

IOCA (UK) Code of Conduct for Sailors

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

As a member of IOCA, you have rights and responsibilities. This code of conduct will help explain these to you. You should follow this code and encourage others to do the same.

If ever you are not sure, please ask your sailor support person or the Children's Welfare Officer to help.

In your sport you have the right to:

- Be safe and to feel safe.
- Be listened to and be believed.
- Be treated with dignity, sensitivity and respect.
- Have a voice in the organisation.
- Participate on an equal basis.
- Be happy, have fun and enjoy sport.
- Make complaints and have them dealt with.
- Not to be bullied.
- Say no.
- Protect your own body.
- Confidentiality.
- Not experience any form of bad language.

Your responsibilities are to:

- Comply with the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- Play fairly at all times, do your best, and never lie or cheat.
- Behave in a manner that avoids bringing the sport of sailing into disrepute.
- Respect fellow participant(s), even when things go wrong. Be gracious to them both in victory and in defeat.
- Never use violence or aggressive physical contact.
- Never shout at or argue with officials, other participants, volunteers or parents.
- Never harm other participants or their property.
- Never bully or use bullying tactics to gain advantage or isolate another participant.
- Respect that only Official Class Sponsors can display Banners and Flags during the Opening Ceremony, Prize Giving and whilst media coverage is taking place.
- Discourage any form of intimidation (such as group chanting), that could cause ill-feeling amongst competitors.
- Talk to the Children's Welfare Officer Sarah Renard (childwelfare@optimist.org.uk), if you do have any problems. Here is the link to our Safeguarding Policy:

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

The IOCA UK Committee.