

The IODA Regatta Committee Report

June 22, 2023

I would like to take this opportunity to summarize the activities of the IODA Regatta Committee since our last meeting one year ago.

Each year the IODA Regatta Committee is responsible to the IODA Members for running 1 World Championship, 5 Continental Championships in each region, 5 Team Racing Championships, and 2 Nations Cup Championships, with the participation of over 1,000 sailors worldwide.

The Regatta Committee of IODA is made up of top-level World Sailing Race and Jury Officials: Chair Ricardo Navarro (IRO, ITD/BRA), Andres Perez (IJ/ESP), Ilker Bayindir (IRO, IJ/TUR) and Elena Papazoglou (IRO/CYP). Along with the support of Susan Elliot Beatty, the IODA Regatta Secretary, it has been possible due to consistency and dedication to achieve the goals of the IODA Regatta Committee.

Since 2017 when the IODA event microsites were launched, we have continued to improve the technical platform in the Class to better support the IODA championships and to enrich the sailor's experience. These developments have included the Smart Phone APP, the Scoring Integration Package, the Accreditation Package, and, with the IODA Technical Committee, the paperless measurement system. With the introduction of the 'Sailor Account' more recently, IODA's "Race Office" eliminated paper and is now completely digital, allowing us to support important sustainability objectives and at the same time provide a good service to the sailors and coaches. All of this technology for event management, including also for the registration process, is provided to the Event Organisers of IODA Championships, eliminating any concerns they may have regarding these key areas. Most importantly, the IODA Member can be confident that an IODA championship can be hosted anywhere in the world to an equally high standard. With the support of the IODA Regatta Committee, the concerns of Event Organisers and IODA Members have been eliminated regarding the key areas of the championship management. An added benefit is that the race records are available in perpetuity to everyone on the event microsites, the access to which IODA will never remove from the web.

On the water the IODA Regatta Committee continually focuses on trying to provide the best sailing experience for the sailors at IODA championships. This goal is achieved not only through the use of technology but also with the ongoing development of race officials through the Race Officer Development Program. This year we will support a Deputy RO at almost every event in order to ensure the ongoing future of Optimist racing to a high standard. IODA RC continually endeavors to support more women officials at the championships in order to broaden access to career paths in sailing for females. We also do not forget that an IODA championship may be one of the first experiences that a young sailor has in high level competition, therefore it is very important that our selected Race Officials are aware of the youth learning component. Safety on the water, including specifically for Coach support vessels, remains always the priority for IODA. A comprehensive afloat safety management protocol is required by the IODA Regatta Committee and must be produced by every Organiser to the IODA standards for all events. Finally, It is important not to overlook that behind all of this, the manuals, documents and race management guidelines support everything on the technical regatta side of the Class for the benefit of the sailors, and these continue to be constantly reviewed and updated by the IODA Regatta Committee.

We are now celebrating the 50th anniversary of IODA becoming an International Class of World Sailing and 60 years of Optimist World Championships. This is quite an achievement. Last year we talked about the importance of recognizing the history of the Optimist Class. There are over 200,000 Optimists worldwide, with over 100 Members, making IODA the largest sailing Class in the World. To mark this important milestone, the Regatta Committee wants to share the official launch of the IODA History Microsite, an area dedicated to capturing and celebrating the unique history of the Optimist. This brand-new microsite will contain a digital Hall of Fame, an area to capture the history of the IODA Members, historical photo gallery, articles throughout the years, and timelines highlighting people and events throughout the years. At the moment there are many images, documents, videos, and Member Class “paraphernalia” collected, all highlighting the Class history, and this new microsite dedicated to this history will ensure that these items will have a permanent home and can be shared and enjoyed by all. We hope that you will find this project exciting, and we encourage the IODA Members to participate with us and share their important moments of our collective past, to ensure the future of sailing Optimist.

In closing I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the IODA Regatta Committee for their dedication to improve the Class for the sailors: Andres Perez (ESP), Ilker Bayindir (TUR), and Elena Papazoglou (CYP). Thank you also to Fiona Kidd, the Secretary General of IODA for her continued support. I would like to especially thank, on behalf of all members of Regatta Committee, Susan Elliot Beatty, the IODA Regatta Secretary, for her continuous hard work with us in order to achieve the many the IODA Regatta Committee initiatives.

Regards,

Ricardo Navarro

IODA Regatta Committee Chairman,

June 2023

