

Chartering a Boat. As easy as 1-2-3..

So you want to go to an event but can't take your boat? Don't worry. The Optimist class is very fortunate to have several supporters who rent boats.

How does chartering work?

Several companies provide rental packages at most USODA events. Few are the actual builder, such as McLaughlin. Others are importers or resellers. The costs associated with the charters are normally in the \$300-\$500 range per event. The boats are delivered to the regatta site and typically available at least one day before racing. How easy is it to charter? Easy as 1-2-3...

1. Who charters?

The first step is to read the NOR. At the end of all USODA NORs is a section for vendors and charter companies. If there are no supporters listed then you should contact the Regatta Chair. They may have additional info. If you are planning to fly to several events then you may want to compare NOR's and pick a company that travels to all of them. This way you can work consistently with one company, to ensure your charter is just the way you need it.

2. When should you reserve a charter boat?

For most events people will reserve their boat about a month in advance. A good rule of thumb is to reserve a charter boat about the same time you book your airplane tickets. Most charter companies travel with spare hulls but it is not a given.

3. What equipment can you charter?

All the companies rent hulls that come with a dolly and top cover. The hulls are typically their standard hull. They will come with everything associated with the hull. Airbags, lines, mainsheet, mainsheet block, praddle, bowline. Most companies also rent spars and blades. Some companies allow you to pick the type of spars and blades.



4. What equipment must you bring?

You will always need to bring your sail with sail ties. If you do not want to travel with your sail then you can either ship it ahead of time to the hotel or buy a new one at the event. It is highly recommended to travel with the sail wrapped around the boom. They really protect the fragile sail from getting flattened. Personal gear like foul weather gear, life jackets, watches and timers are not available for charter. Make sure you pack this stuff. Standard hulls mean standard gear. The charter companies rent their standard hull as it will be sold. If you sail with a 4:1 mainsheet system then you will want to bring those blocks and mainsheet. Some charter companies do not provide wind indicators, mast locks, or protest flags. If you have a special mainsheet then you should bring it. Most charter companies list what is included on their websites. If you have any doubt it is always a good idea to call.



5. How do you find your charter boat at the event?

Most of the charter companies name tag and stage their charter boats. If they are sponsor of the class they should have a trailer on site and a representative present. If the “vendor village” is not obvious then checking in at registration is always a good idea. They can usually point you in the right direction. We hope these tips help planning your next event. All the vendors and USODA truly want Opti sailing to be a fun and exciting experience. If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to call.



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