Optimist Spring Series
Harken Challenge #1

Saturday and Sunday, February 21-22, 2026
Marina del Rey, California USA

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
GREEN FLEET

GENERAL INFORMATION
The Organizing Authority is California Yacht Club (CYC), located at 4469 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292
Phone: 310.823.4567 | Web: http://www.calyachtclub.com
Event Chair: Brent Hamilton: brentonleehamilton@gmail.com

Opti Class Philosophy: USODA is a teaching class and GREEN FLEET is its introductory fleet for novice sailors. While following the rules is important, learning to race while having fun is equally so. These Sailing Instructions (SI) are organized within *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS) to provide a flexible, less structured, less formal racing environment. Green Fleet is not scored; all sailors receive participation awards. While race scores and progress may be tracked, determining who places first is less important than learning, improving, and having fun along the way. Parents and competitors who are looking for a more competitive environment should consider the Championship Fleet Red, Blue and White racing divisions.

1. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1.1 Any written change to the Sailing Instructions (SI) will be posted no later than 1030 on the day it will take effect.

1.2 Oral changes may be made on the water by the Race Committee (RC) by announcing the change by loud hailer.

2. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board which is the Harken #1 Optimist Spring Regatta webpage on the CYC website and may also be posted on the bulletin board at the CYC Junior Sailing Center adjacent to the pool patio.

3. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

3.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole at the CYC Junior Sailing Center.

3.2 When the Answering Pennant (AP) is displayed ashore, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than thirty (30) minutes” in RRS Race Signal AP. AP displayed ashore means “Racing is postponed, do not leave the dock.”

4. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Green Fleet sails an informal schedule and will meet at the pool patio adjacent to the CYC Junior Sailing Center at 1030 on Saturday and Sunday. At this meeting, the Principal Race Officer (PRO) will announce the plan for the day and time of the first warning. This information will be posted on the Official Notice Board. The schedule may change based on conditions and the requirements of the sailors. Watch the Official Notice Board for information.

5. CLASS FLAG

The class flag is an Optimist Dinghy symbol on a white background.

6. RACING AREA

The racing area will be announced at the Green Fleet meeting.

7. MARKS

Marks are inflatable balls or small tetrahedrons.

8. COURSES

The courses are windward/leeward, triangle or other courses as described by the PRO. The course will be hailed by the RC and posted on a white board on the RC signal boat.

9. THE START

9.1 Races will be started using US Sailing Prescription, Appendix U, Audible-Signal Racing System, which is shown below:

Signal	*Sound*	*Time before start*
Attention	Series of short sounds	Before the warning
Warning	3 long	3 minutes
Preparatory	2 long	2 minutes
	1 long, 3 short	1 minute, 30 seconds
	1 long	1 minute
	3 short	30 seconds
	2 short	20 seconds
	1 short	10 seconds
	1 short	5 seconds
	1 short	4 seconds
	1 short	3 seconds
	1 short	2 seconds
	1 short	1 second
Starting	1 long	0

9.2 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange and white checkered flag on the RC signal boat and the nearby inflatable ball.

10. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

RRS 33 (Changing the Next Leg of the Course) is modified so that the RC may make adjustments to the course by moving the original marks without signaling the change.

11. THE FINISH

11.1 The finishing line is between a staff displaying an orange and white checkered flag on an RC boat and the nearby inflatable mark. This changes RRS Race Signals.

12. HEARING REQUESTS

Protests are teaching and learning opportunities. An open discussion (mock protest) will be held with judges if resources are available. All competitors, parents and coaches are invited to attend and observe.

13. SCORING

Green Fleet is not officially scored. All competitors receive participation awards. While scores and progress may be tracked, who places first is less important than learning and improving, while having fun along the way.

14. COACHING

Coaching is allowed at the discretion of the PRO. Coaching should focus on the bottom half of the fleet. Coaching on the water is for all, and all coaches are required to assist all sailors. All coaches are required to prominently display their numbered coach flag and to monitor the Green Fleet RC VHF channel 72 at all times while on the water with the Green Fleet. The RC has the right to remove from the Green Fleet course any coach who disregards the instructions of the PRO or other RC personnel.

15. [DP] SAFETY

15.1 Each competitor shall have a whistle attached to their PFD at all times while on the water.

15.2 Each boat shall have a secure loop in the end of its bow line.

15.3 Each skipper launching their boat from CYC must sign-out prior to leaving the dock and sign-in upon return. Each skipper not launching from CYC shall notify an Event Chair before leaving their dock and, following the final race of the day, shall notify an Event Chair as soon as practical to confirm they have returned to their dock. (See the SI General Information section for the Event Chair's contact information).

15.4 A boat that withdraws from the race prior to finishing shall notify the RC either before leaving the Racing Area or as soon as practicable after arriving ashore.

16. DESIGNATED ADULT

16.1 An adult (parent, guardian or designated adult) is responsible for the safety of each competitor. It is solely the responsibility of this adult to decide if the competitor should sail in the weather and sea conditions that might arise during the event. The adult supervising the competitor is ultimately responsible for the risks. Additionally, this designated adult shall accept full responsibility for all actions of the competitor during any activity related to the event. This includes on-shore activities before, during, and after the event.

16.2 [DP] The parent or guardian of each competitor must complete the CYC Parental Consent Form and Waiver, indicating the name and contact information for the adult who shall be on-site, and who is authorized and designated to be responsible for that competitor during this event per NoR 4.3 and SI 16.1. Parents or guardians will be prompted to complete this form during the online registration process.

17. RISK STATEMENT

By having their child participate in this event, the parent or guardian of a competitor agrees that the competitor is participating entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The parent or guardian of each competitor agrees to release the race organizers (organizing authority, host yacht club, race committee, protest committee, sponsors, and any others acting in an official capacity for this event) from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.