



Optimist Spring Regatta

Harken Challenge #1

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

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS



GENERAL INFORMATION

The Organizing Authority (OA) is California Yacht Club (CYC), located at 4469 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Phone: 310.823.4567 | Web: www.calyachtclub.com

Event Chair: Brent Hamilton: brentonleehamilton@gmail.com

1. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change to the Sailing Instructions (SI) will be posted before 0930 on the day it will take effect.

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.

3. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

3.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole located on the CYC front lawn.

3.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than sixty (60) minutes" in RRS Race Signal AP.

4. SCHEDULE OF RACES

4.1 Eight (8) races are scheduled. The Race Committee (RC), at its discretion, may run fewer races.

4.2 The scheduled time of the first warning signal is 1200. Subsequent races will start as soon as practicable.

4.3 The RC may display flag A (with no sound) while boats are finishing to signal that there will be no more races conducted that day.

5. CLASS FLAG

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

6. RACING AREA

The racing area is on Santa Monica Bay. The starting area is approximately three-quarters (3/4) nautical mile northwest of the Marina del Rey breakwater. If the racing area must be changed, the location of the new racing area will be posted by 1030 or the end of postponement ashore, whichever is later.

7. MARKS

Marks are described in SI Addendum A.

8. COURSES

Courses are described in SI Addendum A.

9. ON-THE-WATER CHECK-IN

Prior to the first warning signal, when the RC signal boat is displaying code flag "L", each boat shall sail on starboard past the stern of the RC signal boat, hail her sail number and be recognized by the RC. Boats missing their first race shall check-in upon arrival. Boats failing to check-in properly may be given a twenty percent (20%) scoring penalty for their first race, assessed without a hearing. This change is added to RRS A5.1 (Scores Determined by the Race Committee).

10. THE START

10.1 Red, Blue, and White Fleets shall start together.

10.2 To alert boats that a race will begin soon, multiple sound signals will be made approximately one (1) minute before the warning signal.

10.3 The starting line is between the staff displaying an orange and white checkered flag on the RC line boat and the staff displaying an orange and white checkered flag on the RC signal boat. (See SI Addendum A)

10.4 A boat that does not start within five (5) minutes after her starting signal shall be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This change is added to RRS A5.1.

11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the RC will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.

12. THE FINISH

- 12.1 The finishing line is between Mark F and the staff displaying a blue flag on the RC signal boat. (See Addendum A).
- 12.2 Competitors are reminded that RRS 23.1 (Interfering With Another Boat) prohibits a boat that has finished from interfering with boats still racing.

13. TIME LIMITS

- 13.1 If no boat has passed the first mark within thirty (30) minutes, the race will be abandoned.
- 13.2 The time limit is seventy-five (75) minutes for the first boat to finish.
- 13.3 The Finishing Window is twenty (20) minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes within the race time limit. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored one (1) point more than the last place boat that *sails the course* and *finishes* within the Finishing Window and is not otherwise penalized. This changes RRS 35 (Race Time Limit and Scores) and is added to RRS A5.1, A5.2 and A10.

14. HEARING REQUESTS

- 14.1 A breach of SI 9, 16 and 17, as well as any class rule other than class equipment measurement rules will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.4(a)(2) (Protest Validity).
- 14.2 The phrase "if her hull length is longer than 6 meters" is deleted from RRS 60.2(a)(1) (Intention to Protest); **if a competitor is protesting another boat, they must conspicuously display a red flag and shall display the red flag until she is no longer racing.** Additionally, the competitor shall report her intention to protest to the RC signal boat after her finish
- 14.3 The protest time limit each day is forty-five (45) minutes after the RC signal boat docks on that day. This time will be posted on the Official Notice Board within fifteen (15) minutes after the RC signal boat docks.
- 14.4 RRS 61.2 (Requests for Redress) is modified as follows:
 - (a) RRS 61.2 (b)(1) is replaced with: "If the request is based on an incident in the racing area, it shall be filed within the protest time limit for that day."
 - (b) A notice of boats scored per RRS A5.1 each day will be posted on the Official Notice Board within fifteen (15) minutes after the RC signal boat docks on that day. The deadline for a request for redress based on these scores is the protest time limit for that day.
 - (c) The time limit for a request for redress based on the outcome of a scoring inquiry (see SI 15.4) is 30 minutes after that outcome has been posted.
- 14.5 Hearing request forms are available from the RC and shall be filed at the CYC Junior Sailing Center.
- 14.6 Notices will be posted no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the protest time limit each day on the Official Notice Board to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be heard as soon as possible in the Junior Sailing Center. Representatives of boats who are parties to a hearing and their witnesses shall remain on call in the vicinity of the Junior Sailing Center.
- 14.7 Only the skipper may represent a boat in a hearing. No coach or other person may represent a boat or file a protest on her behalf.
- 14.8 US Sailing Prescriptions to the preamble to Part 5, Section B (Hearings and Making Decisions) and 63.1(b) (Conduct of Hearings, Rights of Parties) do not apply.

15. SCORING

- 15.1 The Optimist Spring Regatta, Harken Challenge #1 is scored as follows:
 - (a) One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a series.
 - (b) When four (4) or fewer races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores. When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 15.2 The Harken Challenge Series is scored per its Notice of Series.
- 15.3 Preliminary results will be posted on the [Harken #1 Optimist Spring Regatta](#) webpage as soon as possible after racing.
- 15.4 Competitors shall notify the RC of any scoring errors by filing a Scoring Inquiry Form available from the RC which shall be filed at the CYC Junior Sailing Center. The deadline to file a scoring inquiry is the protest time limit or thirty (30) minutes after the preliminary results have been posted for that day, whichever is later.

16. [DP] SAFETY

- 16.1 Each competitor shall have a whistle attached to their PFD at all times while on the water.
- 16.2 Each boat shall have a secure loop in the end of its bow line.
- 16.3 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 the Event Chair before leaving their dock and, following the final race of the day, shall notify the Event Chair as soon as practical to confirm they have returned to their dock. (See the SI General Information section for Event Chair contact information).
- 16.4 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.

17. DESIGNATED ADULT

- 17.1 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.
- 17.2 [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 17.1. Parents or guardians will be prompted to complete this form during the online registration process.

18. [DP] SUPPORT TEAMS

- 18.1 The skipper of each Support Person Vessel (SPV) must register with the OA per NoR 8 and is required to attend the SPVs' briefings and the competitors' briefings.
- 18.2 Only registered SPVs that prominently display identification provided by the OA are allowed in the racing area. There is a refundable deposit of \$20 required for each identification flag, payable at SPV registration.
- 18.3 All SPVs shall carry and monitor a VHF radio capable of communicating on VHF Channel 68, assist any boat in need or perform any function requested of them by the RC, and have a basic first aid kit. All individuals on such registered SPVs are required to wear a PFD.
- 18.4 SPVs shall not enter the racing area while any boat is racing. However, SPVs may enter the racing area at the direction of the RC to assist a competitor. The racing area shall be as indicated by a dashed line on Addendum A and includes any other area within one hundred (100) meters of any boat still racing.
- 18.5 SPVs shall not display distinctive markings or signaling apparatus, or any flags other than their ensign and the flags provided by the RC while any boats are racing.
- 18.6 SPVs shall neither create wakes nor otherwise interfere with competitors.
- 18.7 SPVs shall not be launched or recovered at CYC while competitors are launching or recovering their dinghies.

19. 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.



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ADDENDUM A OUTSIDE COURSE CHART

7. MARKS (continued)

- 7.1 Marks 1 and 2s/2p are yellow inflatable tetrahedrons
- 7.2 Mark F is an orange inflatable tetrahedron

8. COURSES (continued)

- 8.1 Mark 1 shall be rounded to port.
- 8.2 Mark 2s/2p is a gate. In the event only one gate mark is on station, that mark shall be rounded to port.
- 8.3 The distance from Mark 2s/2p to the starting/finishing line will be approximately 0.2 nm.
- 8.4 No later than the warning signal, the RC signal boat will use numeral pennants to signal one of the courses shown below:

Numeral Pennant	Course
1	Start – 1 – 2s/2p – Finish
2	Start – 1 – 2s/2p – 1 – 2s/2p – Finish

