

Dear Optimist,

As we continue to work through this transition period, we invite you to submit any questions you may have, below you will find answers to the questions we have received to date.

We are currently in the process of updating our membership records for the OFC. Please continue to submit [officer](#) updates and your [questions](#), and we will continue to respond to these. Additionally, many of you have requested access to the Optimist Leaders Portal and have started updating your Club's membership roster. Thank you. We will be communicating directly with club officers starting next week with additional instructions on how you can obtain access and make those updates.

Again, thank you for your patience. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to the Optimist movement.

Sincerely,

Jan Oord Graves, President

Optimist International

Frequently Asked Questions from Members

Q: Is OI's Membership database secure?

A: Yes. The OI Membership Database is secure. It is built on a proprietary platform with no open internet access and is only accessible via the protected OI network. It has never experienced a breach.

Q: Can our club access our information online?

A: Yes. Clubs in the former St. Lawrence Region are now active in the Optimist Database and accessible by Club Officers. You'll need to update your Club Roster—OI can provide instructions for this.

Q: Will we be billed for adding members during this transition?

A: No. Changes to club rosters during this transition are considered updates and will not result in billing.

Q: Can our club continue to use our logo?

A: Yes. All Optimist Clubs may continue using their logos. Logos are available on Optimist.org, organized by district number (the first two digits of your club number), and on your club's page via the Leaders Portal. If your logo is missing, contact: communications@optimist.org.

Q: Can our youth participate in Optimist programs this year?

A: Yes. The Regional Oratorical Competition is scheduled for July 17. Registration is open for the Optimist International Junior Golf Championship and the JOI Summit.

Q: We paid dues to the OFC this year—will OI honor that payment?

A: Yes. If your club has already paid dues to the OFC, you will not be billed again until the first quarter dues in October 2025.

Q: Our club pays quarterly. What are our fourth-quarter dues?

A: OI will honor the current dues structure for the remainder of the year:

- \$95 CAD for Regular Members
- \$55 CAD for Life/College Members

Q: How much of our dues went to Optimist International?

A: Since the project's start in 2021, the annual affiliation fee forwarded to OI was:

- \$15 USD per Regular Member
- \$0 USD for Life Members
- \$6 USD for College Members

Q: What will our dues be for the 2025-2026 ?

A: Dues and fees for the next Optimist year will be voted on at the June 28, 2025, International Board Meeting. Clubs will be notified once the Board finalizes this information.

Q: Did OI shut down the OFC website?

A: No. OI owns the domain Optimiste.org and redirected it to Optimist.org. Websites operate through unique IP addresses; OI cannot “shut down” a site but can redirect domains they own.

Q: You have said this was “unexpected”, but I’ve heard that OI never planned to extend the OFC past the pilot project?

A: This was an unexpected transition. OI was fully expecting to come to an agreement with the OFC. At the International Board Meeting on March 8, both the OI negotiating team and the President of OFC reported and agreed that they thought we would reach an agreement. A Transition Task Force is now in place to support clubs returning to OI administration. No prior plan existed before the May 1 Board Meeting.

Q: What options were presented to the OI Board of Directors at the May 1 Board meeting?

A: At our final meeting with the OFC Negotiations Team on April 29, they affirmed the two options to be given to the International Board, (below is from the Board Report)

1. Accept OFC’s Proposal

Approve the affiliation fee of \$7 USD per member from May 1, 2025 to September 30, 2026.

2. Terminate the Pilot Project

Pursuant to the current MOU, the Board may terminate the pilot. All OFC Clubs and members would revert to the standard Optimist International membership structure, fees, and policies.

After thorough discussion—including input from the OFC President—the Board unanimously chose to terminate the pilot. This decision was not made lightly but was determined to be the most appropriate action at the time, given the information presented.