



SYC Junior Sailing FAQs:

What is an Optimist Dinghy?

An Optimist is the most popular one-design sailboat in the WORLD! More than that, it's a great boat for kids to learn in. Many of the best sailors in the world started out in the Optimist.

Who are the instructors?

Our coaches are US Sailing certified instructors who have completed training from US Sailing and have certifications in CPR and First Aid. They are excellent sailors and great teachers.

Can I watch my child sail?

Short answer is no, at least not from a close distance. Please go to the grill or bar to watch, or find an area that you can watch but your sailor is not aware that you are watching. You will have a lot of opportunities to watch your child sail, it is important to keep in mind that parents on the dock can be a big distraction for new sailors. Your presence can distract your sailor, causing them to miss important instructions. It may also place your sailor in conflict of authority, as in they may seek your guidance in an effort to disregard instruction from the coach. For safety reasons, it is very important for new sailors to focus entirely on their coach and the instructions. It is usually best to wait until the class is on the water to watch from the Junior Dock area. If coach requests that you give a little distance between yourself and the class, please do not take it personally. They are as always, looking out for the best interest of your sailor and to give them the best experience possible.

What about bad weather?

Safety is our number one priority. We never sail in thunder or lightning, but we will sail in the rain if the wind is good. It is important that you send your sailor dressed

appropriately for the weather that day with at least one change of clothes. Clothing in layers is always a good choice, your sailor can then find the appropriate number of layers to wear that keeps them comfortable. It is important to keep in mind that although there are land-based activities we can do with sailors if the weather doesn't cooperate, we continue to operate with limited appropriate indoor access for all of our clinic groups, specifically indoor space that is appropriate to use for a learning environment. Due to these limitations, cancellations of clinic sessions or early dismissals due to severe weather are definitely possible. Notifications will be sent out by direct email, or through Team Snap, depending on which group your sailor is in.

What should my child wear to Clinic?

Sailors should wear comfortable clothes that allow a good range of motion. They will be moving around and certainly get wet, so quick drying clothes are best. Make sure to reference the above section on weather as it relates to dressing appropriately, layering clothes, and having spare clothing to change into. We require all sailors to wear US Coast Guard approved lifejackets, preferably those that are designed for sailing. Lifejackets can be found locally West Marine and most sporting goods stores. You will want to look for range of motion, comfort and fit. It is imperative that the lifejacket fit properly and is comfortable for the sailor, an uncomfortable life jacket can be the difference between a good and a poor experience for a new sailor. To test for appropriate fit, have your child put their arms straight up and then attempt to pull the life jacket over their head. The life jacket should not be able to be pulled up and off of their body. It is always a good idea to write your child's name visibly in permanent marker on the back of his or her lifejacket, as kids often come to class with similar lifejackets. Sailing barefoot or in flip flops is strongly discouraged, close-toed shoes are preferred with water shoes or sailing boots being the best option. Sailors who attend during the months of December – February should own and bring each day appropriate sailing cold weather gear such as hats, gloves, wetsuits, dry suits, layered clothing, dry shoes, and multiple changes of clothes.

What should my child bring to Clinic?

- Lifejacket that fits properly.
- Sun Protection – Sunscreen, Hat & Sunglasses - long sleeved Rash Guards are also great!
- Refillable Water Bottle - Hydration is very important.
- Change of clothes, towel, dry socks/shoes (winter) – Very Important, especially on cooler days.
- Bag for Personal Belongings

- Pen and notepad – (Green Fleet & Advanced Fleet)
- Lunch - Sailors should bring a lunch from home when possible. Although it is possible to order lunch from SYC, wait times can be excessive.

Please LABEL EVERYTHING – including lunch boxes, containers, bags, lifejackets and shoes. All personal belongings must go home each day.

DO NOT BRING: any valuables, jewelry, or non-cell phone electronics. SYC is very safe, but we can't be responsible for items left ashore. Sailors are encouraged to be self-sufficient and aware of their belongings at all times.

Can any of my sailor's gear or equipment be stored at SYC?

- **Harbor Mice Group**

- All personal belongings, including life jackets should return home with the sailor each day.
- Harbor Mice Sailors are strongly encouraged to use club optimist equipment only, and keep any privately owned equipment at home until the sailor moves to Green Fleet.

- **Green Fleet Group**

- All personal belongings, including life jackets and anything listed in the above section "What should my child bring to clinic?" should return home with the sailor each day.
- Optimist Sailboat (hull only) should have an assigned rack, and can be stored at SYC throughout the year for an additional storage fee.
- Optimist Dolly, Spars, Blades and any other boat equipment can be stored at SYC in the sail storage building located by the Junior Dock.
 - Green Fleet sailors can keep their sails/spars/blades on either side of the door stored upright, de-rigged.
 - It is highly recommended that if your sailor will be away from SYC for a long period of time, such as an entire clinic quarter, that you bring all equipment home during that period. SYC is not responsible for any private equipment stored on-site.

- **Advanced Fleet Group**

- All personal belongings, including life jackets and anything listed in the above section “What should my child bring to clinic?” should return home with the sailor each day.
- Optimist Sailboat (hull only) should have an assigned rack, and can be stored at SYC throughout the year for an additional storage fee.
- Optimist Dolly, Spars, Blades and any other boat equipment can be stored at SYC in the sail storage building located by the Junior Dock.
 - Advanced Fleet Sailors may store 1 rigged sail in the standing tubes to the north side of the sail storage building, and 1 complete set of blades on the racks per boat stored & racked at SYC. South side of the building is for club sail storage, it is definitely in your best interest not to store your sail on the south side, or you may find it in a Harbor Mice boat one day!
 - Advanced Fleet Sailors are encouraged not to keep all spare equipment such as racing sails, blades, spars that they do not regularly use on site at SYC, and instead store this equipment at home. SYC unfortunately does not have room for all of this additional gear, and due to space constraints idle equipment can often be buried and possibly damaged.

Registration, Clinic Fees and other related information:

How do I register for the Sailing Clinics?

Each clinic group has its own registration form that needs to be filled out online. Some clinic registrations are available on the SYC website and available to all to register. Other clinic groups are invitation or otherwise restricted, and will only be sent out to those approved to register. Some clinics register multiple times a year, whereas other groups may only register once a year.

How do the clinic fees work?

The clinic fee covers one clinic quarter per sailor; Winter, Spring, Summer or Fall. They are all billed through member accounts, including fees for Sponsored guests.

Sponsored guests will need to pay their sponsor directly prior to attending clinic, so at the time the clinic is billed the sponsor can pay the fee on your behalf. Clinic fees for each group are posted on the SYC website under the information section for each group. They are also listed in your selection at the time of registration.

What does the clinic fee cover?

The clinic fee covers your sailor's attendance to clinic at SYC, that are scheduled for that specific quarter. In addition, it covers the use of any equipment by your sailor on site at SYC that is provided for that clinic if any, and the use of facilities or equipment at SYC needed for the clinic group you are registered with. It covers the expense of your coach(s) for practices and regattas hosted at SYC that are listed as part of the clinic schedule.

What does the clinic fee not cover?

- The clinic fee does not cover individual or group regatta registration fees, or any other expenses related to the attendance of a sailor to a regatta.
- Expenses for coach(s) to travel with a clinic group to a regatta at another venue, including but not limited to transportation, lodging, food, extra coaching time before or after travel events at the venue.
- Travel expenses for transportation of needed coaching equipment or transport trailers to regattas.
- Replacement or repair of any privately owned equipment that is lost or damaged, regardless of circumstances surrounding how said equipment was lost or damaged.
- Storage of any privately owned boats and related equipment at SYC.
- The clinic fee does not cover any other expenses to the sailor/parent/family that may not be listed here, that is not listed in the above section "What does the clinic fee cover?"

Do you issue refunds if requested?

- Requests for refunds must be sent directly to the Waterfront Director in writing, to then be reviewed and determined on by the Junior Activities Chairman. Refunds are considered on a case-by-case basis, with each request reviewed individually.
- Refunds or fee adjustments are not issued for clinic cancellations.
- Refunds or fee adjustments are not issued for sailors who cannot attend weekday practices, if such practices are offered.

- Refunds or fee adjustments are not issued for sailors who have a schedule conflict and choose not to or cannot attend a scheduled clinic practice.
- Refunds or fee adjustments are not issued for sailors who register for clinic and then decide not to attend further, but do not communicate or otherwise express that they no longer plan to attend. Sailors who wish to withdraw from a clinic entirely should notify the Waterfront Director as soon as possible.

Please let us know if you have any additional questions, and we look forward to seeing you at Clinic!

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