

OPTIFALL - OPEN BELGIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS OPTIMIST

14 _ 15 september 2019

Sailing Instructions

The regatta will be sailed on the North Sea off Nieuwpoort, Belgium September 14 – 15 2019
The event is organized under the authority of Belgian Sailing by the Watersportkring van de Luchtmacht Nieuwpoort (WSKLuM-Npt) and by the Royal Yacht Club of Belgium (RYCB) with the collaboration of the Dinghy Optimist Class Belgium (DOCB).

1. Rules

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS), the prescriptions of 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. RRS Appendix P will apply
- 1.3. If there is a conflict between languages the English text will take precedence

2. Reserve

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 on a signaling mast near the trailer on the boats park.
- 5.2. Code flag "G" with one (1) sound signal means: "The boats may leave their boat park and proceed to their Race Area."
- 5.3. Code flag "G" above a Class Flag with one (1) sound signal means: "Only boats of this Class may leave the boat park and proceed to their Racing Area."
- 5.4. Code flag "AP" with two (2) sound signals (one (1) when lowered) means: "The opening of the slipway is postponed. The Warning Signal for the race will be made not less than sixty (60) minutes after the "AP" is lowered." Alters Race Signals.
- 5.5. Code flag "AP" above a class flag with two (2) sound signals (one when lowered) means: "The opening of the slipway is postponed for this class only. The Warning Signal for the race will be made not less than sixty (60) minutes after the "AP" is lowered." Alters Race Signals.
- 5.6. Code Flag "AP" over a Numerical Pennant 1 – 6 with two (2) sound signals (one (1) sound signal when lowered) means "Postponement of 1 – 6 hours from the scheduled opening of the slipway". The Warning Signal will be made not less than sixty (60) minutes after "AP" is lowered.
- 5.7. When code flag "L" is displayed with one (1) sound signal, a notice to competitors has been posted on the notice board.
- 5.8. There will only be one (1) numeral pennant under flag "L" indicating the number of the last change

6. Format of racing

- 6.1. When more than 80 boats are registered, the fleet will be divided in 4 groups. This division in groups will be done by the Organizing Authority and will be no ground for redress. The groups will be announced at the official notice board, no later than 1

hour before launching. Each competitor shall check if he/she received the correct colour ribbon during registration.

- 6.2. The groups are named by the colour of the ribbon competitors will receive at the registration. (i.e. blue, white, green, yellow). The groups will start two by two following the scheme:

	Race 1	Race 2	Race 3	Race 4	Race 5	Race 6	Race 7
Start 1	Blue	Blue	Yellow w	Yellow w	Yellow w	Yellow w	Yellow w
	White	White	Blue	Blue	White	White	White
Start 2	Green	Green	White	White	Blue	Blue	Blue
	Yellow w	Yellow w	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

- 6.3. The starting groups can be rescheduled, in order to minimize the change of starting order on the water. In this case an amendment will be published before 8.30 a.m. on the day of the races. The schedule and possible revised schedule is made at the discretion of the race committee, and will be no ground for redress.
- 6.4. As long as a race has not been completed (due to general recall or abandoned races), the next start will be considered as the start of the same race as the previous start.
- 6.5. Maximum 7 races will be sailed, with a maximum of 4 races per day.

7. Schedule of Races

- 7.1. Races are scheduled as follows:

Friday Sep 13	19:00-21:00	Registration Ribs Registration participants
Saturday Sep 14	08:30 – 10:00	Registration participants Registration Ribs
	10:30	Launching signal
	11:30	1st. warning signal of the day Following races as soon as possible
Sunday Sep 15	08:30	Race Office open
	10:30	Launching signal
	11:30	1st. warning signal of the day Following races as soon as possible
	16:00	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.

8. Class Flags

- 8.1. The Class flag when sailing in one fleet will be "O".
- 8.2. When sailing in groups, the class flags will be the colour of the groups.
- 8.3. All boats shall display a coloured ribbon corresponding with the colour of their group flag. This ribbon shall be attached to the top of the sprit.

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 will be large orange cylindrical form inflatable buoys. The marks of the start and finish line, when no pin end boat is used, will be a yellow inflatable mark.

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 a red flag or the course side of the starting mark at the port end.
- 12.3. For the purpose of RRS 30.1, only the Starting Line itself is considered during the last minute before start and not its extensions (modifies RRS 30.1)
- 12.4. Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area (SI 9.1)
- 12.5. Boats starting with the wrong starting group, shall be disqualified without hearing.
- 12.6. A boat starting later than 4 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS. This changes rule A4.1.
- 12.7. RC boats may hold position by using engines; any effects shall not be grounds for granting redress. (Alfers RRS 62.1).

13. Change of Course After the Start

- 1.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark (or the finishing line) to a new position.
- 1.2. 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 a yellow inflatable buoy.
- 14.2. After finishing all boats are required to leave the Race Area as soon as possible (SI 9.2.3).

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. AppendixP

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 fifteen (15) 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 12.4 (starting area), 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.

17.9.3. 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 7.

18.2. When starting in groups

18.2.1. If fewer than the scheduled number of races are completed, the score will stand after the last race in which all groups competed

18.2.2. If starting groups have an unequal number of participants, boats will be scored on basis of the number of competitors of the largest registered starting group.

18.3. The scoring abbreviation for a discretionary penalty imposed under SI 16.8 will be DPI and under SI 14.2.1 will be PTS

19. Safety

- 19.1. The safety of a boat and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole and inescapable responsibility of the owner or entrant racing the optimist...
- 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. Sailors who abandon racing are not allowed to sail back to the harbour; instead they are requested to leave their boats at the wreck buoy (appendix A), and to join coaches or supporters on the supporting boats. Only in case of emergency sailors will be brought ashore, without sailing boat. Spectators and coaches are requested to take these sailors on board and to assist rescue to bring boats ashore, after racing.
- 19.9. 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 19.9

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 as defined in the Notice of Race.

Appendix A— Illustrating the Course

