



## Notice from the IODA Regatta Committee to Coaches

In March of 2018 the IODA Regatta Committee received a letter from the Optimist Coaches participating in the 2018 Optimist South American Championship. The letter contained some questions and proposals regarding future IODA Optimist Events. We value this contribution; therefore, all items were fully addressed at the IODA Regatta Committee Workshop held on September 1 at the 2018 World Championship in Cyprus. Subsequently, the IODA Regatta Committee has decided that it is important to make this content available to all, so we are sharing the questions and answers here:

**Question:** Is it possible to add one day to the championship program to use as a reserve day?

**Answer:** This is not in the ability of the IODA Regatta Committee to change. The format for each Championship is published in the [IODA Handbook: Articles of Association and Championship Conditions](#) and was voted into place by the IODA Members. The proposal to change must come from the IODA Member, and adding another day has implications for additional costs for both teams and Organisers. However, to try and improve, the IODA Regatta Committee proposes a possible solution. In consultation with each Organiser for each event, it is possible to suggest that racing officially start on the day after the Official Arrival Day, and this will create a Reserve Day in the middle of the Championship.

**Question:** When determining the initial division of the sailors into fleets, is it possible to divide the fleets in order of rank by helmsman per country based on the order of the ranking from the Jacobsen Trophy calculation (former MHT) of the year's previous World Championship?

**Answer:** This question does not have a simple answer and has implications. How to rank the countries that attend the Continental but not the previous World Championship? What about the countries that do not have enough sailors on their team to be ranked for the Jacobsen Trophy? Also, this ranking may be based on sailors that do not attend any future Optimist event because they have aged out or didn't qualify.

**Question:** Can scheduled days in the program be used to finish any incomplete events?

**Answer:** Yes. This request has already been implemented following the 2018 Optimist South American Championship, and can be found in every Notice of Race Program (item 8) of all successive IODA Championships.



**Question:** Two Questions regarding the Team Racing Championships in the North and South American Events:

1. Is it possible to unite North and South America into a single Team Racing Championship?

2. Is it possible for the Team Racing Championship for each North and South America, to ensure that 1 spot is given to each country by region (potentially 14 spots) and the rest ( 2 spots) is open and ranked in order of the 16 best?

**Answers:**

1. In the IODA Conditions, North America and South America are separate regions with their own Championship Conditions, and a single event cannot be created for this reason. IODA would need to change their Articles and Conditions to have only one big region uniting the North and South American Continents, and this can only be done by IODA Member proposal and democratic vote at the Annual General Meeting. The IODA Regatta Committee suggests that it might be possible to run a grand finale 'sail off' between the winners of each the Continental Championship and the Nations Cup, but this would depend on the time remaining on that racing day, and it cannot be official as this would also require a change in the IODA Conditions for prizes.

2. If we did this, many sailors would be denied participation. To explain: each of the participating countries in the North and South American Championship would only be able to enter one team in total with only perhaps two or three spots open for the 16 team grid. The teams that are larger than 5 sailors would deny those sailors on the team participation in the event. Remember this cannot include the Nations Cup teams, as the Nations Cup is defined in the IODA Conditions as being only for countries outside of the continent hosting the Championship.

**Question:** During the regional championships, the host country is allowed to have double the number of sailors. Following the logic of 1 coach per 15 sailors, is it possible to increase the number of coaches to 4 in the situation that the host team is 30 sailors or more?

**Answer:** Yes! Whenever an official request is made from the Host Country to increase the number of coaches that are permitted as per the IODA Conditions, it is always granted.

**Question:** Is it possible to limit the number of coaches per support boat to a maximum of 3?

**Answer:** Yes. This is possible and can be done at the time of RIB allocation as long as there are enough coach boats.

**Question:** Has IODA considered offering a Clinic for Umpires?



**Answer:** This is a great idea and the IODA Regatta Committee is supportive. However, there may be some cost to the Organiser of the championship, therefore this would need to be negotiated.

**Question:** Regarding support boat safety, is it possible to ask the Organisers of IODA events for standard minimum safety requirements on the RIBS they provide to the Coaches as support boats? Also, is it possible to open the boat lease option in case it is not possible for the Organiser to comply with the previous point?

**Answer:** The IODA Regatta Committee is committed to safety on the water. Therefore, for all 2019 events, the Notice of Race rules shall require all support boats to be a minimum of 4.5 minimum in length and to have the following: kill cord (to be worn attached when engine is running), anchor chain and cable, tow rope min 10 mm diameter and at least 50 m length. In addition, we will include in the IODA Regatta Manual the following as strongly recommended: engine to be 4 stroke or 2 stroke with direct fuel injection, bow height, electric starter, extra fuel tank with funnel, and inflator pump.

Regarding the open boat lease option, this already exists. There is no mandatory charter requirement for support boats, you may rent a local RIB as long as it satisfies all the rules of the Notice of Race including that it must be shared as this is a safety requirement.

We welcome your feedback. Please contact the IODA Regatta Secretary at [regattasecretary@optiworld.com](mailto:regattasecretary@optiworld.com)