

The 1st International Open Optimist Sailing Regatta in Ishigaki

Sailing Instructions (SI)

January 3 (Sat) – January 5 (Mon), 2026

Ishigaki City, Painuhama Beach

“Please note: The translation was provided by ChatGPT. We are always available to answer any questions.”

These Sailing Instructions will not be distributed at registration; competitors must prepare them themselves. They are available on the event website.

Abbreviations

NP – A rule that shall not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1.

SP – A rule for which the Race Committee or Technical Committee may apply a Standard Penalty without a hearing.

This changes RRS A5. The relevant committee may also protest the boat for the breach, in which case a discretionary penalty is determined after a hearing by the Protest Committee.

DP – A rule for which the Protest Committee may, at its discretion, impose a penalty less than disqualification.

1. Rules

1.1 This event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) 2025–2028.

1.2 Add to RRS 60.2:

“A boat intending to protest shall report the protested boat to the Race Committee boat located at the finish line immediately after finishing.”

1.3 **[NP][DP]** RRS 40.2(c) applies RRS 40.1.

2. Changes to the Sailing Instructions

Changes to the Sailing Instructions (SI) will be posted no later than **60 minutes before the warning signal** of each class on the day they take effect.

However, changes to the racing schedule will be posted no later than **18:00 on the day before they take effect**.

3. Communication with Competitors

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at the administration building.

3.2 Information may also be shared through the SNS app “Open Chat LINE.”

Such notices are **advisory only**; official information is what is posted on the notice board.

3.3 [DP] Except in emergencies, while racing, a boat shall neither transmit nor receive voice or data that is not available to all boats.

This restriction applies to mobile phones.

4. Code of Conduct [DP]

Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable instructions from the Organizing Authority, Race Committee, Protest Committee, and Technical Committee.

5. Signals Made Ashore

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the signal mast in front of the administration building.

5.2 [NP][DP] The display of flag **D** with one sound means:

“Boats shall not leave the harbor until this signal is made.”

The warning signal will not be made less than **40 minutes** after flag D is displayed.

5.3 If flag D is not displayed by **40 minutes before the scheduled warning signal**, the start of that race is postponed **indefinitely**.

6. Schedule of Races

6.1 Schedule

January 2, 2026 (Fri): Event Preparation

13:00–17:00 Registration, boat delivery, charter boat handover

January 3, 2026 (Sat): Event Preparation & Exhibition Race

08:00–12:00 Registration, boat delivery, charter boat handover

Free practice permitted (within beach area only)

13:00 Opening Ceremony / Coaches Meeting

15:00 Scheduled warning signal for exhibition race

★ Tide: Lowest tide / 12:53 / 79 cm

January 4, 2026 (Sun): Day 1 of Races

09:00 Scheduled warning signal for the first race

Subsequent races to follow

No warning signal after 16:00

★ Tide: Lowest tide / 13:40 / 74 cm

January 5, 2026 (Mon): Day 2 of Races

09:00 Scheduled warning signal for the first race

Subsequent races to follow

15:00 (scheduled) Award Ceremony and Closing Ceremony

(expected closing 15:45)

If the ceremony start time is changed, it will be posted after the last race.

★ Tide: Lowest tide / 14:25 / 70 cm

6.2 On the final day of racing, **no warning signal will be made after 12:00**.

6.3 A total of **six (6) races** are scheduled.

6.4 Add to RRS Race Signals “Orange Flag”:

To alert boats that a race will begin soon, the Race Committee signal boat (signal boat) will display the orange flag with one sound **at least 5 minutes before the warning signal**.

6.5 Coaches’ Meetings may be attended by both coaches and sailors.

7. Class Flag and Identification

7.1 Optimist Class Flag:

Blue background with a white Optimist class emblem.

For safety management, if flag B is displayed ashore, all competitors must attach the issued identification buoyancy device at the top of the sail.

This device will be distributed at registration.

8. Racing Area

The location of the racing area is shown in **Attachment Figure 1**.

9. The Course

9.1 **Attachment Figure 3** shows the course diagrams for course codes **W2 and W3**, including the order of marks to be passed between legs and the required side on which marks shall be left.

9.2 Prior to the warning signal, the course code to be sailed and the approximate compass bearing of the first leg will be posted on the signal boat.

10. Marks

10.1 Marks 1 and 2 will be **yellow cylindrical buoys**.

10.2 New marks prescribed in SI 12 will be **red cylindrical buoys**.

10.3 The starting marks are:

- The signal boat at the starboard end, and
- A yellow cylindrical buoy at the port end.

10.4 The finishing marks are:

- A yellow cylindrical buoy at the port end, and
- A Race Committee boat at the starboard end.

11. The Start

11.1 The starting line is between the pole displaying an orange flag on the Start Mark and the course side of the opposite Start Mark.

11.2 A boat starting **more than 4 minutes after** her start signal will be scored **DNS** (Did Not Start) without a hearing.

This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

11.3 Boats that break RRS 30.4 in a restart or re-sail will have their sail numbers posted at the stern display board of the Signal Boat prior to the next race's warning signal.

12. Change of the Next Leg of the Course

To change the next leg of the course, the Race Committee may lay a new mark (or move the finish line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable.

Subsequent changes will replace the new mark with the original mark.

13. The Finish

The finishing line is between the pole displaying a blue flag on the Finish Mark and the course side of the other Finish Mark.

14. Penalty System

14.1 Appendix P of the RRS will apply. RRS P2.2 and P2.3 do not apply. This changes Appendix P.

14.2 **[SP] [NP]** Boats that violate SI 18 check-in will receive a standard penalty by the Race Committee.

The penalty will apply to the most recently completed race and shall not exceed DNF.

14.3 **[SP]** Standard penalty guidelines for violations of SI, equipment, rigging rules, and class rules will be posted no later than 09:00 on Jan. 4.

Boats assigned a standard penalty will be scored **STP**. This changes RRS A10.

The Race Committee may protest such violations; penalties will then be decided by the Protest Committee.

14.4 Appendix T of the RRS will apply.

14.5 A boat taking a “Post-Race Penalty” under RRS T1 will be scored **PRP**. This changes RRS A10.

15. Time Limits, Finish Window, and Target Times

Time Limits

Class	Race Time Limit	Mark 1 Time Limit	Finish Window	Target Time
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OP	60 min	20 min	15 min	30–40 min
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15.2 If no boat passes Mark 1 within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.

15.3 The Finish Window is the time after the first boat finishes.

Boats failing to finish within the Finish Window, without retiring, receiving a penalty, or being granted redress, will be scored **DNF** without a hearing.

This changes RRS 35, A4, and A5.

15.4 Failure to meet the Target Time will not be grounds for redress.
This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

16. Hearing Requests

16.1 A boat intending to protest shall approach the Race Committee boat at the finish line and verbally inform the sail number of the protested boat.

This changes RRS 60.2.

This does not apply if the protesting boat was clearly unable to communicate intent, or if the protest concerns an incident observed outside the racing area.

16.2 Protest time limit is **60 minutes** after the last boat finishes the final race of the day, or after the Race Committee signals no more racing for the day, whichever is later.

The limit will be posted on the official notice board.

16.3 Protest forms are available at the Protest Committee Office located in the Administration Building.

Protests, requests for redress, or requests to reopen hearings must be submitted before the appropriate time limit.

16.4 A notice identifying competitors involved or named as witnesses will be posted within 30 minutes after the protest time limit.

Hearings will be scheduled in posted order; parties must wait outside the Protest Committee Office.

16.5 Protests by the Race Committee, Technical Committee, or Protest Committee will be posted according to RRS 60.2(d).

16.6 A list of boats penalized for RRS 42 under Appendix P will be posted.

16.7 On the last scheduled day of racing, requests to reopen a hearing must be delivered:

- (a) Within the protest time limit, if the party was informed on the previous day;
- (b) Within 20 minutes after being informed, if the party was informed on the same day.

This changes RRS 63.7(b)(2).

16.8 On the last scheduled day of racing, requests for redress based on Protest Committee decisions must be filed within **20 minutes** after posting.

This changes RRS 61.2(b)(2).

17. Scoring

17.1 The regatta will be valid if at least **one race** is completed.

17.2

(a) If fewer than 3 races are completed, a boat's series score will be the total of all race scores.

(b) If 3 or more races are completed, a boat's worst score will be excluded.

17.3 If a competitor believes a scoring error exists, they may request correction by submitting a "Scoring Inquiry Form" at the Race Committee Office.

18. Safety Regulations

18.1 [SP] [NP] **Check-in procedure:**

After returning ashore, the skipper must promptly sign the "Return Declaration" at the registration desk.

On each day, this must be signed no later than the protest time limit.

18.2 [SP] [NP] Boats not racing (not launching) must submit a "Retirement Report" at the registration desk.

18.3 [SP] [NP] Boats retiring on the water must inform an official vessel before leaving the course area if possible.

Upon returning ashore, submit the "Retirement Report" as soon as possible.

18.4 A sailor requiring rescue shall blow a whistle or signal by paddle or raising one arm. The Race Committee may provide assistance regardless of the sailor's wishes if deemed necessary.

This is not grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b)(1).

19. Replacement of Equipment [SP]

19.1 Replacement of damaged or lost equipment may not be made without written approval from the Technical or Race Committee.

19.2 Requests must be made at the first reasonable opportunity.

19.3 Replacement ashore requires submission of the “Equipment Replacement Request Form,” inspection of both damaged and replacement parts, and approval.

19.4 Replacements at sea require inspection of damaged and replacement parts at the earliest opportunity after returning ashore.

20. Equipment and Measurement Checks [SP][NP]

Boats and equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with class rules, Notice of Race, or SI.

When instructed by the Race Committee or Technical Committee, boats shall proceed to a designated inspection area.

21. Official Vessels

Official vessel flags are as follows:

- **Race Committee boats:** green flag
 - **Protest Committee boats:** white flag
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22. Support Persons [NP][DP]

22.1 Support persons shall follow instructions of the safety officers.

23. Waste Disposal

Garbage may be given to support boats or official boats.

Garbage must be washed with fresh water and separated at the designated waste station.

24. Prizes

24.1 Awards will be given to top competitors as follows:

1. 1st–6th place: diplomas and commemorative prizes.
1st place: championship trophy.
 2. U–12 (Elementary School) Division: 1st–6th place: diplomas and commemorative prizes.
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25. Risk Statement

25.1 RRS 3 states:

“The responsibility for a boat’s decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.”

By participating, competitors acknowledge that sailing involves inherent risks and potential hazards, including strong winds, rough seas, sudden weather changes, equipment failure, steering errors, inexperienced operation of other boats, unstable footing, and fatigue-related injury risk.

Inherent risks of the sport include drowning, trauma, hypothermia, permanent injury, and death.

25.2 The Organizing Authority accepts no liability for material damage, personal injury, or death occurring before, during, or after the event.

The Organizing Authority also assumes no responsibility in the event of infection from COVID–19 or any other infectious disease.