



Royal Canadian Yacht Club
141 St. George Street, Toronto, Ontario M5R 2L8

2027 CANADIAN OPTIMIST DINGHY CHAMPIONSHIPS

HOSTING PROPOSAL

**Proposed event dates
August 16–22, 2027**

A Canadian Championship in the heart of Toronto

Royal Canadian Yacht Club proposes to welcome Canada's Optimist sailors, coaches and families to its historic Island Clubhouse for a national championship combining high-quality racing, youth-focused hospitality and a memorable Toronto waterfront experience.

RCYC Island Clubhouse | Toronto Island



Executive Summary

The Royal Canadian Yacht Club (RCYC) is pleased to submit this proposal to host the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships in Toronto, Ontario. The proposed event would be based at RCYC’s Island Clubhouse on Toronto Island, with championship racing on Lake Ontario immediately south of the Island.

Founded in 1852, RCYC has extensive experience organizing international, North American, national and regional championships, including major youth and dinghy events. The Club combines experienced race management, strong volunteer resources, protected shoreside facilities, direct access to open-water racing, and modern race management technology in a distinctive Toronto Island setting.

RCYC’s objective is to work closely with the Canadian Optimist Dinghy Association (CODA) to deliver a safe, welcoming, and well-managed championship that serves sailors across the full competitive pathway. The proposal provides for championship fleet racing, team racing, Green Fleet activity, robust coach and safety support, daily sailor hospitality, youth-appropriate social and development programming, family-friendly amenities, and clear Safe Sport practices throughout the event.

Proposal Contact

Colin Clark, Director of Fleet
141 St. George St., Toronto, ON M5R 2L8
1-416-606-4368 | colin.clark@rcyc.ca

Proposal at a Glance

VENUE	RCYC Island Clubhouse	DATES	August 16–22, 2027
RACING AREA	Lake Ontario, south of Toronto Island	CAPACITY	Planning basis: up to 150 sailors*
FORMAT	Measurement, team racing, fleet racing + Green Fleet	ACCESS	Downtown Toronto; two major airports

*Planning capacity to be confirmed through the final site and logistics plan with CODA.

Why RCYC

- Championship racing area with open-water conditions, minimal current influence and multiple course location options.
- Protected launching and boat-storage areas with direct access from the harbour to Lake Ontario.
- Experienced race management, officials, volunteers, safety resources and practical experience with MarkSetBot and digital race management tools.
- A strong youth sailing environment with proven youth/dinghy championship experience and age-appropriate Green Fleet programming.
- Excellent national and international access through Toronto Pearson International Airport and Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport.
- A family friendly Island Clubhouse with hospitality, recreation and marine support, minutes from downtown Toronto.

Championship Overview & Proposed Schedule

RCYC proposes to host the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships from Monday, August 16 through Sunday, August 22, 2027. These dates fall within the traditional third week of August and are proposed subject to CODA confirmation and verification that they do not conflict with provincial school calendars or other class requirements.

Proposed Programme

Day	Programme
Monday, August 16	Competitor arrival; registration; measurement and equipment inspection; coach boat arrival and launching.
Tuesday, August 17	Measurement and registration continue; practice activity; opening meeting and welcome; team-racing preparation.
Wednesday, August 18	Canadian Optimist Team Racing Championship / team-racing programme; Green Fleet activity.
Thursday, August 19	Championship fleet racing Day 1; Green Fleet racing and skills programme; post-racing sailor hospitality.
Friday, August 20	Championship fleet racing Day 2; Green Fleet programme; post-racing sailor hospitality.
Saturday, August 21	Championship fleet racing Day 3; Green Fleet programme; championship social event / sailor dinner.
Sunday, August 22	Championship fleet racing Day 4; final races; awards and closing ceremony; departure and trailer loading.

The detailed programme, including the number of fleet races, daily race limits, team racing format, measurement requirements, and Green Fleet schedule, will be finalized with CODA and published in the Notice of Race and participant information package.

Number of Racing Days

The preliminary programme provides for five days of organized on-water competition: one team-racing day and four championship fleet racing days. Green Fleet activity would be offered in parallel on an age and experience appropriate schedule. The final number of racing days will be confirmed with CODA.

Host Venue

The championship venue will be RCYC's Island Clubhouse on Toronto Island. The Island Clubhouse provides a self-contained waterfront environment that allows sailors, coaches, officials and volunteers to operate within a defined event footprint while remaining minutes from downtown Toronto.

The venue can provide or coordinate:

- Protected launching and docking facilities
- Designated Optimist rigging and boat-storage areas
- Coach and support boat launching and berthing
- Registration and event headquarters
- Measurement and equipment inspection areas
- Jury, protest, and meeting rooms
- Competitor and coach briefing areas
- Food and beverage service
- Poolhouse shower and change room facilities for competitors, subject to final event access plan
- On-site or coordinated chandlery, parts, repair and marine service support
- Family recreation opportunities including pool, courts, bikes, canoes, kayaks and paddle boards, subject to availability and Club rules
- Youth-appropriate social and gathering spaces
- Volunteer facilities and secure race management storage
- Wireless internet and digital notice board support
- RCYC launch service and commercial water taxi access to downtown Toronto

Volunteer Base

RCYC has an established volunteer culture supporting its annual club racing, youth sailing programme, major regattas, team racing and championship events. The Club's event programme routinely requires race committee personnel, mark-set teams, safety crews, registration and measurement support, protest and jury administration, hospitality volunteers, launch area personnel, communications support and shoreside logistics teams. For the Optimist Championship, RCYC would appoint a dedicated Volunteer Coordinator and develop role-specific briefings with particular attention to youth participants and Safe Sport expectations.

Active Optimist Fleet

RCYC's junior sailing program introduces hundreds of youth sailors annually and maintains active Optimist participation through learn-to-race (Green) and race team programming, including the Club's High Performance program.

A Waterfront Championship Venue



Racing Area, Safety & Green Fleet

Championship racing is proposed for Lake Ontario racecourses immediately south of Toronto Island, with alternate racing areas available where appropriate. The area offers open-water championship conditions, minimal current influence, sufficient space for full-size Optimist courses, multiple course-location options based on wind direction and weather, and short direct access from the RCYC harbour.

The final racing-area plan will be developed with the Principal Race Officer and CODA to ensure suitable separation between championship racing, Green Fleet activity, coach vessels and other harbour or lake traffic.

Safety and Emergency Management

RCYC will prepare a championship-specific safety and emergency response plan coordinated among the Principal Race Officer, event leadership, Club operational departments, coaches, and appropriate marine authorities. The plan will address sailor accountability, severe weather and lightning, on-water incident response, abandonment and evacuation procedures, medical emergencies, communications, coach boat responsibilities, harbour traffic, and incident reporting.

Because the event involves minor athletes, RCYC will apply Sail Canada's Safe Sport policies and practices, including open and observable interactions, clear reporting pathways, age-appropriate supervision, appropriate standards of conduct for coaches and volunteers, and the separation of youth activities from any licensed adult functions.

Green Fleet

RCYC is prepared to provide both racing and fun activities for a Green Fleet. The Green Fleet programme would be designed to give developing sailors a positive championship experience without replicating the intensity of the championship fleet. Subject to CODA guidance, programming may include shorter race sessions, coach-supported learning, on-water games and skills activities, shore based clinics, post racing debriefs, daily recognition, and other age-appropriate activities. Green Fleet sailors would participate in appropriate opening, social and awards activities as part of the broader championship community.



Launching, Storage, Parking & Venue Access

A detailed arrival, unloading, rigging, launching, storage, and departure plan will be developed for the championship. RCYC's objective will be to create a clear flow from trailer arrival through unloading and boat storage, with separate arrangements for coach and support vessels.

Optimist Launching and Storage

- Designated rigging and boat-storage zones for the Optimist fleet
- Protected launch areas suitable for dinghy launching
- Staggered or sequenced launch procedures where required
- Defined coach boat launch and berthing arrangements
- Secure overnight equipment storage options where operationally available
- Daily launch area preparation and housekeeping by Club operations staff
- Clear emergency and egress lanes throughout the boat storage footprint

Parking, Trailers and Access

RCYC will prepare a competitor logistics guide covering recommended driving routes, trailer arrival windows, unloading procedures, vehicle and trailer storage, coach boat launching, ferry and water taxi transportation, and local marine service contacts. Because the Island Clubhouse is accessed by water from downtown Toronto, vehicle and trailer movements will be planned through the Club's shoreside operations and designated staging areas. Detailed parking allocations and trailer storage locations will be confirmed in the final site plan.

Sailor Capacity

For bid planning purposes, RCYC proposes to plan for a championship fleet of up to 150 sailors, together with coaches, support boats, officials, volunteers, and event partners. Final capacity will be confirmed through the detailed site, launching and storage plan, and in consultation with CODA.



Sailor Hospitality, Travel & Accommodation

Meals for Sailors

RCYC proposes to include daily sailor hospitality as part of the championship entry package. The working concept is to provide post-racing food or snacks and hydration after each championship fleet racing day, with appropriate hospitality also incorporated into team racing and Green Fleet activity. A championship sailor dinner or social event would provide the principal organized social gathering. The final meal plan will be developed with CODA within the event budget and the Notice of Race will clearly identify which meals are included in the entry fee and which additional guest tickets may be purchased.

Food Service for Families and Non-Sailors

Food and beverage service will be available for parents, coaches, officials, volunteers, and other non-sailors through RCYC facilities and event-specific service arrangements. Additional information on operating hours, menus, and any pre-purchase options will be included in the participant guide.

Airport Access

Toronto Pearson International Airport provides extensive domestic, North American and international air connections and is approximately 30 kilometres from downtown Toronto, depending on route. Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport is located on the downtown waterfront immediately adjacent to the harbour and provides regional air service. Final competitor information will include ground-transportation options from both airports.

Accommodation

Toronto offers a strong range of hotel and university residence options for teams, families, officials, and visiting guests. RCYC will seek preferred rates or dedicated booking arrangements where available, with emphasis on practical access to the Club's City Station and launch at 150 Cherry Street.

Recommended Hotels

- **The Broadview Hotel** — Best for RCYC access. East of downtown and substantially better positioned for a taxi or Uber to Cherry Street than most waterfront hotels; also a distinctive boutique option for visiting members or special guests.
- **Novotel Toronto Centre** — Best balance. Located at 45 The Esplanade near St. Lawrence Market, combining a downtown location with relatively convenient access to City Station.
- **The Westin Harbour Castle, Toronto** — Best waterfront experience. A strong choice for lake views and a traditional large-hotel setting; guests should allow for a taxi or Uber east to 150 Cherry Street for the RCYC launch.
- **Delta Hotels Toronto** — Excellent for guests arriving by train at Union Station, though less convenient to RCYC City Station than the first three options.
- **InterContinental Toronto Centre by IHG** — A good option for out-of-town guests arriving through Union Station, with straightforward taxi or Uber access to Cherry Street.

University of Toronto Summer Residence Options

Chestnut Residence; Graduate House; Innis College; New College; Oak House; St. Michael's College; Trinity College; University College.

Toronto as a Destination

The championship would offer families a distinctive travel experience combining the natural setting of Toronto Island with immediate access to Canada's largest city. Nearby attractions include the Toronto waterfront, CN Tower, Ripley's Aquarium of Canada, professional sports, museums, theatre, shopping, restaurants, parks and the Toronto Islands. This combination allows families to build a broader summer travel experience around the championship.

Race Management, Officials & Event Governance

RCYC will provide an experienced race management organization supported by qualified officials, trained volunteers, dedicated safety resources, and shoreside operations personnel. The event leadership structure is expected to include an Event Chair, Principal Race Officer, Chief Judge/Jury Chair, Technical/Measurement Lead, Regatta Manager, Volunteer Coordinator, Safety Lead, Shoreside Operations Lead, and Media/Communications Lead.

Principal Race Officer

RCYC maintains strong relationships with several highly respected Canadian Race Officers, including officials holding International Race Officer (IRO) and senior national race management certifications. Through the Club's extensive championship hosting experience, RCYC has worked with many of Canada's leading race management professionals across national, North American, and international events. Rather than naming a single individual at this stage, RCYC would be pleased to provide CODA with a shortlist of qualified candidates who have previously worked with the Club on championship events. RCYC would then work collaboratively with CODA to identify and appoint the Principal Race Officer best suited to the specific needs of the Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships.

Chief Judge

Proposed appointment: Andrew Alberti — World Sailing International Judge (IJ). Andrew Alberti is a World Sailing International Judge and Sail Canada National Umpire. He is a member of the Sail Canada Racing Rules Committee and Appeals Committee and has more than three decades of experience as a sailing judge and umpire. A longtime RCYC member and rules educator, Andrew has written RCYC's *Know Your Rules* series since 1997.

Officials' Housing and Meals

RCYC is prepared to provide or arrange appropriate accommodation and meals for required judges, umpires, race officials and the CODA class representative, subject to the agreed championship staffing plan and budget. The final arrangements will be confirmed in consultation with CODA before appointments are finalized.

Measurement and Equipment Inspection

RCYC will provide a dedicated measurement and inspection area with sufficient space for registration checks, equipment inspection, sail or hull checks as required, safety equipment review, and any spot checks during the championship. The detailed measurement programme will be developed with CODA and the appointed technical officials.

Notice of Race Development

The RCYC recognizes that the development and publication of the Notice of Race (NOR) is a critical element of a successful championship event. While it is premature to include a draft NOR as part of this bid submission, RCYC has extensive experience serving as Organizing Authority for major sailing events, including numerous National and Continental Championships across a variety of classes.

RCYC's Race Management and Organizing Committees have substantial expertise in drafting Notices of Race documents that align with World Sailing regulations, Sail Canada requirements, class rules, and event-specific objectives. This experience has been developed through the successful delivery of high-profile championships that have attracted competitors from across Canada and internationally.

Should RCYC be selected to host the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships, we would work collaboratively with the CODA to develop the NOR in accordance with the timelines, standards, and approval processes outlined in the bid requirements. Our approach would ensure that the NOR reflects CODA's objectives for the championship while providing competitors, parents, coaches, and support personnel with clear and comprehensive event information.

RCYC is committed to a partnership based planning process with CODA and would engage early with designated CODA representatives to review requirements, incorporate lessons learned from previous championships, and finalize all race documentation within the required publication schedule.

Race Management Technology

RCYC is committed to utilizing appropriate race management technology to enhance the quality, consistency, communication and efficiency of championship racing. The Club has practical experience with autonomous mark-laying technology, having incorporated MarkSetBot systems into major regattas during the 2026 season. This experience has provided both race management personnel and mark-set teams with familiarity in integrating the technology into championship race operations. RCYC also routinely supports digital notice board, scoring, results and event communication workflows ashore.

Subject to availability and final race management planning, RCYC will evaluate the use of MarkSetBot technology as part of the race management plan for the Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships. If utilized, autonomous mark-laying technology would support efficient course adjustments and improved course accuracy during changing wind conditions while complementing the experienced Principal Race Officer, race committee, mark-set and safety teams responsible for the conduct of racing.

Communications, Sponsorship & Event Services

Event Microsite

RCYC proposes to launch the event microsite and initial participant information page no later than eight months before the championship, targeted for December 2026, subject to CODA award of the event and confirmation of the official dates. The site will include the Notice of Race, registration links, accommodation information, travel and trailer logistics, charter information, coach boat requirements, Safe Sport contacts, and other participant resources.

Bilingual Communications

RCYC will provide the Notice of Race, event microsite and major championship communications in English and French as necessary and in consultation with CODA.

Sponsorship

RCYC anticipates pursuing appropriate event partnerships within the marine, tourism, hospitality, and corporate sectors to offset event costs and enhance participant experience. Potential support may include sailor hospitality, event apparel, photography, prizes, logistical support, and destination promotion. All sponsorships and event branding will be reviewed against CODA's existing partner commitments and applicable World Sailing advertising requirements so that there is no conflict with class partners.

Vendors, Parts, Repairs and Charters

RCYC has begun discussions with established Optimist suppliers and charter providers and will ensure on-site charter availability for competitors requiring boats. The Club will also coordinate access to parts, gear and repair support during the championship, with confirmed suppliers and service details published in advance of the event.

Coach and Spectator Boats

Coach boat access will be an integral part of the event logistics plan. RCYC will identify local marine-service and rental options for coach and spectator boats and will publish confirmed suppliers, insurance requirements, launching procedures and berthing arrangements in the participant guide. In addition, RCYC would explore an organized spectator boat programme using suitable Club assets and Member volunteer boats to provide parents, family members and invited guests with controlled opportunities to view racing from the water. Any such programme would be subject to vessel availability, weather, capacity, insurance, Sail Canada Safe Sport practices considerations, and the need to avoid interference with racing and coach operations.

Entry Fee, Awards & Social Programme

Anticipated Entry Fee

RCYC proposes the following championship entry fees: Green Fleet — \$225.00; Championship Fleet — \$375.00. These fees are intended to support the racing, safety, sailor hospitality, awards, and social programme described in this proposal.

Proposed Inclusions

- Championship race entry and administration
- Measurement and registration
- Daily racing and safety support
- Daily sailor hydration and post-racing hospitality
- Championship sailor dinner or principal social event
- Opening and closing ceremonies
- Championship prizes and awards
- Green Fleet recognition and age-appropriate activities
- Event communications, results, photography and media coverage
- Event-branded competitor registration package and keepsake, subject to sponsorship and budget

Awards, Giveaways, Raffles and Social Events

The social programme will be designed around the sailors and families. The working concept includes an opening welcome, daily post-racing sailor hospitality throughout the fleet racing programme, a championship dinner or family social event, Green Fleet recognition, final awards and closing ceremony, and event-branded competitor welcome packages/keepsakes. Where appropriate, complementary clinics, briefings or debriefs may be scheduled around racing. Any raffle or prize draw activity will be age-appropriate and compliant with applicable requirements. Additional activities may be supported by sponsors or event partners.

Youth-Focused Event Experience

RCYC will place particular emphasis on creating a championship environment that is competitive on the water and welcoming ashore. Youth participants will have designated changing and gathering areas, age-appropriate food and social programming, clear Safe Sport reporting contacts and an event culture focused on respect, sportsmanship and inclusion. Subject to final event access arrangements, the Island Clubhouse can also offer sailors and families ancillary amenities such as Poolhouse showers and changerooms, food and beverage facilities, the swimming pool, courts, and non-motorized recreation equipment.

Championship Experience & Why RCYC

RCYC has an established record of delivering major national and North American championships across dinghy and keelboat classes, including events with substantial fleet, coach, volunteer, and shoreside logistics requirements. Championship experience over the past decade includes the 2026 29er North American Championships, 2017 Optimist North American Championships, Albacore Canadian Championships, VX One Canadian Championships, J/105 Canadian Championships and the 2025 J/105 North American Championship. RCYC also hosted the Canadian Youth Championships in 2011. This breadth of experience is directly relevant to the operational demands of the Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships, particularly the Club's record with youth sailors, dinghy fleets, multi-day championships, and complex on-water support.

The Club's event operations regularly involve multiple race committees and racing areas, national and international officials, measurement and equipment inspection, jury and protest facilities, coach and support-boat management, competitor launching and storage, volunteer recruitment, hospitality, media, and results management.

For the 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships, RCYC would apply this championship infrastructure within a youth-focused operating plan built specifically around Optimist sailors, coaches and families.

Awards and Recognition

RCYC's ability to deliver major championship regattas has been recognized by both provincial and national sailing organizations, providing independent validation of the Club's race management, volunteer organization, shoreside operations, and overall event delivery.

Ontario Sailing – Recognition for the VX One Canadian Championship

RCYC was recognized by Ontario Sailing with the Regatta of the Year Award for its delivery of the VX One Canadian Championship. The event brought together a large and highly competitive one-design fleet and demonstrated the Club's ability to successfully manage a significant multi-day championship both on and off the water.

The championship combined professional race management, strong volunteer participation, technology-supported race operations and a comprehensive shoreside program. This recognition is particularly relevant to the Optimist Canadian Championship bid because it reflects RCYC's ability to manage the logistical and operational demands associated with a large one-design fleet.

Sail Canada – Recognition for the J/105 North American Championship

RCYC was recognized by Sail Canada with the Regatta of the Year Award for its hosting of the 2025 J/105 North American Championship. The championship welcomed 18 teams to Toronto for a 12-race series conducted in a wide range of conditions, from very light winds to 20–28 knots on the final day.

The event required coordination across race management, volunteer resources, competitor services, marine operations, hospitality and shoreside programming. Recognition from Canada's national sailing authority provides further evidence of RCYC's ability to successfully deliver championships to national and international standards.

Demonstrated Championship Capability

Together, these recognitions reinforce RCYC's established record as a championship host. They complement the Club's recent and historical delivery of significant events including the 2017 Optimist North American Championship, Canadian Youth Championships, Albacore Canadian Championships, VX One Canadian Championships, J/105 North American Championship and the 2026 29er North American Championship.

RCYC believes this combination of proven experience, external recognition and an ongoing commitment to youth sailing provides a strong foundation for hosting the 2027 Optimist Canadian Championship.

Testimonials / Feedback

RCYC has an established record of delivering high-level one-design and championship racing on Lake Ontario. Recent and relevant examples include the 2026 29er North American Championships, 2025 J/105 North American Championship, VX One Canadian Championships, Albacore Canadian Championships and the 2017 Optimist North American Championships. Ontario Sailing also recognized RCYC's delivery of the 2025 VX One Canadian Championship with an Ontario Sailing award, reinforcing the Club's reputation for strong race management and event execution.

Recent participant and class feedback has highlighted the quality of RCYC's race management, volunteer support and championship delivery.

RCYC's race management capabilities are further supported by Sail Canada's selection of the Club to host its Advanced Race Management training.

Our Invitation

RCYC welcomes the opportunity to partner with CODA to deliver a safe, competitive and memorable 2027 Canadian Optimist Dinghy Championships in Toronto.

Our objective is to provide Canada's Optimist sailors with championship-quality racing while creating an event that families, coaches, volunteers and officials will remember for its organization, hospitality and distinctive island setting.

