

NZIODA Top Tips for Attending a Regatta



Your 17 step guide to entering a NZIODA Regatta for the first time.

1. Check out the NZIODA website <https://optimist.org.nz/> for a suitable event under the Events tab <https://optimist.org.nz/events/regattas/>
2. Register your sailor as a member of NZIODA and pay your NZIODA membership if you have not done so already under the Registrations tab <https://optimist.org.nz/registration/> You will receive your NZIODA tag at your first Ranking Regatta or clinic.
3. Get your sailing gear ready – Ensure you have plenty of layers as the regatta venue may have different conditions than your usual sailing region. A spare set of sailing clothes is helpful (ensure you have a way of drying gear overnight), lifejacket – whistle and NZIODA tag attached.
4. Make sure your boat is safety checked and meets the standards – Have you packed spare sail ties and wind indicators?
5. Get your boat ready for transportation to the event. This is often the most difficult thing for new sailors but they can either “car-top” or travel with another sailor who has space on their trailer. Please refer back to our handbook for further information.
6. Ensure your foils, spars and sails are packed (take any spares you have as there is nothing worse than having equipment failure and knowing you have a replacement sat at home).
7. You will find a notice called “Notice of Race” for the event on the host club’s website and this will tell you the times of “Registration”. The host club will also post the Sailing Instructions closer to the Regatta date so it is a good idea to check back regularly.

NOR/Sailing Instructions – Make sure you and your sailor read these:

- **The Notice of Race** – tells you general information about the regatta
- **Sailing Instructions** – tell you and your sailor greater details about the sailing planned for the regatta – rules, courses and start times, flags etc.

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8. Arrive at the event venue in time for registration. Registration takes place at all regattas and is staffed by friendly club members and NZIODA administration. Don't be afraid to say this is your first event and ask questions.

Registration is usually the evening before the first day of racing but sometimes there is a brief registration facility for those arriving on-the-day. Registering the evening before racing is advisable, especially if this is your first Regatta, as this means you and your sailor can concentrate on rigging their boat and being ready to sail on the morning of racing.

Registration is also the time to make any equipment changes, eg if you have a different race sail number to that registered when you entered.

9. At registration your entry will be checked, you'll confirm the fleet you plan to sail in, and you may be asked about meals ordered for you or your sailor. You may be given a "goodie" bag and a ribbon to identify you as a regatta

fleet boat. This is to be attached to your sprit. You may also be given tags to attach to your boat, trailer and trolley.

10. NZIODA Administration will check your sign on/sign off tag – if this is your first regatta this will be issued to you at that time.
11. Before or after registration, unload your boat, put it on its launching trolley and make sure everything is OK for racing. Familiarise yourself with the facility – changing rooms/ toilets/ notice boards/ galley.
12. If you have arrived the day before, you'll leave your boat in the dinghy storage park overnight with all the other Regatta Fleet (Optimists) boats. There will generally be a different location to leave your road trailer.
13. Arrive early on the morning of the regatta to help your sailor to rig their boat and ensure they have everything they need – Don't forget food, waterbottles and sunblock. Green Fleet generally sails close to shore and will come in for lunch between races.

14. There will be a briefing for the main fleet (White and Open Sailors) followed by a briefing for the Green Fleet each day of racing. It is very important that your sailor attends as this is where any changes will be announced. (These changes will also be posted to the notice board)

15. Before going onto the water ensure your sailor has signed onto the water and that they sign off when they return at the end of their racing.

16. Sailing in new waters can be very challenging for our newer, less experienced sailors. Remember to focus on your sailor's efforts and perseverance rather than their results.

17. End of day briefing is sometimes undertaken and at big regattas there may be spot prizes. Results are posted to the notice board and usually online to the hosting club website.

The Regatta Fleet coaches will take over at the morning briefing. Don't worry, they are very experienced with many of them having been Optimist sailors themselves once.

