian & Open Championships codes of conduct available on the following link: <https://www.optimist.org.au/nationals/official-notice-board>.

## **5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed at the official flagpole located at the corner of the RYCT dinghy storage compound.
- 5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in Race Signals: Postponement Signals AP. This changes RRS Race Signals.

## **6. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

Date	Event	Time
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> January	Team Managers may amend or update members of their teams	Before 17:00
	Teams measurement and registration	10:00 – 17:00
Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> January	Teams Racing Championship briefing	10:30
	First warning not before	12:00
	Official Welcome	18:30

## **7. FORMAT OF RACING**

- 7.1 A maximum of 16 teams of four boats (with up to one reserve per team) shall be entered into a Double Knockout Elimination Grid which will be posted on the Official Notice Board.
- 7.2 If due to weather conditions or time constraints, racing cannot precede the Race Committee may at its discretion change the format of the event in order to complete the event which determines a winner or may opt to use morning sessions during the regatta to complete the event.

## **8. BOATS**

- 8.1 Competitors will use their own or chartered International Optimist Class boats.
- 8.2 Teams will be assigned a distinguishing race bid at registration which must be worn over the PFD by each member of the team whilst racing.

## **9. RACING AREA**

- 9.1 Racing will be conducted on the Derwent River in approximately the same location as the Green Fleet Course Area. See Attachment A.

## **10. COURSE AND MARKS**

- 10.1 The diagram in Attachment B shows the course including the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.
- 10.2 Marks are described in Attachment B.

## **11. WAITING AREA [DP] [NP]**

- 11.1 The windward boundary of the waiting area will be designated by coloured buoys placed approximately 50m to leeward of Mark 4 and approximately 50m to leeward of the Starboard end of the Start line.
- 11.2 Once the starting sequence for any race has started, all other boats and any coach or Team Manager Boats shall be inside the waiting area. Competing boats may approach the Starting Line only after the starting signal of the previous race has been made. Boats that have finished shall return directly to the waiting area or ashore, keeping well clear of all boats racing and of all boats whose Warning Signal has been made.

## 12. THE START

12.1 Races will be started as follows:

SIGNAL	TIME BEFORE STARTING SIGNAL	SOUND SIGNAL	VISUAL INDICATION FLAGS
Warning	3 Minutes	3 Long	3 Blue Flags
Preparatory	2 Minutes	2 Long	2 Blue Flags
One (1) Minute	1 Minute	1 Long	1 Blue Flag
	30 Seconds	3 Short	
	20 Seconds	2 Short	
	10 Seconds	1 Short	
	5 Seconds	1 Short	
	4 Seconds	1 Short	
	3 Seconds	1 Short	
	2 Seconds	1 Short	
	1 Second	1 Short	
Start	0 Seconds	1 Long	All Blue Flags Lowered

This changes RRS 26.

(a) Audible signals shall govern the start.

(b) Signals shall be timed from the beginning of the sound signal.

(c) Failure to hear the signal shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

(d) Visual indication flags shall be raised and lowered from the start boat to indicate the time before the start. Failure or mistiming of an indication flag shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

12.2 The Starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the committee vessel at the starboard end and the course side of the port end starting mark.

12.3 A boat starting later than two minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (8 points) without a hearing. This changes RRS Appendix A4.

12.4 Individual recalls will be signalled as per RRS 29.1, Individual Recall, except that the "X" flag will be displayed up to a maximum of 2 minutes after the starting signal. This changes RRS 29.1. The race committee may attempt to hail the sail numbers of boats identified over, failure to hear this hail will not be grounds for redress. The changes RRS 61.4(b)(1)

12.5 The race number and the number of the teams to start may be displayed near the stern of the Committee Boat before the warning signal. When the race number is displayed in this way, it overrides all prior communications, schedules or Instructions.

## 13. THE FINISH

13.1 The Finishing Line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the committee vessel on the starboard end and the course side of the port end finishing mark.

## 14. TIME LIMIT & ABANDONMENT

14.1 Time limit for each race will be 15 minutes. Boats not finishing within 3 minutes of the first boat will be scored DNF (points equal to last place). This amends RRS 35 and D3.

14.2 The Race Committee may abandon a race for any reason. Race abandonment may be advised verbally by the Race Committee and/or the umpires. This change RRS 32 and Race Signals: Abandonment.

## 15. UMPIRING & FLAGS

15.1 Some races may have more umpires than others as determined by the Chief Umpire.

15.2 The required red protest flag must be capable of being deployed at arm's length where it is easily visible to the protested boat and umpires and concealed when the incident is closed by either a boat taking a penalty or an Umpire signalling a decision.

## **16. PROTESTS & REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 16.1 For protests and requests for redress other than protests under a rule listed in RRS Appendix D2.2, competitors shall inform an Umpire or the Race Committee immediately upon Finishing.
- 16.2 The protest time limit for competitors is two minutes after Finishing and for the Race Committee or Protest Committees it is 60 minutes after the last boat Finishes the last race of the day.
- 16.3 A hearing may be deferred if it is not relevant to progress to the next round.

## **17. SCORING**

- 17.1 RRS Appendix D3 (scoring a race) and D4 (scoring an event) will apply.
- 17.2 If the Qualifying Round is not completed, the result shall be determined using, in order:
  - 17.2 (a) After Flight C has been completed, the highest winning percentage of races;
  - 17.2 (b) If the teams have raced each other, the winner of that race; or
  - 17.2 (c) The lowest scores.

## **18. SIGN ON/SIGN OFF & SAFETY [SP] [NP]**

- 18.1 Before leaving the beach and up to the warning signal of the race session each boat shall sign-on. All helmspersons shall do this prior to going afloat for racing in any session.
- 18.2 Sign-off shall be completed within 60 minutes of the last boat finishing in the last race of the race session of their allocated class/fleet assignment.
- 18.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the Race Committee as soon as possible before leaving the course.
- 18.4 Competitors who require assistance should blow a whistle or wave the paddle or one arm. The Race Committee reserves the right to assist competitors who in its opinion require assistance, regardless of the wishes of the competitor. This will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

## **19. REPLACEMENT OF EQUIPMENT [DP]**

- 19.1 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment is not allowed unless authorised in writing by the Technical Committee and both the damaged and the substituting equipment have been checked by the Technical Committee.
- 19.2 If the substitution was made on the water between races, both the damaged and the substituting pieces of equipment shall be presented to the Technical Committee after the end of the day's racing. In this case, the substitution is subject to the approval of the Technical Committee given retrospectively.

## **20. EQUIPMENT & MEASUREMENT CHECKS**

- 20.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Class Rules, the Notice of Race and the Teams Racing Sailing Instructions.

## **21. OFFICIAL VESSELS**

- 21.1 Official vessels will be identified as follows:

<b>Vessel</b>	<b>Flag</b>
Race Committee	White flag with black letter 'A'
Umpire Boats	White flag with black letters 'JURY'
Media	Red flag with black letters 'M' or 'MEDIA'

## **22. COACH AND SUPPORT BOATS [DP] [NP]**

- 22.1 No coach / support vessels are allowed on the course area unless requested by the Race Committee to render assistance.

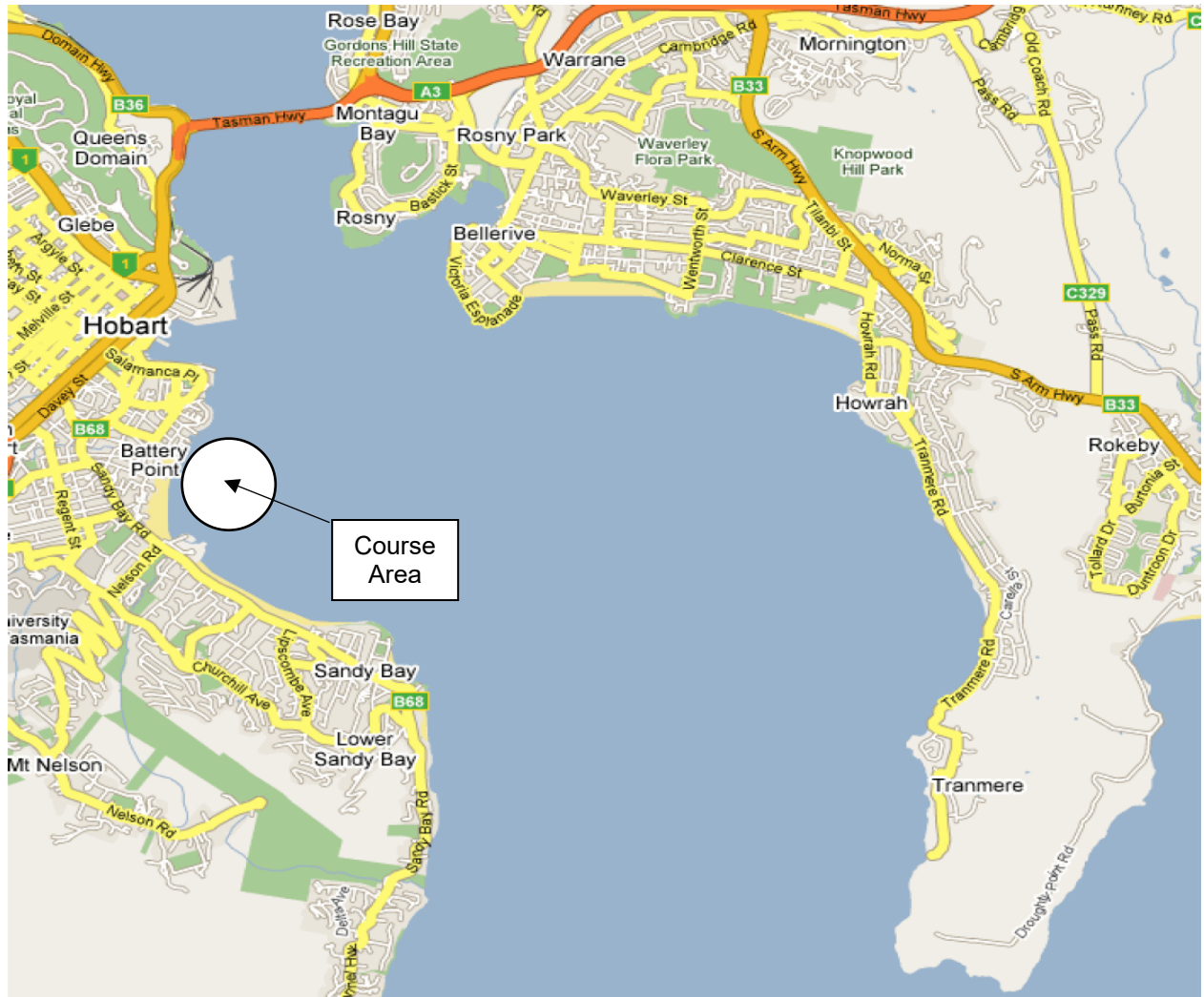
## **23. RUBBISH DISPOSAL**

Rubbish may be placed aboard support and Race Committee boats.

## **24. RISK STATEMENT**

- 24.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.
- 24.2 All participants are required to comply with any safety provisions as mandated under the Racing Rules of Sailing, the Australian Sailing Special Regulations Part 2 for Off The Beach Boats, and any Class Rules that may apply. The Organising Authority encourages and supports competitors who believe it is appropriate to exceed the above requirements (such as the wearing of helmets, etc.) if they or their guardian believe that conditions and their personal circumstances warrant.

## ATTACHMENT A: RACING AREA



## ATTACHMENT B: COURSE AND MARKS

### COURSE

Start – 1 – 2 – 3 – 4 – Finish

### MARKS DESCRIPTION

**Mark 1, 2, 3 & 4:** Orange and white inflatable buoys

**Start Mark:** Black and white chequered inflatable buoy

**Finish Mark:** Black and white chequered inflatable buoy

**Note:** diagram is indicative of course configuration only, please see above for the mark description.

