

Notice of Race

INTERNATIONAL TOPPER
CLASS ASSOCIATION (GBR)



Noble Marine

National Championships

WPNSA, Portland

9th to 14th August 2026



Version 1
Published 16th April 2026

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 (Charter) and that by entering this event they undertake to compete in compliance with the Charter, which can be found on the RYA website at <https://www.rya.org.uk/racing/rules/racing-charter>. [DP]
- 1.4 The notation "[NP]" in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1.

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 (in all cases provided there are, in the view of the organising authority, 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) or pay £20 (or £5 if a member of the host club) 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 2025/26 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 2025/26 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 an appropriate 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 Competitors may be asked to wear race bibs chosen and supplied by the organising authority.
- 3.5 While racing, boats shall not use a sail that is larger or smaller in size than the one applicable to the championship class in which they are entered.

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 championship classes is:
 - a. £260 for entries received on or before 11th July 2026
 - b. £280 for entries received thereafter, up to and including 25th July 2026
 - c. £320 for entries received thereafter, up to and including 2nd August 2026, when on-line entry will close.
- 4.3 If an entry is cancelled by the competitor their entry fee will be refunded as follows:
 - a. Cancellation up to and including 11th July 2026: Entry fee less £5 admin charge
 - b. Cancellation between 12th July 2026 and 25th July 2026: 50% of entry fee
 - c. Cancellation after 25th July 2026: No refund.

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

- 5.1 Registration will be open between **10:00** and **16:00** on Sunday 9th August at WPNSA.
- 5.2 Each competitor shall register before racing (and their boat 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. [DP]

- 5.3 Each boat shall also be presented for equipment inspection and limitation marking before racing. Equipment inspection will be open between **10:00** and **16:00** on Sunday 9th August.
- 5.4 There will be an initial competitor briefing, **which all competitors and their parents/guardians should attend**, at **4.30pm on Sunday 9th August**.

6 FORMAT

- 6.1 Subject to the number of entries:
- The 6.4 National Championships will be a single series.
 - The 5.3 National Championships will consist of a Qualification Series and a Final Series.
 - The 4.2 National Championships will be a single series.

7 SCHEDULE

- 7.1 Racing is scheduled to take place for all championship classes on each day from Monday 10th August to Friday 14th August inclusive.
- 7.2 Races are currently scheduled as follows:

| Day | 6.4 Championship | 5.3 Championship | | 4.2 Championship |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|---------------------|
| Monday 10 th August | 3 races | 3 races | Qualification | 4 races |
| Tuesday 11 th August | 3 races | 3 races | Qualification | 4 races |
| Wednesday 12 th August | 3 races | 3 races | Qualification | 4 races |
| Thursday 13 th August | 3 races | 3 races | Final | 4 races |
| Friday 14 th August | 3 races | 3 races | Final | 4 races |

- 7.3 The warning signal for the first race on each day of the championships is not expected to be before 10:25, but this may change – check SIs and Notices.
- 7.4 For each championship class, races on each day will normally be sailed 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.
- 7.5 On the last day of the championships, 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.

8 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 8.1 Sailing Instructions will be published on the official Notice Board (ONB), which will available via the ITCA (GBR) website, prior to the event.

9 COMMUNICATION

- 9.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the ONB.

10 VENUE

- 10.1 The venue will be WPNSA, Osprey Quay, Portland, DT5 1SA.
- 10.2 Racing will be in Portland Harbour or Weymouth Bay.

11 THE COURSES

- 11.1 For championship classes, the courses to be sailed will be inner and outer loop trapezoid courses as specified in the Sailing Instructions.

12 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 12.1 RRS Appendix T (Arbitration) will apply, with the word “will” replaced by “may” in the first sentence of RRS T2.
- 12.2 RRS Appendix P (Special Procedures for Rule 42) will apply, as amended by the Sailing Instructions.

13 SCORING

- 13.1 The scoring system in RRS Appendix A will apply, as amended below and by the Sailing Instructions.
- 13.2 The number of race scores to be excluded from the calculation of each boat’s series score, depending upon the number of races scored, will be specified in the Sailing Instructions.
- 13.3 RRS 90.3(e) will apply with ‘24 hours’ changed to ‘30 minutes’.

For the 5.3 National Championships

- 13.4 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.
- 13.5 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).
- 13.6 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.

14 PRIZES

- 14.1 Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the event at the discretion of ITCA (GBR), the host club and the event sponsor(s).
- 14.2 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.

15 SUPPORT VESSELS

- 15.1 Except when necessary in the interests of safety, or when expressly asked to do so by a member of the race committee or official safety team, no support person shall provide help or assistance to a boat or competitor at any time while they are afloat, except help to launch or recover their boat, unless the support person is aboard an official race vessel, or a support vessel that has been registered with the organising authority, is being operated by a support vessel driver that has been registered with the organising authority and is displaying an identification flag provided by the organising authority. This changes RRS 41. [NP][DP]
- 15.2 All support persons that intend to bring a support vessel to the event, or hire/borrow a support vessel for the event, should pre-register that intention via the event entry page [here](#) ideally at least two weeks before the event.
- 15.3 At the event, all support vessels will need to be registered with WPNSA via [this link](#) and all applicable fees paid to WPNSA (including a £15 per vessel per day support vessel charge) before going afloat.
- 15.4 Support vessel drivers will also need to register at the Race Office, and pay a deposit of £50 before an identification flag is issued, refundable upon the return of the identification flag to the organising authority.
- 15.5 The organising authority may refuse to register, or withdraw the registration of any vessel or driver for any reason at any time.
- 15.6 Support vessel drivers shall comply with, and ensure that any support vessel they are responsible for complies with, any support vessel rules in the sailing instructions or posted on the official notice board.
- 15.7 Note that the organising authority and race committee will **not** be responsible for the launching, recovery, berthing, fuelling, or the payment of any fees to any party, for or on behalf of any support vessel (whether or not registered with the organising authority).

16 RISK STATEMENT

- 16.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "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. 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.

17 INSPECTIONS

- 17.1 The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this Notice of Race or any other document governing this event.

18 INSURANCE

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

19 PRIVACY STATEMENT

- 19.1 The personal information you provide to the organising 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 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 organising 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.

20 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 20.1 For further information please contact:

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