



2017 USODA West Coast Championship

August 12 - 13

Hosted by Santa Barbara Yacht Club

GREEN FLEET SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Opti Class Philosophy: USODA is a teaching class and GREEN FLEET is its introductory fleet for novice sailors. The Rules of Sailing are important and taught, but learning to race while having fun is equally stressed. These sailing instructions are structured within *The Racing Rules of Sailing* to provide a flexible, less structured and less formal racing environment. Green Fleet is not scored. All participants receive participation awards. While race placement and progress may be tracked, 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, white and blue racing divisions.

1 RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing and by the "USODA Conditions for Sanctioned Regattas and Championships", including the USODA 'Code of Conduct'.

2 NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located adjacent to the regatta headquarters on the beach at the southeast corner of the launch ramp area as shown in 'Attachment P'.

3 CHANGES TO THE SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the notice board and/or announced at the Green Fleet Competitors Meeting.
- 3.2 The race committee may change the sailing instructions on the water by hoisting flag "L" with one sound, or one long sound and hailing the change by loud hailer or hail.

4 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole located on the Race Committee Signal Boat docked at the Launch Ramp Area.
- 4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in race signal AP.

5 SCHEDULE OF RACING

Green Fleet sails an informal schedule. After the 10:30 am competitors meeting for all sailors, an additional separate Green Fleet Competitors Meeting will take place. At this meeting, the Green Fleet PRO will announce the plan for the day and the time of the first warning. This information will be posted on the notice board. The schedule may change based on conditions and the requirements of the sailors.

6 CLASS FLAG

The class flag will be a green flag with white Opti logo.

7 RACING AREA

The racing area will be announced at the Green Fleet Competitors Meeting. This may change each day based on conditions.

8 THE COURSES

The courses may be windward/leeward, triangles or other courses as described by the PRO at each day's Competitors Meeting.

9 MARKS

Marks will be orange inflatable buoys.

10 THE START AND FINISH

- 10.1 Races will be started with sounds according to Appendix U (3-minute sequence). The race committee may verbally hail the countdown. The class flag will be displayed on the signal boat during the start sequence.
- 10.2 The starting and finishing line will be between a staff on the signal boat displaying an orange flag and the nearby inflatable mark.
- 10.3 The start-finish line will not be an “obstruction” and will be open to boats sailing downwind.
- 10.4 Boats that have finished shall immediately sail to the right of the finish line and stay clear of all other boats that are still racing.

11 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will place a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change, a new mark will be replaced by an original mark. This changes rule 33.

12 PENALTY SYSTEM

The penalty system described in rule 44.1 and 44.2 is changed so that only one-turn, including one tack and one jibe is required. This changes rule 44.1.

13 PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

Green Fleet is not scored. Protests are teaching opportunities. An open discussion of the protest process (mock protest) may be held if resources are available. All competitors, parents and coaches are encouraged to attend and observe.

14 SCORING

Green Fleet is not scored. All participants receive participation awards. While placement and progress may be tracked, scores are less important than learning, improving, and having fun along the way.

15 COACHING

Coaching is encouraged. 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 coach flag and to have VHF radios on and operating on the Green Fleet race committee channel, **VHF 69**, at all times while racing is underway. The race committee has the right to remove from the Green Fleet course any coach who disregards the instructions of the race committee.

16 SAFETY

- 16.1 All boats may be inspected for proper rigging and safety prior to racing.
- 16.2 All Green Fleet sailors, NOT PARENTS, will personally check out prior to launching each day at Regatta Headquarters located on the beach at the southeast corner of the launch ramp area as shown in ‘Attachment P’. If a competitor will not be racing that day, he or she shall notify Regatta Headquarters. Immediately upon returning to shore, **but not later than 30 minutes** after the RC signal boat docks, competitors shall check in at Regatta Headquarters indicating their safe return to shore.
- 16.3 An adult (parent, guardian or designated adult) is responsible for the safety of their sailor. It is the responsibility of this adult to decide if the sailor should sail in the weather and sea conditions that might arise during the event. The adults supervising the competitors are ultimately responsible for the risks.
- 16.4 Parents not personally attending any part of the event shall ensure that another adult is authorized and designated to make these decisions for their sailor, and each competitor shall indicate in writing at Competitor Check-In the parent or adult representative that will be responsible for the competitor throughout the event.
- 16.5 The 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 regatta.
- 16.6 Every sailor must wear a non-inflatable U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejacket. Lifejackets must be fully secured (zipped, clipped and strapped) at all times on the water, except for brief periods for the removal or adding of clothing.
- 16.7 Each competitor must have a whistle attached to his or her lifejacket at all times on the water.
- 16.8 Each boat shall have a secure loop tied at the end of its painter (bow) line.
- 16.9 Any sailor retiring from a race must notify a race committee boat or safety boat before leaving the course.