



OPTIFALL - OPEN BELGIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS OPTIMIST
2018
15-16 September 2018 at Nieuwpoort Belgium
Organised by WSKLuM and RYCB

Sailing Instructions

1. Rules

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), the prescriptions of the Belgian Sailing, the class rules when applicable, except as any of these are changed by, the Notice of Race and by these sailing instructions.
- 1.2. If there is a conflict between languages the English text will take precedence

2. Entries

- 2.1. Eligible boats may be entered by completing registration with the organising authority. Eligibility requirements for competitors are that all participants shall be full members of their class association and (for Belgian competitors) holder of a valid sailing license. All boats must have a valid measurement certificate.
- 2.2. Participants may be requested to display advertising material of the event sponsors. If this is the case, self-adhesive stickers will be distributed to all competitors at time of registration in the regatta office. Such stickers shall be applied to the forward half of the hull on both sides and be displayed throughout the event. In case a sticker is lost during the event, the competitor will be provided with a new one at the regatta office.

3. Notices to Competitors

- 3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board near the race office.

4. Changes in Sailing Instructions

- 4.1. Any change to this SI will be posted thirty (30) minutes before hoisting Code flag "G" on the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of the races will be posted by 2000 hrs (LT) on the day before it will take effect

5. Signals Made Ashore

- 5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the mast near the WWSV trailer at the boats parking.
- 5.2. Flag AP with two sound signals (one when lowered) means 'The race is postponed. The warning signal will be made not less than 1 hour after AP is lowered.'
- 5.3. Flag G means 'Boats may proceed to the sailing area'

6. Format of racing

- 6.1. For this championship, all participants will sail in one (1) fleet

7. Schedule of Races

- 7.1. Races are scheduled as follows:

Friday Sep 14	18h00-20h00	Registration Ribs Registration participants
Saturday Sep 15	08h00 – 09h30	Registration participants
	09h30 – 10h30	Registration Ribs
	10h00	Launching signal
	11h00	1st. warning signal of the day Following races as soon as possible
Sunday Sep 16	09h30	Launching signal
	10h30	1st. warning signal of the day Following races as soon as possible
	15h30	No starts will be given after this time Prize giving as soon as possible after the last race



- 7.2. Slipway will be open at least 60 minutes before the first warning signal of each day
- 7.3. When more than one (1) race will be held on the same day, the Warning Signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable. To alert boats that another race will begin soon, an ORANGE flag will be displayed for at least five (5) minutes before a Warning signal is displayed.
- 7.4. No more than four (4) races will be sailed per day.
- 7.5. The number of races scheduled is six (6).
- 7.6. On the last day of the regatta no warning signal will be made after 15:30.

8. Class Flags

- 8.1. Class flag will be "O".

9. Racing Area

- 9.1. The racing area will be approximately 1 NM North of the Harbour entrance.
- 9.2. A Race Area is defined as follows:
 - 9.2.1. Before the Preparatory Signal: "The Race Area is the area within 100 meters of the Starting Line and the RC boats on that line."
 - 9.2.2. After the Starting Signal: "The Race Area is the area within an imaginary line drawn 100 meters outside any point where a boat might sail during normal racing."
 - 9.2.3. At the Finish: "The Race Area is the area within 100 meters of the Finishing Line and the RC boats on that line."

10. The Course

- 10.1. The diagram in Appendix A show the course, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. Mark 1 will be approximately 0.5 nautical miles from the starting line.
- 10.2. No later than the warning signal, the race committee signal boat will display the approximate magnetic bearing of the first leg.
- 10.3. The course length and the angle between legs may be adjusted to allow for tidal stream, wind and sea conditions

11. Marks

- 11.1. The marks, incl. the marks of start and finish line (when no pin end boat is used) will be large orange cylindrical form inflatable buoys.

12. The Start

- 12.1. Races will be started by using rule 26.
- 12.2. The starting line will be between a staff or the mast displaying an orange flag on the race committee boat at the starboard end and the Flagstaff or mast on a boat displaying an orange flag on the course side of the starting mark at the port end. The pin-end race committee boat can be replaced by an orange inflatable buoy.
- 12.3. If flag U has been displayed as the preparatory signal, no part of a boat's hull, crew, or equipment shall be in the triangle formed by the ends of the starting line and the first mark during the last minute before her starting signal. If a boat breaks this rule and is identified, she shall be disqualified without a hearing and scored UFD, but not if the race is restarted or re-sailed or postponed or abandoned before the starting signal. If this SI is used, it changes rule 26, 63.1 and Appendix A5 ; RRS 29.1 will not apply
- 12.4. A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS. This changes rule A4.1.
- 12.5. RC boats may hold position by using engines; any effects shall not be grounds for granting redress. (Alters RRS 62.1).

13. Change of Course After the Start

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



- 13.2. Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the race committee boat signaling the change of the next leg and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the race committee boat to starboard. This changes rule 28.1

14. The Finish

- 14.1. The finishing line will be between a staff or the mast displaying a blue flag on a race committee boat at the starboard end and the Flagstaff or mast on a boat displaying a blue flag at the port end. The port end boat can be replaced by an orange inflatable buoy.
- 14.2. After finishing all boats are required to leave the Race Area as soon as possible (SI 10.4).

15. Penalty System

- 15.1. A boat that has taken a penalty or retired under RRS 31.2 or 44.1 shall complete an acknowledgement form at the Race Office within the Protest Time Limit. If a boat fails to complete this form, the penalty will be considered as not taken.

15.2. Appendix P

- 15.2.1. Appendix P will apply and P 2.1 is amended as follows:

“When a boat is first protested under rule P, she may acknowledge her breach by talking a Two-Turns-Penalty under rule 44.2. If when she is no longer racing, by accepting a scoring penalty of eight (8) points. If she fails to do so, she shall be disqualified without a hearing”.

16. Time Limit

- 16.1. The target time for a race is forty five (45) minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.1 (a).
- 16.2. Boats failing to finish within twenty (20) minutes after the first boat of her class finishes will be scored DNF. When the first boat of the class sails more than 60 minutes to complete the race, the time limit mentioned above will be 1/3 of the time needed by the first boat. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5
- 16.3. The time limit for a race will be ninety (90) minutes.

17. Protests

- 17.1. The intention to protest shall be announced to the RC Finishing Boat IMMEDIATELY after finishing. The competitor must wait for an acknowledgment from the RC. This change RRS 61.1(a)
- 17.2. Protest forms are available at the Race Office. Protests shall be delivered within the Protest Time Limit.
- 17.3. The Protest Time Limit is ninety (90) minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. The same Protest Time Limit applies to all protests by the RC and Jury and to requests for redress. This changes RRS 61.3 and 62.2.
- 17.4. Notices will be posted within thirty (30) minutes of the Protest Time Limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses.
- 17.5. Parties involved in protests (including witnesses) shall remain in the vicinity of the Jury room until the protest has been heard.
- 17.6. Notices of protests by the RC or Jury will be posted within the protest time limit to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 17.7. A list of boats that have acknowledged breaking RRS 42 or have been disqualified by the Jury will be posted on the official notice board.
- 17.8. Breaches of instructions 19 (Safety), 20 (Replacement), 21 (Support), 22 (Trash disposal) and 23 (Radio Communication) will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This alters RRS 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the Jury so decides.
- 17.9. On the last day of the regatta a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered: (This changes RRS 66):
- 17.9.1. within the Protest Time if the party requesting opening was informed of the decision on the previous day;
- 17.9.2. no later than thirty (30) minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on that day.



17.10. If there is no racing on the last day of the regatta the Time Limit for a request for reopening is thirty (30) minutes after signaling the abandonment of all further races.

18. Scoring

18.1. The Low Point scoring system of Appendix A, will apply, modified so that each boat's series score will be the total of her race scores, with her worst score discarded if 4 or more races have been completed. Three races have to be sailed to constitute a valid Open Belgian Championship. The total number of races shall not exceed 6.

18.2. The scoring abbreviation for a discretionary penalty imposed under SI 17.8 will be DPI and under SI 15.2 will be PTS

19. Safety

19.1. Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing 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, each parent present or not, each coach 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 and their boat and their property whether afloat or ashore;
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- 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 boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g) Their boat is adequately insured..

19.2. ALL PARTICIPANTS SHALL WEAR ADEQUATE PERSONAL BUOYANCY ALL TIMES WHILE AFLOAT. WET SUITS OR DRY SUITS ARE RECOMMENDED BUT DO NOT CONSTITUTE ADEQUATE PERSONAL BUOYANCY! This changes the Part 4 preamble

19.3. All boats shall have at least a 7 m LENGTH TOW ROPE STRONG ENOUGH TO TOW SEVERAL BOATS aboard. Class rule length to rope description is over ruling this requirement.

19.4. Boats are only allowed to go afloat via the official slipway.

19.5. All participants receive an identification card at registration. This identification card will be given to the beach master when leaving the slipway and will be collected back immediately after the race at the regatta office.

19.6. In addition to RRS 60 any participant who fails to give this identification card to the beach master before leaving to the race area will be scored DNC for the races of that day and any participant who fails to collect back his identification card at the regatta office immediately after the races will be scored DSQ for the races of that day.

19.7. A lost Identification Badge must be renewed and shall cost 5 EUR.

19.8. When flag "W" is displayed on any Race Committee boat and / or the Race Committee Signal Boat has fired a white flare, all coaches and support boats are permitted to enter the race area and shall cooperate with the race committee in rescue assistance

20. Replacement of equipment

20.1. Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless approved by the RC. Requests for substitution shall be made to the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.

21. Support Boats

21.1. Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall not be in the racing area from the time of the preparatory signal until all boats have finished or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

21.2. The penalty for failing to comply with this requirement will be the disqualification of all boats associated with the support personnel who do so.

21.3. See also SI 19.8



22. Trash Disposal

22.1. Boats shall not put trash in the water. Trash may be placed aboard support and race committee boats

23. Radio Communication

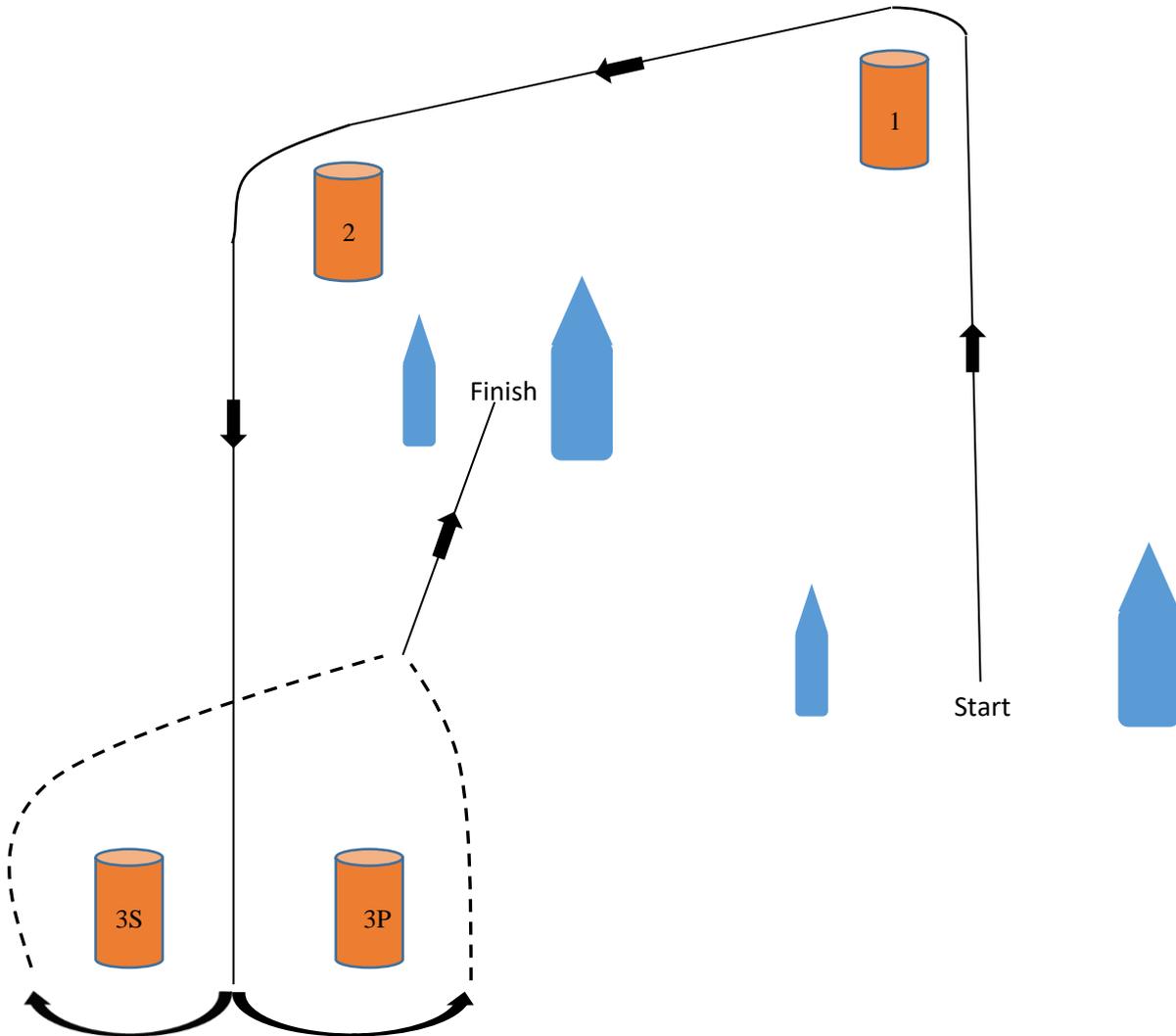
23.1. A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones.

24. Prizes

24.1. Prizes will be awarded to the sailors placing first, second and third. Other prizes may also be awarded.



Appendix A— Illustrating the Course



Course "Optimist" fleet

Start, 1, 2, 3S/3P and finish

All marks to be left to port except the gate 3S/3P (pass through)

It is forbidden to cross the finishing line when sailing from mark 2 to mark 3S/3P.