



CANADIAN OPTIMIST DINGHY ASSOCIATION
ASSOCIATION CANADIENNE DE VOILE EN OPTIMIST

2017-01-13

Dear Fiona Kidd, Secretary of the IODA;

Please accept our request for a proposed change to the conditions of championship eligibility.

Rule 9.2 states that championship eligibility is restricted to: *Any boy or girl may enter until 31st December of the year in which he or she attains the age of 15 years.*

Our recommendation is to alter the conditions of eligibility to: *Any boy or girl may enter so long as he or she has not reached their 16th birthday on the first day of the championship event.*

CODA understands the importance of setting an age limit for class fairness however the current condition of eligibility has two major flaws:

- 1) Creates a condition of unfair racing by benefiting sailors born early in the calendar year and penalizing those born later in the year.
- 2) Risks aging-out youth sailors early in the racing career who are not physically size-ready for the next class of racing —ultimately, we potentially force a decrease in sailing interest and continuity.

Our aim with the modified eligibility rule is to increase fairness of Optimist competitions and keep the enthusiasm for sail racing for the long term.

Thank you for considering this change.

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