

International Topper Class European Championships 2026



Vikings Sailing Club, Malta
Saturday 28th to Tuesday 31st March 2026

NOTICE OF RACE

The organising authority is Vikings Sailing Club and the
International Topper Class Association



Version 1.0
Published September 19th 2025



PREAMBLE

The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule and the international jury may refuse to hold a hearing in respect of any such hearing request. This changes RRS 60.1 and 63.2

RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by *the rules* as defined in *The 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*.
- 1.2 If there is a conflict between languages, the English text takes precedence.

2 ELIGIBILITY

- 2.1 The event is open to all boats of the International Topper class using either a 5.3 m² or 4.2 m² sail.
- 2.2 There will be separate championships for competitors using 5.3 m² sails and 4.2 m² sails (the 5.3 Championship and 4.2 Championship respectively).
- 2.3 Every competitor must be a current member of a National Association of the International Topper Class.
- 2.4 Only the person listed as the competitor on the entry form for a boat shall compete in that boat in the event.

3 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS [DP]

- 3.1 Each boat shall display the 2026 Event Number of the competitor sailing the boat (unless otherwise agreed in advance with the Organising Authority) in accordance with the International Topper Class rules. Competitors who do not already have an Event Number should apply in advance for allocation of a number:
 - 3.1.1 GBR sailors should apply to the GBR Topper Association (secretary@itca-gbr.co.uk)
 - 3.1.2 IRL sailors should apply to the IRL Topper Association (membership.irl@gmail.com)
 - 3.1.3 Other nationalities should apply to the International Secretary (secretary@itcaworld.org)
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of the competitor to obtain and fix the Event Numbers to the sail and boat in accordance with the Class Rules.
- 3.3 Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the organising authority. Competitors may be requested to wear race bibs, with event sponsors' logos, over all other items of apparel.

- 3.4 4.2 m² sails shall not be used by boats in the 5.3 Championship, and 5.3 m² sails shall not be used by boats in the 4.2 Championship.

Competitors under 18 years of age

- 3.5 Each competitor under 18 years of age on the 28th March 2026 shall submit a fully completed and signed parent/guardian consent form to the Organising Authority at registration, among other things identifying the adult that will be responsible for that competitor at all times during the championships ('responsible adult'). This consent form will be available on the ITCA OurClubAdmin website and may be automatically emailed to each competitor upon completing the online entry form.
- 3.6 The responsible adult for each such competitor shall be present with the competitor when they register at the event. They shall provide the Organising Authority with a mobile phone number on which they can be contacted at any time during the event. They shall be responsible for that competitor at all times during the event, whether the competitor is ashore or afloat. They shall ensure that either they themselves are available to take immediate responsibility for that competitor at all times, or they have notified the Organising Authority of another responsible adult (acting in loco parentis) that is willing and able to do so while they are not available (and shall provide the Organising Authority with a mobile phone number on which that alternative responsible adult can be contacted during that time).

4 APPLICATION & ENTRY PROCESS

- 4.1 Application for entry shall be made at: <https://itcaworld.ourclubadmin.com/login.php>
- 4.2 Entry fee's are shown below, there is a sliding scale of fees to encourage early entries:
- (1) £215 for entries received on or before December 28th 2026.
 - (2) £250 for entries received thereafter, up to and including March 27th 2026. Entries, in this case, are subject to confirmation by the secretary, and will only be accepted if, in the opinion of the Race Committee, there is adequate safety cover available.
- 4.3 The total number of entries is restricted to 100 competitors.
- 4.4 If an entry is cancelled by the competitor their entry fee will be refunded as follows:
- (1) 50% of the entry fee paid is refundable for cancellations received by 1st March 2026
 - (2) No entry fee is refundable for cancellations received after 1st March 2026.
- 4.5 In all instances, refunds are processed on the credit or debit card used to pay for application or entry. Please ensure the expiry date of the credit card used for payment is after April 30 2026. Credit card details are not retained by the entry system and refunds cannot be made to another card. If the card expires and a refund is required, the refund will be by another method at the expense of the competitor.

5 REGISTRATION

- 5.1 Registration will be open at the venue from 10:00 to 17.00 on Friday, 27th March 2026.
- 5.2 Each competitor shall register in person before racing and provide proof of current membership of a National Association of the International Topper Class.

6 EQUIPMENT INSPECTION [DP]

- 6.1 There will be no requirement for all boats and equipment to be inspected prior to the start of the championships.
- 6.2 Boats and equipment may, however, be inspected at any time during the championships.
- 6.3 The fact that race officials may conduct inspections of a boat does not reduce the responsibilities of each competitor set out in this Notice of Race.

7 CHAMPIONSHIP FORMATS

- 7.1 The 5.3 Championship is expected to consist of single Championship series.
- 7.2 The 4.2 Championship is expected to consist of a single Championship series.

8 SCHEDULE

- 8.1 There will be a competitor briefing that all competitors and responsible adults should attend on Saturday 28th March – expected to be at 10.00 am, exact timing to be posted on the official notice board.
- 8.2 Racing is scheduled to take place for each class on each day from Saturday 28th to Tuesday 31st March inclusive. The intention is to schedule three races for each fleet in each class on each day.
- 8.3 The warning signal for the first race on Saturday 28th March is scheduled to be at 12.00.
- 8.4 On the last day of the event no warning signal will be made after 15:30.
- 8.5 For each class, races on each day will normally be sailed back-to-back, with no opportunity to return to shore between races. The intention is that on each day competitors will be afloat for no longer than 6 hours without a break ashore, although this time may be extended to allow a race in progress to be completed.

9 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 9.1 Sailing Instructions will be published on the ITCA website and the Official Event website prior to the event, and will be displayed on the Official Notice Board at the event. Paper copies **will not** be available at the Event.

10 VENUE

- 10.1 Attachment A shows the location of the venue.

11 THE COURSES

- 11.1 The courses will be inner and/or outer loop trapezoids as detailed in the Sailing Instructions.

12 PENALTY SYSTEM

- 12.1 RRS Appendix T, Arbitration, will apply, with the word “will” replaced by the word “may” in the first sentence of RRS T2.
- 12.2 Appendix P, Special Procedures for Rule 42, will apply.

13 SCORING

- 13.1 The Low Point System of Appendix A will apply, as amended by the Sailing Instructions.
- 13.2 RRS 90.3(e) will apply with ‘24 hours’ replaced by ‘30 minutes’.
- 13.3 In each Championship, at least four races must be completed to constitute the Championship.
- 13.4 Each boat’s Championship score will be the total of her scores in all series races after discards (as detailed in the Sailing Instructions).
- 13.5 When a Championship is not properly constituted prizes will still be awarded, however the relevant Overall Championship Trophy will not be awarded.

14 SAFETY

- 14.1 The expectation is that most competitors in these championships will have made their own private arrangement, as part of a group, for a coach or other support person to support them both ashore and on the water. Those coaches and other support persons will be required to play a role in providing safety support to **all** competitors on the water, not just their own competitors.
- 14.2 Competitors that are not part of such a group may be able to arrange support through the Organising Authority – see contact details below.
- 14.3 The Organising Authority will also arrange for a small number of additional patrol vessels to be on the water, to provide a limited amount of additional safety support.

15 SUPPORT VESSELS & DRIVERS [DP][NP]

- 15.1 Only support vessels and drivers registered with the Organising Authority will be permitted in the racing area.
- 15.2 Support vessels and drivers shall be pre-registered online at <https://itcaworld.ourclubadmin.com/login.php> and a fee of £50 per vessel paid. The driver(s) of any support vessel shall also sign in at the Race Office before going afloat at the venue.

- 15.3 All support vessels and support persons shall comply with all applicable rules and regulations set out in the Sailing Instructions and/or posted on the official notice board.

16 PRIZES

- 16.1 Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the event at the discretion of ITCA, Vikings Sailing Club, and the event sponsor(s).

17 RISK STATEMENT

- 17.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing is hers alone." The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during or after the regatta.

Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event each competitor (and their parents/guardians in the case of competitors under 18 years of age) agrees and acknowledges that:

- 17.1.1 They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- 17.1.2 They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- 17.1.3 They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- 17.1.4 Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- 17.1.5 The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organisers does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- 17.1.6 The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- 17.1.7 It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information provided for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

18 INSURANCE [NP]

Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3,000,000 / €3,000,000 per incident or the equivalent.

19 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

- 19.1 Vikings Sailing Club aims to minimise the environmental impact of hosting the Championship and, in conjunction with the club's sustainability actions, we urge all competitors and visitors to bring re-useable water bottles.

20 PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 20.1 The personal information you provide to the organising authority will be used to facilitate your participation in the event. If you have agreed to be bound by the Racing Rules of Sailing and the other rules that govern the event (the rules), the legal basis for processing that personal information is a contract. If you are not bound by the rules, the legal basis for processing that personal information is a legitimate interest. Your personal information will be stored and used in accordance with the organising authority's privacy policy. When required by the rules, personal information may be shared with the national authority of the host venue, your national authority and/or World Sailing. The results of the event and the outcome of any hearing or appeal may be published.

21 PHOTOGRAPHY CONSENT [DP]

- 21.1 By entering the Championships competitors and their supporters accept that they may be photographed and/or videoed participating in the event and/or using the Championship facilities and they consent to the taking of such images and to the use, reuse, publication and republication of such images in any media, in conjunction with the competitors name or not,

without compensation and without the competitor's approval of such images or any use thereof.

- 21.2 Boats may be required to carry cameras, sound equipment or positioning equipment as specified by the organising authority.

22 FURTHER INFORMATION

- 22.1 For information on local accommodation and things to do in the area, please visit <https://www.itcaworld.org/events/topper-Europeans 2026>

For further information about the event, please contact:

John Heyes (Secretary General)	secretary@itcaworld.org
Andy Millington (President)	president@itcaworld.org
Vikings Sailing Club	sailing@vikings.mt

ATTACHMENT A – VENUE

Vikings SC is situated in Floriana, Marsamxett Harbour, providing safe launching.

The Race course area will be outside the harbour, off the Sliema shore, providing an opportunity for spectators to follow the racing.

