

Notice of Race

INTERNATIONAL TOPPER
CLASS ASSOCIATION (GBR)



International Topper 6.4, 5.3 and 4.2 National Championships WPNSA, Portland

Saturday 3rd August to Friday 9th August 2024



**Version 2
Published 29th November 2023**

The organising authority is WPNSA together with ITCA (GBR)

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing* (RRS).
- 1.2 The prescriptions of ITCA (GBR) and rules of the host club also apply. [DP]
- 1.3 Competitors and their supporters should note that ITCA (GBR) implements the RYA Racing Charter and that by entering this event they undertake to compete in compliance with the Charter, which can be found at the front of the RYA rule book *Racing Rules of Sailing 2021-2024* and on the RYA website www.rya.org.uk. [DP]

2 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 The event is open to all International Topper class dinghies.
- 2.2 There will be separate championships for boats using 6.4 sails, 5.3 sails and 4.2 sails. There will also be a Regatta fleet for less experienced sailors. (In all cases provided that there are, in the Organising Authority's view, sufficient entries).
- 2.3 Every competitor must be a current member of a National Topper Class Association. Competitors that are not already a member of a National Topper Class Association may join ITCA (GBR) at registration, or pay £20 to become a temporary member of ITCA (GBR) for the duration of the event.
- 2.4 Substitution of competitors is not allowed. Only the person listed as the competitor on the entry form for a boat shall compete in that boat in the event.

3 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1 All boats entered in championship classes shall comply with the International Topper class rules, in particular only sails, spars and foils supplied by the licensee Topper International shall be used. [DP]
- 3.2 Each boat shall display the 2023/24 Championship Number of the competitor sailing the boat (unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Race Committee) in accordance with the class rules for Event Numbers. Each boat trolley shall have a tag attached to the handle clearly displaying the Championship Number of the boat to which it belongs. Competitors that have not already been allocated a 2023/24 Championship Number will be allocated one at registration. It is the responsibility of the competitor to obtain and fix the Championship Numbers to their sail and boat in accordance with the class rules, and to obtain and attach a suitable tag to the handle of their boat's trolley. [DP]
- 3.3 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority.
- 3.4 While racing, boats shall not use a sail that is larger or smaller than the size applicable to the championship class they are entered in. Boats sailing in the Regatta fleet may use either a 5.3 sail or a 4.2 sail.

4 ENTRY

- 4.1 Pre entry is required using the on-line entry system at www.gbrtopper.co.uk.
- 4.2 The entry fee for the 6.4, 5.3 or 4.2 National Championships is:
 - a. £225 for entries received on or before 16th June 2024
 - b. £275 for entries received thereafter, up to and including 7th July 2024
 - c. £300 for entries received thereafter, up to and including 21st July 2024, when on-line entry will close.
- 4.3 The entry fee for the Regatta Fleet is:
 - a. £125 for entries received on or before 16th June 2024
 - b. £175 for entries received thereafter, up to and including 7th July 2024
 - c. £225 for entries received thereafter, up to and including 21st July 2024, when on-line entry will close.
- 4.4 After on-line entry has closed, entry may be possible by contacting the ITCA (GBR) class secretary by email or telephone (contact details below). Entry in this case will only be possible if, in the opinion of the organising authority, adequate safety cover will be available. The entry fee in this case will be £350 for the 6.4, 5.3 or 4.2 National Championships and £275 for the Regatta Fleet.
- 4.5 If an entry is cancelled by the competitor their entry fee will be refunded as follows:

- a. Cancellation up to 2 weeks prior to the event: Entry fee less £5 admin charge
- b. Cancellation within last 2 weeks prior to the event: No refund.

5 REGISTRATION, EQUIPMENT INSPECTION AND INITIAL COMPETITOR BRIEFING [DP]

- 5.1 Registration will be from **14:00 to 16:00 on Saturday 3rd August** at WPNSA.
- 5.2 Each competitor shall register before racing (and will not count as an entry for the purpose of scoring until they have done so). To register, each competitor shall provide a completed entry form (signed by their parent or legal guardian in the case of a competitor under 18 years of age) and proof of current membership of a National Topper Class Association.
- 5.3 Each boat shall also be presented for equipment inspection and limitation marking prior to racing. Equipment inspection will be open from **10:00 to 16:00 on Saturday 3rd August**.
- 5.4 There will be an initial competitor briefing, **which all competitors should attend**, on the evening of **Saturday 3rd August**.

6 FORMAT

- 6.1 The 6.4 National Championships will be a single series.
- 6.2 The 5.3 National Championships will consist of a Qualification Series and a Final Series.
- 6.3 The 4.2 National Championships will be a single series.
- 6.4 Any racing by the Regatta Fleet will be a single series.

7 SCHEDULE

- 7.1 Racing is scheduled to take place for all classes on each day from Sunday 4th to Friday 9th August.
- 7.2 Races are currently scheduled as follows:

Day	6.4 Championships	5.3 Championships		4.2 Championships	Regatta Fleet
Sunday 4 th August	3 races	3 races	Qualification	4 races	TBA
Monday 5 th August	3 races	3 races	Qualification	4 races	TBA
Tuesday 6 th August	3 races	3 races	Qualification	4 races	TBA
Wednesday 7 th August	3 races	3 races	Final	4 races	TBA
Thursday 8 th August	3 races	3 races	Final	4 races	TBA
Friday 9 th August	3 races	3 races	Final	4 races	TBA

- 7.3 The warning signal for the first race on each day is currently expected to be at 11:25, **except for the Friday when it is expected to be at 10:25**, but this may change – check SIs and Notices.
- 7.4 On the last day of the event no starting signal will be made after 14:30 unless the Gold fleet in the 5.3 National Championships has not completed a race by that time in which case this time limit may be extended to 15:30 for that fleet.
- 7.5 For the 6.4, 5.3 and 4.2 National Championships, races on each day will normally be back-to-back, with no opportunity to return to shore between races. The race committee will try to limit the time that any competitor is afloat, without a break ashore, to no more than 6 hours, but depending upon conditions this time may be exceeded to allow a race to be completed.
- 7.6 For the Regatta fleet, the intended schedule of activities, and of any breaks ashore, will be announced at the briefing for competitors before sailing each day.

8 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 8.1 Sailing Instructions will be published on the ITCA (GBR) website prior to the event.

9 RACING AREAS

- 9.1 Racing will be in Portland Harbour and/or Weymouth Bay.

10 THE COURSES

- 10.1 For the 6.4, 5.3 and 4.2 National Championships the courses will be inner and outer loop trapezoid courses as specified in the Sailing Instructions.
- 10.2 The courses to be sailed by the Regatta fleet will be announced at the briefing for Regatta fleet competitors before sailing each day.

11 PENALTY SYSTEM

11.1 The Post-Race Penalty and RYA Arbitration of the RYA Rules Disputes Procedures will be available.
11.2 Appendix P (Special Procedures for Rule 42) will apply, as amended by the Sailing Instructions.

12 SCORING

12.1 The scoring system in RRS Appendix A will apply, as amended by the Sailing Instructions.
12.2 There shall be no changes to race or series scores (including correction of errors) resulting from any action initiated more than 30 minutes after the protest time limit for the last race in each series, or being informed of a protest committee decision after the last race of a series, or publication of the results of a series, with the exception of changes resulting from decisions under RRS 6, 69 or 70.

For the 5.3 National Championships

12.3 At least three races must be completed in the Qualification Series prior to the fleet being split into Final Series fleets (Gold, Silver and potentially Bronze). A single race must be completed by the Gold fleet in the Final Series to constitute the Championship.
12.4 A boat's Championship score will be the total of her scores in all races in the Final Series after discards, together with a points score equal to her overall ranking at the end of the Qualification Series (which shall not be discarded). All boats in the Final Series Gold fleet will rank ahead of all boats in the Final Series Silver fleet, who will rank ahead of all boats in the Final Series Bronze fleet (if applicable).
12.5 For each of the Qualification Series and the Final Series:

- When 3 or fewer races have been completed all races will count;
- When 4 to 7 races have been completed there will be one discard;
- When 8 or more races have been completed there will be two discards.

12.6 When the Championship is not properly constituted (minimum one race completed by the Gold Fleet in the Final Series) prizes will still be awarded, however the Overall Championship Trophy will not be awarded.

For the 6.4 and 4.2 National Championships and Regatta Fleet

12.7 Discards will be as follows:

- When 3 or fewer races have been completed all scores will count
- When 4 to 9 races are completed there will be one discard
- When 10 to 14 races are completed there will be two discards
- When 15 to 19 races are completed there will be three discards
- When 20 or more races are completed there will be four discards.

13 PRIZES

13.1 Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the event at the discretion of ITCA (GBR), the host club and the event sponsor(s).
13.2 Whilst the event is open to sailors of all nationalities, only sailors that are eligible to compete for Great Britain at a World Sailing sanctioned event, as defined in World Sailing Regulation 17, will be eligible to win certain trophies and prizes.

14 SUPPORT VESSELS [DP]

14.1 Only support vessels authorised by the Event Safety Officer will be permitted in the racing area. Please contact the ITCA (GBR) Ribmaster (contact details below) if you intend to bring a support vessel to the event.

15 RISK STATEMENT

15.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or 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 (and their parent(s) or guardian(s) in the case of a competitor under 18 years of age) 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, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;

- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, 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 boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organisers 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. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any competitor briefing held for this event.

16 INSPECTIONS

16.1 The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of boats does not in any way reduce the responsibilities of each competitor under the rules.

17 INSURANCE [DP]

17.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £ 3,000,000 per incident or equivalent.

18 PRIVACY STATEMENT

18.1 The personal information you provide to the organizing authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organizing authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the RYA, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

19 FURTHER INFORMATION

19.1 For further information please contact:

Tracey Francis (Events Manager)	07734 176602	eventsmanager@itca-gbr.co.uk
Sally Dugdale (Chair Racing)	07786 085518	racing@itca-gbr.co.uk
Andy Millington (Ribmaster)	07807 261651	ribmaster@itca-gbr.co.uk