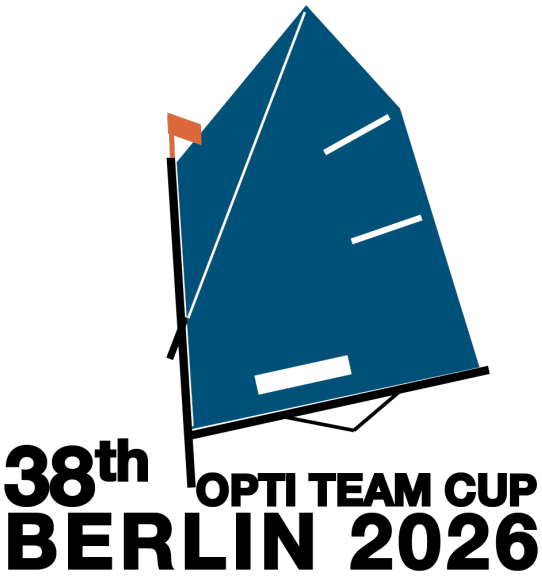


Sailing Instructions

38th Opti Team Cup Berlin 2026
Potsdamer Yacht Club
From 09 October to 11 October 2026
Version 4 (V4), 07 October 2026

Organizing Authority:	Potsdamer Yacht Club e.V.
Event Website:	www.optiteamcup.de
Venue:	Potsdamer Yacht Club e.V. Königstr. 3a 14109 Berlin Germany
Organizing Officers:	Stefan Weger (GER)
Race Officers:	Sven Mikisch (GER), Martin Romberg (GER) (RRO)
Chief Umpire:	Nick Devereux (GBR)

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

1.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
1.2. [NP][DP] The International Optimist Class Rules, available on the International Optimist Dinghy Association website (www.optiworld.org), will apply.
1.3. RRS Appendix D will apply.
1.4. RRS Appendix D5 will not apply.
1.5. If there is a conflict between languages the English text takes precedence.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

2.1. Any written changes to the sailing instructions will be posted at least 30 minutes before the first race that is affected.
2.2. Any written changes to the schedule of races will be posted before 8:00 pm on the day before it will take effect.
2.3. Verbal changes to the sailing instructions will be communicated as per SI 3.2.

3. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

3.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board located at https://optiteamcup.de/official-notice-board-onb-otc2026.
3.2. On the water the race committee can give verbal instructions, which will be communicated through the coaches and/or the umpires. To indicate that verbal instructions will be given flag L is displayed with 1 sound on the race committee vessel.
3.3. To facilitate communication between all participating parties, a Whatsapp group will be created by the race committee, which can be joined by all team leaders and coaches with the final registration at the registration desk on Thursday, 08 October 2026.

4. [DP] CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1. Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.
4.2. Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment or place advertising provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed at the flagpole located in front of the clubhouse.
5.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes' in Race Signals AP. This changes RRS Race Signals AP.
5.3. When flag AP over H is displayed ashore, boats shall not leave the harbour. This changes RRS Race Signals AP over H.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1. A team leader meeting with the umpires and the race committee will be held in the clubhouse at 7:00 pm on Thursday, 08 October 2026.
6.2. The opening ceremony and skippers meeting will take place outside the clubhouse on Friday, 09 October 2026 at 9:00 am. Competitors are encouraged to bring their national flags and club burgees to the team photo.
6.3. A daily debriefing session with the umpires will be held in the clubhouse about one hour after the last race of the day has been concluded.
6.4. Scheduled times of the first warning signal:

Racing days	Warning signal for the first race of the day
09 October 2026	10:30 am

10 October 2026	10:00 am
11 October 2026	10:00 am

6.5. The finals, if held, will take place on Sunday, 11 October 2026.

6.6. On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning signal will be made after 3:30 pm except when finals are sailed, and no team has scored two wins. In this case no warning signal will be made after 4:30 pm.

7. FORMAT

7.1. The event will be a four boat against a four boat team race. For teams of five competitors, any four may compete in a race, provided that the fifth competitor remains in the waiting area, in the team's coach boat or ashore in the time between the preparatory signal of that race until and completion of the race.

7.2. The format depends on the number of teams participating in the event. Up to 13 teams, format "A" applies. If 14 or more teams participate, format "B" applies. The final racing format will be announced in the team leaders meeting on Thursday, 08 October 2026, and published on the online Official Notice Board no later than Thursday, 08 October 2026 at 9:00 pm.

7.3. Racing format "A" will consist of two stages.

7.3.1. Stage 1 – Qualification:

7.3.1.1. Two or more full Round Robins, where each team races against each other team.

7.3.1.2. Ties after stage 1 will be broken according to RRS Appendix D 4.4.

7.3.1.3. No warning signal for races of stage 1 will be given after 2:00 pm on Sunday, 11 October, 2026 and racing format "A" will proceed directly to stage 2.

7.3.2. Stage 2 – Finals:

7.3.2.1. Grand Final: The first and second-placed teams in the overall results of stage 1 will compete against each other until one team has two race wins.

7.3.2.2. Small Final: The third and fourth-placed teams in the overall results of stage 1 will compete against each other until one team has two race wins.

7.4. Racing format "B" will consist of three stages.

7.4.1. Stage 1 – Qualification:

7.4.1.1. One full Round Robin, where each team races against each other team.

7.4.1.2. Ties after stage 1 will be broken according to RRS Appendix D 4.4.

7.4.1.3. Race wins from stage 1 will not be carried to stage 2.

7.4.2. Stage 2 – Gold and Silver Group:

7.4.2.1. According to the overall results of stage 1, the teams placed in the upper part of the ranking will be assigned to the Gold Group and the teams placed in the lower part of the ranking will be assigned to the Silver Group. With an even number of teams participating, equal number of teams will be assigned to Gold and Silver Groups. In case of an odd number of teams participating, the Gold Group will contain one more team than the Silver Group.

7.4.2.2. The Gold and Silver group will each perform one full Round Robin, where each team in the respective group will race against each other team in the group.

7.4.2.3. In the overall results of stage 2, all teams in the Gold Group will be ranked in front of all teams in the Silver Group.

7.4.2.4. No warning signal for races of stage 1 or 2 will be given after 2:00 pm on Sunday, 11 October, 2026 and racing format "B" will proceed directly to stage 3.

7.4.3. Stage 3 – Finals:

7.4.3.1. Grand Final: The first and second-placed teams in the overall results of will compete against each other until one team has two race wins.

7.4.3.2. Small Final: The third and fourth-placed teams in the overall results will compete against each other until one team has two race wins.

7.5. In order to conclude the event, the race committee may change or terminate any part of the format at any reasonable time considering the entries, weather, time constraints and other relevant factors in accordance with RRS Appendix D4.2 (b).

7.6. A shortened round robin may be scored as complete when equal or more than 80% of scheduled races have been completed in accordance with RRS Appendix D 4.3 (b).

7.7. In case less than 80% of the scheduled races have been completed in the shortened round robin it shall be used to break ties between teams in the group who all sailed each other in the preceding round robin in accordance with RRS Appendix D 4.3 (b).

8. CLASS FLAGS

The class flag is:

Class insignia	Background Colour/ Colour of the class insignia
Optimist	white / black

9. RACING AREAS

SI Addendum "Racing Area" shows the location of the racing area.

10. COURSES

10.1. The diagram in SI Addendum "Course Illustrations" shows the courses, including the approximate angles between legs, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left.

10.2. The waiting aera is situated below and to the left of the starting line, three yellow buoys indicate the windward and starboard boundary of this area. The waiting area is shown in the SI Addendum "Course Illustrations".

10.3. The pre-start area is outside of the waiting area and to leeward of the starting line.

11. MARKS

11.1. Rounding marks are orange cylinders.

11.2. The starting and finishing marks will be race committee vessels or spar buoys.

12. OBSTRUCTIONS

12.1. The race committee signal vessel is defined as an obstruction.

12.2. A small yellow buoy will be laid to leeward of the race committee signal vessel marking its anchor line. The buoy and the triangular area between the buoy and the rear quarters of the committee boat, is defined as an obstruction.

13. THE START

13.1. Changing RRS26, races will be started as followed:

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal	Sound signal	Means
3	Class flag	One	Warning signal
2	P flag	One	Preparatory signal
1	P flag removed	One	One minute
0	Class flag removed	One	Starting signal

13.2. There will be a gap of at least one minute between the start of a race and the warning signal for the next race.

13.3. The starting line is between staffs displaying orange flags on the starting marks.

13.4. The team ID numbers of the teams due to start will be displayed on the race committee boat at the warning signal. When the team ID numbers are displayed in this way, it overrides all prior communications, schedules or instructions. The Race Committee may at any time remove a particular race from the published sequence of races and run it later.

13.5. [NP] [DP] Boats of teams intending to race whose warning signal has not been made shall stay in the waiting area.
13.6. [NP] [DP] Boats may only leave the waiting area and enter the pre-start area after their warning signal.
13.7. Individual recalls will be signalled as per RRS 29.1, except that flag X will not be displayed longer than 2 minutes after the starting signal. This changes RRS 29.1.
13.8. The race committee will not communicate boats, that are OCS or have broken RSS29.1 on the water at any time. In a non-official and non-binding form such information may be displayed on a board on the supply ship located in the waiting area.
13.9. A boat that does not start within 2 minutes after her starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS A5.1 and A5.2.

14. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

14.1. To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark or the finishing line to a new position.
14.2. After the start of a race, the race committee may change the position of any mark, except the position of a mark towards which boats are racing. This changes RRS 33 and will not be a cause for redress. This changes RRS 61.4.b.1.

15. ABANDONMENT

15.1. The race committee may abandon a race for any reason. This changes RRS 32.1.
15.2. Abandonment shall be signalled verbally by the Race Committee and/or the Umpires. Abandoned races may be resailed, and if so, a new attention signal will be made as soon as practical. This changes RRS 32.1 and Race Signals.

16. THE FINISH

16.1. The finishing line is between staffs displaying blue flags on the finishing marks.
16.2. Boats that have finished shall return directly to the waiting area or ashore, keeping well clear of all boats racing and of all boats whose warning signal has been made.
16.3. [NP] [DP] While returning to the waiting area, boats shall sail around the course clockwise and leave the two red separation buoys to starboard.

17. PENALTY SYSTEM

17.1. The races will be umpired according to RRS D2.
17.2. Some races may have more umpires than others as determined by the chief umpire.
17.3. Add to RRS D2.3 “(g) Breaks one of the following rules of the sailing instruction: 12.2; 13.5; 13.6 and gains an advantage; 16.3. 23.2; 23.3.
17.4. The jury is an international jury in accordance with RRS 91(b). The right of appeal from an international jury decision is denied as provided in RRS 70.5.
17.5. The penalty for failing to comply with sailing instructions 25.2 may be disqualification (from the race/s in which the breach took place) of the team associated with the boat breaking this rule or any other penalty at the discretion of the jury. This changes RSS 62.4 (b).
17.6. The required red protest flag shall be attached to the competitor, his clothing, or his personal flotation device. It must be capable of being deployed at arm’s length from a concealed position, where it is clearly visible to both the protested boat and the umpires.

18. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

18.1. Time limits and target times in minutes are:

Target Time	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
8 – 10	20	10

18.2. Boats failing to finish within the time stated under finishing window after the first boat of the race sailed the course will be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A5.1 and A5.2.
18.3. Failure to meet the target time will not be ground for redress. This changes RRS 61.2.

19. HEARING REQUESTS

19.1. For protests and requests for redress other than protests under a rule listed in RRS D2.2, competitors shall conspicuously display a red flag and inform an umpire or the race committee immediately upon finishing. The umpires will, when appropriate, hear protests and requests for redress while afloat.
19.2. The protest time limit for competitors is two minutes after the last boat of the race to which the protest refers finished and for the race committee or jury it is 60 minutes after the last boat finishes the last race of the day.
19.3. A hearing may be declined if the outcome is not relevant for progress to the next round. This changes RRS 63.2(a).
19.4. When a hearing ashore is necessary the schedule will be published no later than 30 minutes after the end of the protest time limit.
19.5. Penalties for breaches of rules in the notice of race or sailing instructions marked [DP], or class rules, are at the discretion of the protest committee.

20. [DP] [NP] SAFETY REGULATIONS

20.1. Boats not leaving the harbour for a scheduled race, shall promptly notify the race office.
20.2. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity.
20.3. The race office telephone number is: +49 178 8443172

21. [DP] REPLACEMENT OF COMPETITORS OR EQUIPMENT

21.1. Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the race committee.
21.2. Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized in writing by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made in writing to the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity, which may be after the race.

22. [DP] EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

22.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions.
22.2. When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

23. [DP] [NP] IDENTIFICATION

23.1. Each team will be assigned an ID number which will be announced at the opening ceremony and posted on the online Official Notice Board no later than Wednesday, 07 October 2026, at 8:00 pm.
23.2. Bow numbers shall be displayed as described in addendum “Position bow numbers”.
23.3. Competitors are responsible for ensuring that their bow numbers are always complete.
23.4. If a bow number becomes detached, either partially or fully, competitors or their coaches must inform the race committee at the earliest opportunity, but no later than the start of their next race. The detached bow number must be replaced by the first start on the next day of racing. Replacement bow numbers are available at the race office.
23.5. Additionally, upon registration, each team receives colored bibs bearing the team IDs. These must be worn clearly visible over the life jackets.

24. OFFICIAL VESSELS

Official vessels will be identified as follows:

Race committee signal vessel	Potsdamer Yacht Club pennant
Race committee	White flag with “RC / Race Committee”
Umpire	White flag with “Umpire”
Press / spectators	White flag with “Press”
Rescue	Orange Boats, labelled “DLRG”

25. [DP] SUPPORT PERSONS

25.1. All support persons shall comply with the ‘Support Team Regulations’ posted at the event website.

25.2. Team leaders, coaches and other support persons shall stay at least 50 meters outside areas where boats are racing from the time of the preparatory signal for the first start until all boats have finished or retired or the race committee signals a postponement, general recall or abandonment.

26. TRASH DISPOSAL

26.1. Trash may be placed aboard official or support person vessels.

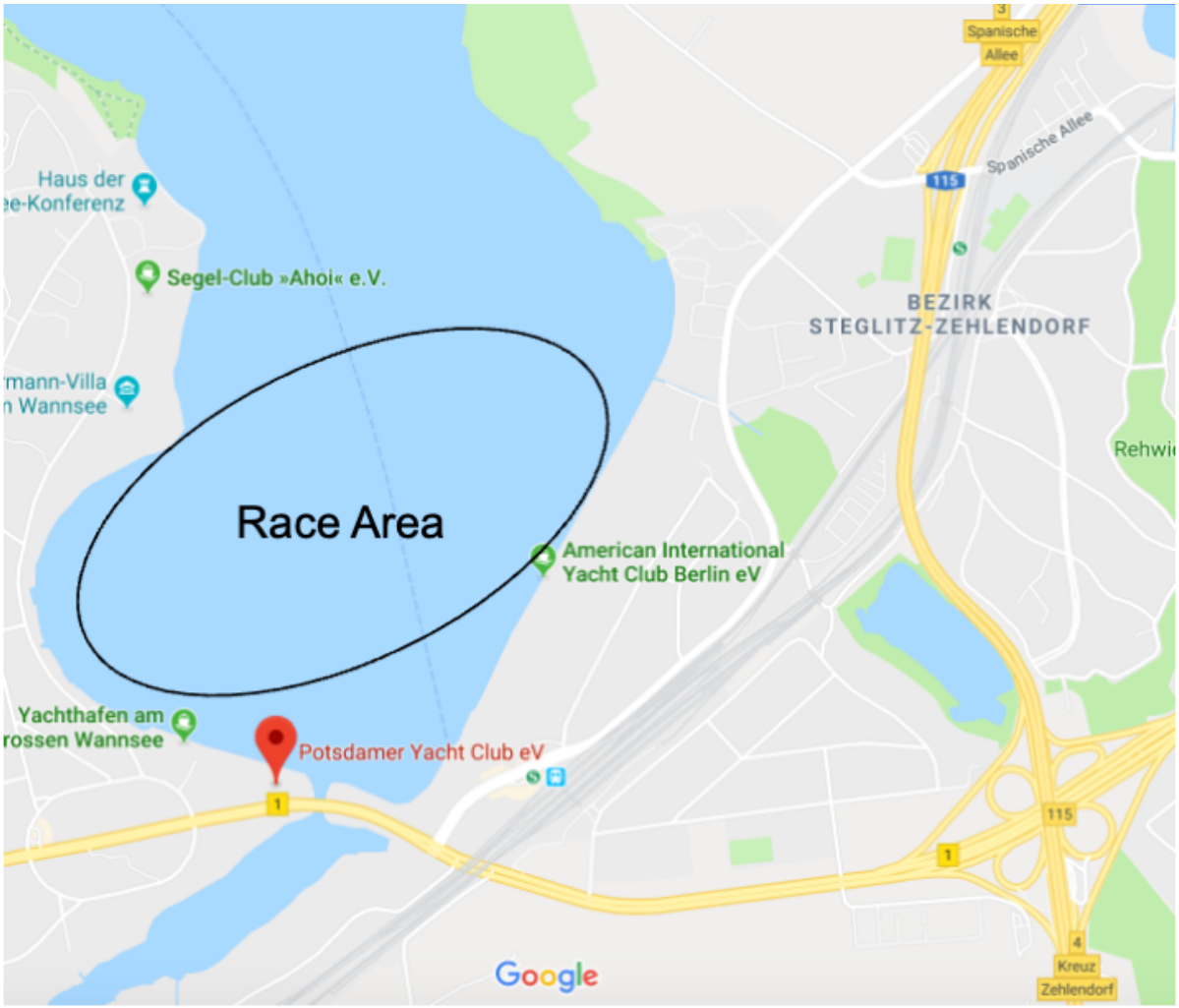
ADDENDUMS

I. Racing Area

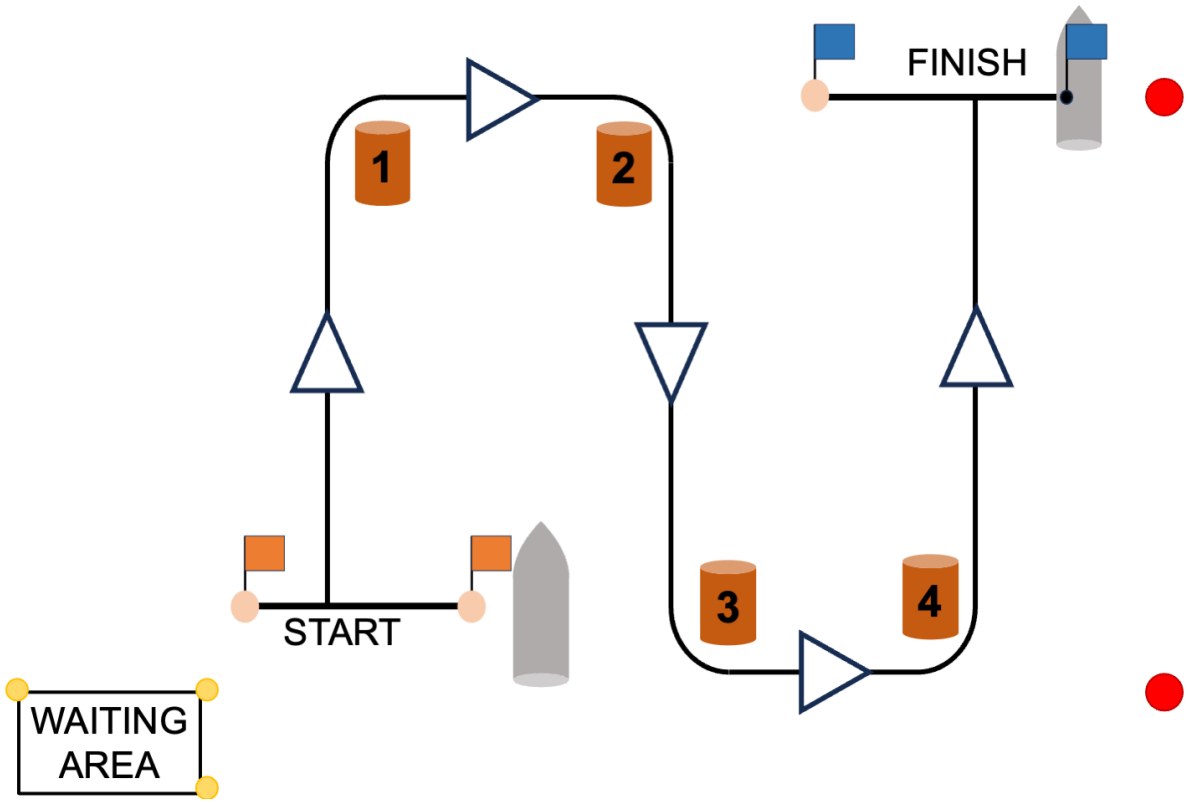
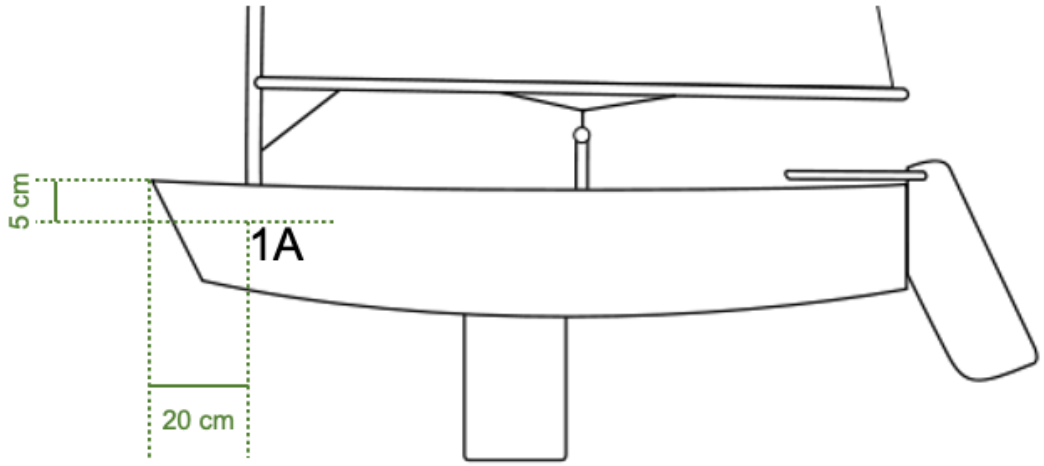
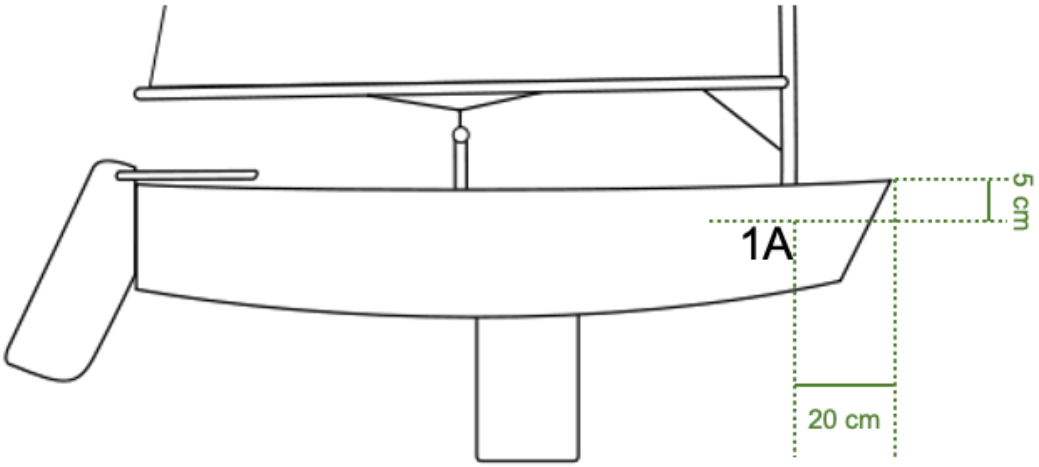
II. Course Illustration

III. Position bow numbers

ADDENDUM I – Racing Area



ADDENDUM II – Course Illustration



Position bow numbers