

2010 Optimist Pre-Race Checklist

Safety Items: these things MUST be checked and tended to. Some are Class rules*.

- ___ *Airbags fully inflated firm, but not tight. At least three straps on each external bag.
- ___ *Bowline 8m (or $\geq 26'3''$), secured to mast step and one bowline in the end for towing. Absolutely no other knots allowed in line. Must not be lead through hole in bow rail, but led through a separate loop is OK. Bowline must float and be ≤ 5 mm minimum diameter.
- ___ Bowline properly coiled and stowed (no locking hitches)
- ___ *Safety shackle on mainsheet boom block. **MUST BE "NON-FOULING" TYPE.**
- ___ Stopper knot to prevent mainsheet from coming out of ratchet block.
- ___ *Boom bridle no more than 4" at widest place from boom.
- ___ *At least one rigid 3.5 liter (two 1 gallon size are highly recommended) tied into boat.
- ___ *Daggerboard tied into boat.
- ___ *Mast tie-in line or mast clamp (line is better, both are great together) Check operation..
- ___ *USCG approved life jacket fully buckled and/or zipped.
- ___ Drinking water.

Other Class Rule Items:

- ___ *Praddle or small paddle.
- ___ *Whistle must be attached by lanyard to lifejacket.
- ___ *Sail band within mast band limits.
- ___ *IODA button on sail.
- ___ *Protest flag (if you know the rules well enough to be able to follow through on a protest)
- ___ *All sail and corner ties within 10mm of mast or boom. None missing.

Performance Items: highly recommended if you want to GO FAST!

- ___ Boom right side up and bridle freely led (not bound by sail ties).
- ___ All sail and corner ties secured with square knot and a half, pulled very tightly.
- ___ All corner ties (including at aft end of boom) tight so sail nearly touches spar.
- ___ All sail ties hold sail lightly to mast and a "pinky" width from boom.
- ___ Boom preventer (bling line) properly led and adjusted.
- ___ Outhaul led 2:1 and able to be adjusted.
- ___ Sprit adjuster led 2:1 and with appropriately located handle.
- ___ Mainsheet led proper direction thru ratchet block (does it click?)
- ___ Tell tales on luff and leach.
- ___ Vang in proper position and working.
- ___ Mast rake checked and adjusted.
- ___ Tiller extension joint inspected.
- ___ Attitude adjustment?*

**** THE SINGLE MOST IMPORTANT PERFORMANCE ITEM IS YOUR ATTITUDE. A CHEERFUL "WINNING" ATTITUDE CAN OVERCOME THE MOST SERIOUS PROBLEMS, ON AND OFF THE RACE COURSE.**