



**Optimist Ulster
Championships**
10th and 11th September
2022



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Fingal County
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EVENT INFORMATION GUIDE

The flag officers and members of Howth Yacht Club look forward to welcoming the Optimist community to our club for the Optimist Ulster Championships on 10th/11th September. We intend to organise and host an extremely enjoyable and safe event.

The timing is almost perfect as Fingal County Council & Howth is celebrating its Maritime and Seafood Festival the same weekend, showcasing it's fine restaurants, bars and cafés, hosting a variety of food experiences and serving the freshest, most delicious seafood, cooked every way imaginable, including a selection of special Dublin Bay Prawn dishes.

It's not just the culinary offerings that make the festival so memorable, the Howth Maritime and Seafood Festival is also famous for music & entertainment, walks, dancing and seaside antics. As the sun goes down Howth Castle will be the backdrop to 2 evening concerts featuring the Hothouse Flowers and the Hothouse Big Band.

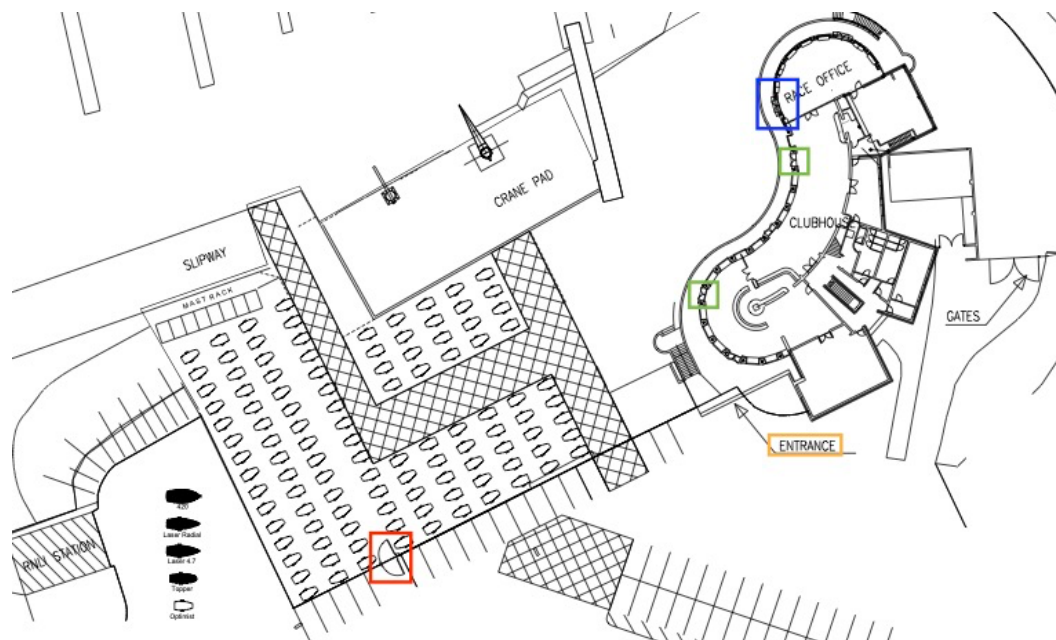
Fingal County Council are delighted to welcome the Optimist fleet to Howth to be part of the celebration.

Event Area

HYC has designated an area of the club exclusively for the event which covers most of the dinghy and dry sailing areas of the deck. This is the boat park area to the left in the image below.

The club will be fully open for all competitors and family, with the bar and restaurant serving food and refreshments from 10am. For those braver souls wishing to indulge in the festival, HYC will make a great base to retreat to for a little more relaxing atmosphere later in the day.

HYC Club Map



Boat unloading & storage

Boats must be unloaded outside HYC grounds. Sailors will then wheel their boats via the red gate on the HYC club map above to a spot in the event area, as directed by the beachmaster team.

Please note that the event boat park & slip will be available for event sailors from 1pm on Friday 9th. Sailors can go afloat at any time if accompanied by a suitable safety boat from the HYC slipway, so if you do arrive before 1pm, please let the shore team know so you can be accommodated as the area is setup.

Trailer Storage

Trailers cannot be stored in HYC and should be brought to the area marked on the map below, in Deer Park. The secure area will have 24/7 onsite security.

Map will be provided at registration

Traffic

As frequent visitors to Howth will know, the traffic on and off the peninsula and around the harbour area can be challenging. As the Maritime Festival is also being run this weekend, the number of visitors to Howth will be at an all time high. The Festival is being run from 12pm to 6pm each day, with a concert then being run in Howth Castle from 6pm to 11pm.

As we are starting early each day, getting access to the Harbour is not a concern. As the visitor numbers increase during the day, leaving the harbour and potentially the peninsula will become more challenging due to traffic delays. It is highly recommended that visitors to the Club plan ahead and ideally stay in Howth for Saturday as long as possible to ensure there are no issues. As we are starting well before the Festival, parking adjacent to the Club should be readily available, but it cannot be guaranteed that all visitors will be able to park with ease. It is worth checking traffic congestion on Google maps prior to departure from HYC, as it may be more expedient to turn left as you leave the harbour, drive over the hill to Sutton and pass-through Sutton cross from the Sutton approach.

Sunday will require trailers to be retrieved from Deer Park, which means leaving the Harbour, and then returning. We will have a dedicated area that trailers can be held outside the Club, to allow sailors to walk their boats to this area for loading. It is advised that parents collect their trailers early in order to avoid any traffic delays. We have also requested that vehicles with boats be prioritised when exiting the Harbour area, and drivers should follow the instructions of the Fingal/Garda traffic team on the day when leaving the Club.

Accommodation/Camping/Camper Vans

Unfortunately, there are no public areas that can be used for camping due to the festival being run in the camping area over the weekend, although we have asked members to accommodate visitors if needed. We are aware a concert is being run in Croke Park on Saturday 10th, and as a result accommodation is proving a challenge. Please do contact the organising team if you would like us to help finding accommodation with a HYC member locally. We have also received permission to accommodate a number of Camper Vans in the Car Park opposite the Club, or in Deer Park beside the trailer storage area. Please let us know if you are planning on attending with a Camper Van so that we can ensure Fingal provide adequate parking.

As an alternative, our Marina team have made some berths available, so any visiting boats can stay for the weekend and be used as accommodation. Please contact the Marina Office at HYC if this is of interest.

Registration

Sailors enter for the event on the IODAI website. After they are entered, they need to register for the event in HYC. Registration will be open from Friday at 5.00pm to 8pm in the Junior Room (Race Office). All IODAI requirements must be complied with via the IODAI website, and Sailors need only provide their sail number and name when registering. Sailors will be issued Tally numbers, Stickers and ribbon (flown from the sail peak and lifejacket), and can make their way to relevant area in the dinghy pen, as directed by the volunteer team.

The race office will be open for sailors on Friday 9th @ 18.00 – 20.00 & Saturday 10th @ 09.00 – 10.30.

Race office & Notices to Competitors

Notices to competitors will be posted on the main notice board at the white gate entrance, as well as via the IODAI WhatsApp groups.

Protests & Jury Notices

Protest Time Limits, Protest Schedules, Rule 42 penalties and Protest Committee notices will be posted on the Racing Rule of Sailing website https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/4603/event_links?name=2022-

[optimist-ulster-championships](#)

The same link can be used for lodging a Protest or for submitting a Scoring Inquiry.

Event Communications

The IODAI WhatsApp groups will be used for all communications. Parents that wish to contact the organisers can do so at the Race Office or by contacting Gary Cullen (0878261031)

You can find the two WhatsApp groups here: <https://iodai.com/events-events/>

Coaches

All Coaches should register online at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScpOVZxYsbbWwSH4-PzC7QRKjwLyHJNQxZ2wb_60tHSRSD1zA/viewform?vc=0&c=0&w=1&flr=0

Coach RIBs can be launched and retrieved on the public slip beside HYC, no coach boats will be allowed access to the HYC slip. Coach Ribs will remain on the Marina on Friday and Saturday nights, and Coach's should confirm the allocated marina berth with the Race Office at registration. The trailers of registered coach ribs can be stored in the trailer storage area.

There will be a briefing for all coaches and safety boat skippers at 1015 on Saturday 11th, directly outside the race office. Attendance at this (and any) safety boat briefing is mandatory for coaches. Coaches will be expected to assist the beachmaster in marshalling the fleet in the harbour and past the inner breakwater, and onto the Slip. The Slip in HYC can be a challenge for inexperienced sailors to get onto, and the fence on the lifeboat side can become problematic if the slip is very busy, especially in a northerly breeze. As the fleets approach the inner breakwater, coaches will be expected to contact the beachmaster for direction.

Participation as a registered coach is conditional on adhering with section 13 of the NOR.

Catering

Each day after coming ashore, pizza and drinks will be provided for Sailors. If a Sailor has any gluten or other reason which would deem pizza unacceptable, please inform the volunteer team at registration so this can be accommodated. Sailors / coaches should bring sufficient food and a filled (refillable) drinks bottle with them each day.

The HYC Bar will open each day at 10am, with food being available from 11am. The HYC menu can be found here: <https://hyc.ie/system/files/4970/original/dining-menu.pdf?1655975752>

Outside HYC the Maritime Festival will offer plenty of opportunity to sample the seafood cuisine on offer.

Entertainment

Howth Yacht Club are providing a BBQ on Saturday evening. We will provide details of the BBQ on the Noticeboard.

On the Saturday night we are also hosting a Junior Disco and all Sailors are welcome to attend. Sailors in all fleets are welcome, but any guests not entered in the event will have to pay an entry fee of €15

Chandlery

Marine Suppliers / Expert Hardware on the West Pier sell some general chandlery products, including a small selection of Optimist equipment. They are open from 9-5 on Saturday. Otherwise Viking Marine (Dun Laoghaire) is probably the best option, followed by Marine Parts Direct (Swords).

Parents / siblings of sailors

Howth Yacht Club will be delighted to invite event guests into the club itself for dining, subject to capacity constraints.

Parents can access the club via the main marina gate marked in orange on the HYC Club map. Access to the Club will be controlled due to the Festival being run, so a 4 digit code will be made available at Registration, which will allow access for the weekend through the gates and changing rooms. If we need to change this code, it will be shared on the IODAI WhatsApp group.

Spectator boats will not be allowed to launch from HYC and must use the public slip adjacent to the Club. Independent permission must be sought from the Marina Office to store their trailer in the event storage area or berth on Howth marina and are instructed to remain a minimum of 500m from the event racecourse. Permission to use the Marina is solely at the discretion of HYC marina team, and use of the trailer storage area can only be provided once the organisers can determine if there is adequate additional space.

Event Volunteer Team

The event volunteer team are onsite to make the event run smoothly and to ensure it is as safe and enjoyable as possible for sailors, coaches, volunteers and HYC members.

We have an extremely experienced and capable race management team in place, under the leadership of our Principal Race Officer, Richard Kissane and Emmet Dalton is the Head of Jury.

The onshore team is likely to be very busy, so please be patient and bear with us. The volunteer team can be contacted at optimists@hyc.ie.

We look forward to welcoming the sailors soon in Howth Yacht Club.

Event Volunteer Team