

## IOCA (UK) Code of Conduct for Sailor Support Person

As a support person of a sailor in the Optimist class, you play a vital role in creating a safe, respectful and enjoyable environment for all participants. Please follow this Code of Conduct and encourage others to do the same.

IOCA (UK) provides opportunities for sailors aged 8 - 15 years old to learn to sail and race, and then progress to high quality competitions but above all to become passionate about the sport, as Optimist sailing is just the beginning of their sailing story.

We (the Committee) aim to encourage children to take up sailing across the country in their clubs and regions and support those who go on to compete at regional, national and international events.

Our Code of Conducts have been developed following advice from the RYA. We will take appropriate specialist advice around safeguarding matters when necessary.

1. Be a role model for your child and maintain a high standard of conduct when interacting with children, other parents, with officials and organisers.
2. Behave responsibly and not seek to unfairly affect the competition. Never behave in a threatening way, nor use foul or abusive language.
3. Encourage your child to comply with the rules and display good sportsmanship towards other participants.
4. Avoid intentionally exposing any participant to embarrassment or disparagement.
5. Encourage mutual respect for other participants, parents and officials.
6. Support and recognise the work and value of the volunteers who are providing the sporting and recreational opportunities for your child.
7. Follow due processes for resolving disputes and avoid publicly questioning the judgement or honesty of officials and others.
8. Support all efforts to remove abusive and bullying behaviour in all its forms.
9. Respect that only Official Class Sponsors can display Banners and Flags during the Opening Ceremony, Prize Giving and whilst media coverage is taking place.
10. The Committee will actively discourage any form of intimidation (such as group chanting) during events, that could cause ill-feeling amongst competitors.

Failing to comply with the Sailor Code of Conduct or Support Person Code of Conduct.

At an event, support persons (i.e. coaches, parents and guardians) are covered by the rules of the event. It is permissible to report support persons to the protest committee for behaviour that is believed to break these rules, which can then take appropriate action.

Inappropriate behaviour may also be brought to the attention of the Chair (or in the event he/she is conflicted, the President), who will investigate and, if appropriate, either warn the members about their future behaviour or refer the matter to the IOCA Committee for review. This process is described in clause 11, Termination of Membership, of the IOCA(UK) Articles of Association -

<https://www.optimist.org.uk/assets/uploads/Committee%20meetings/IOCA%20Articles%202023%20.pdf>

Should you have any concerns, please report these to IOCA (UK) Chair Rich Stephens ([Chair@optimist.org.uk](mailto:Chair@optimist.org.uk)), IOCA (UK) Child Welfare Officer Sarah Renard ([childwelfare@optimist.org.uk](mailto:childwelfare@optimist.org.uk)) or IOCA (UK) Admin John Perham ([admin@optimist.org.uk](mailto:admin@optimist.org.uk)).

IOCA UK has a separate Code of Conduct for Sailors at

<https://optimist.org.uk/assets/uploads/Policies%20etc/IOCA%20Sailor%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf>

Thank you for helping us make sailing safe, fun, and respectful for everyone.

The IOCA UK Committee.