

2026 Nelson & Marlborough Regional Championships

Presented by



5th – 6th December 2026

Incorporating:

Zephyr South Island Championship

OK Dinghy South Island Championship

Europe Dinghy South Island Championship

NZIODA Optimist South Island Championship & Traveller Series Event

Starling Traveller Series Event

NOTICE OF RACE



The Organising Authority is Nelson Yacht Club (Inc.)

322 Wakefield Quay, Nelson 7010, New Zealand.

The notation [NP] in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a). The notation [DP] is defined in the RRS introduction

1. RULES

- 1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, with the exception of the Optimist Green Fleet, for which the NZIODA Optimist Green Fleet Rules for Racing will apply: <https://optimist.org.nz/green-fleet/>
- 1.2 The Yachting New Zealand Safety Regulations part 1 shall apply.
- 1.3 Appendix T, Arbitration, may apply.
- 1.4 The [Nelson City Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2019](#) shall apply.

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1 The Sailing Instructions will be available on the event page of the Nelson Yacht Club website after the 1st December 2026:
- 2.2 No paper copies of the sailing instructions will be issued.
- 2.3 The sailing instructions will consist of the instructions in RRS Appendix S, Standard Sailing Instructions, and supplementary sailing instructions that will be on the official notice board located at Nelson Yacht Club.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 The official website is here:
<https://www.nelsonyachtclub.org.nz/racing-and-regattas/2026-nm-regional-championships-presented-by-solander-5th-6th-dec/>
- 3.2 The official notice board is located on the door of the lower lounge at Nelson Yacht Club.
- 3.3 [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

4. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 The event is open to sailboards, wingfoil, and all classes of centreboard yachts.
- 4.2 Boats/competitors wishing to enter the South Island Championship for their class must comply with the relevant class rules, and must be a member of the relevant class association, if required by the class.
- 4.3 Eligible boats may enter by completing the online entry form on the event website:

Fees can be Deposited into Bank Account No. 03-0703-0474907-00

Particular = Class, Code = Sail Number, Reference = Surname

Completed entries and payment must be received by 1159hrs on the 22nd November 2026
- 4.4 Late entries, accompanied by the contest entry fee plus the late fee may be accepted at the discretion of the Organising Authority until 1000 hrs on Saturday 5th December 2026

4.5 To be eligible to compete in this event, each competitor shall be a financial member of a club recognised by the competitor's National Authority.

4.6. 3 boats of the same Class are required to constitute a Class for the awarding of points.

4.7. Boats that are not part of a Class will race in an Open Class on a handicap basis, with Weymouth yardstick ratings applied.

4.8 NZIODA South Island Optimist Traveller Series - Specific Entry Requirements

4.8.1 This event is part of the 2026 /27 NZIODA South Island Traveller Series. Results from this event will be counted toward this series for the Open fleet only. For more information regarding this series please follow the link below.

<https://optimist.org.nz/south-north-island-traveller-series-2025-2026/>

4.8.2 To be eligible to compete in this event, each competitor in the Optimist Open Class shall be a member of the NZIODA. <https://optimist.org.nz/sailor-registration/>

4.8.3 The event is open to Optimist sailors born in the year 2011 or later.

4.8.4 For Optimist fleet entry guidelines refer to Addendum A. NOTE. Due to the expected number of competitors, and the multi-class nature of the regatta, it is highly likely that Optimist Open and Optimist White fleets will be at least started together. This will be confirmed in the Supplementary Sailing Instructions and at Briefing.

4.8.5 Competitors using plastic Club Optimist-type dinghies will race as part of a "Rainbow Fleet" alongside the Green Fleet.

5. FEES

5.1 Required fees are as follows:

Rainbow / Green Fleet	\$0
Open Fleet (or White if applicable) Single-handed YOUTH	\$60
Open Fleet Single-handed ADULT	\$100
Open Fleet Double-handed YOUTH	\$80
Open Fleet Double-handed ADULT	\$130
Additional Late Entry Fee (after 1159hrs on 22nd November 2026)	\$50

5.2 There will be no refunds if entered competitors withdraw their entry after the closing date for normal entries (1159hrs on the 22nd November 2026).

6. CREW LIMITATIONS - N/A

7. ADVERTISING - N/A

8. QUALIFYING SERIES & FINALS SERIES - N/A

9. SCHEDULE

- 9.1** Registration - Saturday 5th December - 0900 – 1000hrs @ Nelson Yacht Club
- 9.2** Official Boat & Support Boat Briefing - Sat 5th December - 1030hrs @ Nelson Yacht Club
- 9.3** Main Fleet Competitor Briefing – Saturday 5th December - 1100hrs @ Nelson Yacht Club
- 9.4** Dates of racing: Saturday 5th and Sunday 6th December 2026.
- 9.5** Number of races:

Class	Total races scheduled	Races per day scheduled	Races per day maximum	Target time (minutes)
All classes	6	3	4	30
Green Fleet	Communicated at daily Green Fleet Briefing at 1230 hrs			10-25 mins depending on format

- 9.6** The scheduled time for the first warning signal each day is 1300hrs.
- 9.7** On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 1630hrs.
- 9.8** Prize Giving will follow as soon as possible after racing is complete on the final day.
- 9.9** Rainbow/Green Fleet Prizegiving will take place as soon as possible after racing EACH day.

10. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION

- 10.1** A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules as designated acceptable by the class officers.
- 10.2** WASZP competitors may choose to sail with either a 6.9m 2 , 7.5m 2 or 8.2m 2 rig. The rig to be used for the event shall be declared at registration. No swapping of rig sizes during the event will be permitted.
- 10.2** Optimist Class Specific Requirements
- 10.2.1** All boats will need to adhere to the safety standards as outlined by NZIODA.
<https://optimist.org.nz/boat-safety-checklist-2/>
- 10.2.2** Open fleet competitors shall use only one hull, daggerboard, rudder (with tiller and extension), mast, boom, sprit and sail during the event. These shall all have valid measuring certificates which may be required to be made available for inspection at registration and during the event.
<https://optimist.org.nz/measurement/>
- 10.2.3** Each boat sailing in Open Fleet from sail number NZL 4726 onwards shall have a valid Registration Book.
- 10.2.4** Green and White Fleet boats are not required to hold current measurement certificates (alters International Optimist Class Rule 2.4.1) but any plywood hulls used will need to gain dispensation from the Race Committee.
- 10.2.5** Wet clothing, measurement and equipment checks may be made throughout the event at the discretion of the Technical Committee.

11. CLOTHING AND EQUIPMENT - N/A

12. VENUE & RACING AREAS

12.1 The venue is the Nelson Yacht Club, 322 Wakefield Quay, Nelson, 7010.

<http://www.nelsonyachtclub.org.nz/the-club/location/>

12.2 The racing areas will be the waters of Tasman Bay and/or Nelson Harbour.

13. COURSES

13.1 The courses to be sailed will be Trapezoid, Triangular, Windward/ Leeward or a combination of both.

13.2 The Rainbow & Green Fleet will sail on a separate course to other fleets. Their courses will be a variety of the following: destination sails, windward-leeward, novelty races, relays, obstacle courses, triangular courses.

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 For the 29er, Zephyr, Paper Tiger, any other catamaran classes, and any classes racing in an Open Division One, RRS 44.1 is changed so that the Two-Turns Penalty is replaced by the One-Turn Penalty.

14.2 For WASZP RRS 44.1 and 44.2 are changed so that the 'Two-Turns' penalty is replaced by a 270° degree turn. On a windward leg the turn must comprise of a gybe, and on a downwind leg, the turn shall comprise a tack.

15. SCORING

Open / White Fleets:

15.1 3 races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

15.2

a) When fewer than 5 races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

b) When 5 or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

Green Fleet:

15.3 Green Fleet will NOT have an overall series counted.

16. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

16.1 Support person vessels must be registered with the Organising Authority on the online entry form or at registration.

16.2 A representative from each support vessel shall attend the daily support vessel briefings.

16.3 [DP][NP] Support person vessels shall be marked with the sail number or club of the sailor (s) being supported

16.4 [DP][NP] All support person vessels shall always have an engine safety cut out switch (kill cord) attached to the driver AT ALL TIMES while the engine is running, unless prior written exemption has been provided by the Organising Authority.

16.5 Unless requested to assist by the race committee, support person vessels shall keep at least 100metres from the race area while boats are racing.

16.6 No support vessels may launch from the Nelson Yacht Club ramp. Support vessel launching is available at the public ramp at Nelson Marina More details here:

<https://www.nelsonmarina.co.nz/page/83103-boat-ramp>

16.7 Attention is drawn to the local navigation bylaw:

[Nelson City Council Navigation Safety Bylaw 2019](#)

17. CHARTERED OR LOANED BOATS

17.1 A chartered or loaned boat may carry national letters or a sail number in contravention of her class rules, provided that the race committee has approved her sail identification before the first race.

18. LAUNCHING AND STORAGE

18.1 [DP][NP] Unless otherwise directed by the Organising Authority, all competing boats and equipment shall be launched and retrieved from the Nelson Yacht Club ramp.

18.2 [DP][NP] Launching trolleys shall be clearly marked with the boat's sail number

18.3 Competitor boats may be stored on the hardstand at Nelson Yacht Club for the duration of the event. This is entirely at the competitor's / owner's own risk and Nelson Yacht Club does not accept any liability for damage or loss.

19. RISK STATEMENT AND DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

19.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. RRS 3, Decision to Race, states as follows:- "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. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

By taking part in the event, each competitor and the responsible adult 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, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
- 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 vessels and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol vessel cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

19.2 The Organising Authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the event.

20. INSURANCE

20.1 Yachting New Zealand recommends that each participating boat shall be insured with valid marine third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$1,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

21 RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

- 21.1** By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organising authority and the event sponsor(s) the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue for the event, until their final departure, without compensation.
- 21.2** Drones / RPAS (Remote Piloted Aircraft System) under the control of the organising authority may be used during the event. Participation in the event will be taken as agreement and consent to be overflown by and have RPAS operate within close proximity to competing boats.

22. SUSTAINABILITY

The Nelson Yacht Club is focused on minimising the environmental impact of its events. To this end the following requirements will apply to this event.

22.1 [DP][NP] The 2026 N&M Regionals Regatta presented by Solander is being run as a Sailors for the Sea “Clean Regatta” and we request that competitors, supporters and officials support this initiative:

- a) Bring your own reusables: water bottle, coffee cup, lunch box/bag for yourself and your support team and avoid single-use plastics.
- b) Carefully choose the correct waste stream at the venue:
 - General recycling (Labelled YELLOW lidded bin) - cardboard, tins, cans, plastics 1,2,5.
 - Glass recycling (Labelled BLUE lidded bin) - no bottle tops please!
 - Compostable (return to Penguin’s Nest window)
 - Landfill (Labelled RED or BLUE lidded bins).
- c) Choose electronic viewing over printing out NOR or Sailing Instructions.

- d) Try to minimise your environmental impact when travelling to the event. Consider carpooling, active transport, public transport, community minibus and offsetting carbon emissions.
- e) Whilst afloat, race management and support vessels are requested to minimise the use of fuel where possible and appropriate.
- f) Competitors and supporters are encouraged to minimise use of resources. For example, limiting the use of fresh water when washing boats.

23. PRIZES

Where possible the relevant South Island Championship Trophies will be presented.

Prizes / Certificates for 1st, 2nd & 3rd in each class.

The Optimist Class will recognise 1st, 2nd, 3rd for both males and females, and 1st overall.

A class will consist of 3 or more boats of the same type. Less than this number will be grouped into 4 divisions and handicapped using the Weymouth Yardstick or equivalent:

- Open Div 1 - a fast handicap (FDs, multihulls, 29er etc...)
- Open Div 2 - a medium-fast handicap (Laser, 420, Farr 3.7 etc...)
- Open Div 3 - a medium-slow handicap (Starling, Topaz, Splash, RS Feva etc...)
- Open Div 4 - a slow handicap (Optimist, P Class, O'Pen Skiff etc...)

Rainbow & Green Fleet prizes will be awarded at the end of each day.

Any other prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organising Authority

24. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact Club Manager, Tim Fraser-Harris

Phone: 0225487501

Email: manager@nelsonyachtclub.org.nz

Website:

<https://www.nelsonyachtclub.org.nz/racing-and-regattas/2026-nm-regional-championships-presented-by-solander-5th-6th-dec/>



ADDENDUM A

NZIODA Fleet Guidelines

1.1 Green Fleet:

The Green Fleet is open to less experienced Optimist sailors. The emphasis is on fun and the objective is to offer less experienced sailors the opportunity to sail and participate at the same venue as an Optimist Open and White regatta without their feeling the need, or burden, to sail in these more competitive fleets. <https://optimist.org.nz/green-fleet/>

In the Green Fleet equipment used is not required to hold current measurement certificates (alters International Optimist Class Rule 2.4.1) however if plywood hulls are to be used sailors will need to gain dispensation from the Race Committee. All boats in this fleet will need to adhere to the same safety standards of the White and Open fleets as outlined by NZIODA. <https://optimist.org.nz/boat-safety-checklist-2/>

In Green Fleet :

- Success will be awarded per race OR per day, NOT for an overall series.
- Sailors will experience a range of sailing experiences that include destination sails, novelty races, long course races as well as more traditional race courses.

1.2 White Fleet:

The White Fleet provides an introduction to a racing series without the high physical and mental demands that are experienced in the Open Fleet. It provides an opportunity for sailors to compete in more traditional racing on a similar course to the Open fleet. This is a more competitive fleet than the Green fleet and a great transition between Green and Open fleets. <https://optimist.org.nz/white-and-open-fleet/>

In the White Fleet equipment used is not required to hold current measurement certificates (alters International Optimist Class Rule 2.4.1) however if plywood hulls are to be used sailors will need to gain dispensation from the Race Committee. All boats in this fleet will need to adhere to the same safety standards of the Green and Open fleets as outlined by NZIODA. <https://optimist.org.nz/boat-safety-checklist-2/>

In White Fleet:

- Races will likely be shorter in length than Open Fleet races
- Less races MAY be sailed each day than the Open Fleet
- Races are sailed on the same body of water as Open Fleet races
- Sailors are awarded prizes / trophies for their overall series result
- Sailors are unable to compete in this fleet if they have received a podium place in White Fleet at a previous Toyota Optimist National Championship

1.3 Open Fleet:

Open Fleet is the most competitive fleet in the class where sailors can compete at a high level for the overall prize of being the Optimist National champion for each gender.

In Open fleet:

- Sailors are awarded prizes / trophies for their overall series result
- NZIODA will select IODA and Development team members from this fleet based on their ranking at the Nationals.

Each boat sailing in Open Fleet from sail number NZL 4673 onwards shall have a valid Registration Book or be entered into the new IODA online measuring system.

Open fleet competitors shall use only one hull, daggerboard, rudder (with tiller and extension), mast, boom, sprit and sail during the regatta. These shall all have valid measuring certificates. These documents shall be available for inspection at registration and during the regatta.

<https://optimist.org.nz/measurement/>

All boats in this fleet will need to adhere to the same safety standards of the White and Green fleets as outlined by NZIODA. <https://optimist.org.nz/boat-safety-checklist-2/>