

Newsletter 2026 August



Dear Sailor, dear Family, dear Trainers,

We hope that you all enjoyed your summer break.

We finished the 2025-2026 Season and are about to start the new season with the next PM in Geneva. During the 2025-2026 season we had good competition during the PMs, as well as the selection process and amazing results at the international championship worth remembering.

As we start the new season, we want to look back at the last season and inform you about planned changes and program updates.

2025-2026 PM Championship

The last PM took place in Estavayer-le-Lac in May, the winner of the 2025-26 PM Season are:

Overall

1. Elliot Novara
2. Tim Baile
3. Lou Eisenhut

Girls

1. Lou Eisenhut
2. Claudia Boller Mehler
3. Melisa Adakan

Benjamins

1. Carlo Milan
2. Arthur Bonhomme
3. Gian Kaufmann

Congratulations!

The price-giving will take place in Lugano, during the Price-giving of the Swiss Championship.

[Complete Ranking](#)

World Championship

World Championship was held in Tangiers during the second half of June. Our team consisting of Elliot Novara, Tim Baile, Adrian Koller, Lou Eisenhut, Dimitri Wälchli with coach

Adrian Barcelo Martin and Team-Leader Frédérique Radü-Stoessel (our Secretary), represented Switzerland.

Elliot Novara had an incredibly good regatta and **won the Silver Medal** at the 2026 IODA World Championship. We will celebrate this great result and honor Elliot with a commemorative prize during the Swiss Championship!

[Complete results](#)



European Championship

European Championship was during July in Gdynia, Poland. Team-members were Enya Albisser, Mia Mateu Eberhard, Melisa Adakan for Girls and Tommaso Magnetti, Erik Thibault, Aston Muntmark and Edouard Despature for Boys, with Edoardo Cingolani as Coach and Sandra Mateu Eberhard, our Vice President, as the Team Leader.

Melisa finished a remarkable 27th and all the girls were in the Gold fleet!
Among the boys, Tommaso finished best at the 75th place

[Complete results here](#)



SST Team Racing Camp

This year SST invited the Optimist Class once again to the Lausanne Team-Race training in May. The 2 national teams formed 3 teams, and we had 4 additional teams join the camp.

We overall like the concept of doing a Team Racing Camp together with SST and across regions but also recognize that wind conditions in Lausanne are not always as we'd want them to be during spring.

We are in discussions with SST for 2027 and are looking into options of having the next year's Team Racing Camp in St. Moritz during the first half of June. Please stay tuned.

Selection Regattas 2027

The Swiss Optimist Committee decided to change the selection regattas for next year.

There were several criteria: driving distance February-April period, chances to have a lot of races, and representativity for the upcoming Worlds and Europeans.

2027 The selection regattas will be:

- 1. February 26-28: Centenari Regatta, Riva del Garda, ITA**
- 2. April 18-24: CIP Saint Raphael, FRA**

For sure there is no event close to us where the weather can be guaranteed, but overall we believe that these regattas will provide good mix of conditions and good fleets in acceptable driving distance.

If you have any opinion, or you want to share your experiences, stay in contact to your regional representative.

2028 Selection Regattas will be confirmed in the summer 2027.

PM Rules and Ranking 2026-2027

As a reminder and as decided during our last General Assembly during the Lugano PM, there are some changes to the PM Rules for the new season. Most notably we are changing the calculation of the PM championships so that not events but every single race of every event counts.

The calculation is carried out by the Swiss Optimist Committee that will publish the results on the Website after every event. The principles of the calculation are: fairness, simpleness, and incentivation to participate to all events.

The calculation is carried out as follows:

- Each race of every event is considered in the PM period, even the discarded races
- Low-point scoring will be kept with corrections in certain situations, e.g.,
 - o Points are taken over unchanged for races sailed in 2 groups
 - o For races sailed in 1 group, points are divided by 2
 - o In case of finals in the Swiss Championship the Silver fleet starts where the Gold fleet ends, and both groups are divided by 2
- The Net points of a sailor will be equal to the sum of 80% of its best races (20% discard)
- DNE is never discarded, it is added to Net points
- Missing results will be considered with the maximum points in the given race
- Sailors will be ranked by Net points, lowest will be placed first

Please check out the latest PM rules on the Swiss Optimist Website for the official wording, which will be the governing ruling (and not above simplified description).

National Team Camps

Last year we organized a training camp in Dongo prior to PM Lugano with our new national coach Adri Barcelo, which was very welcome by the participants. However, single long events are always difficult for select individuals to attend and the Swiss Optimist Committee would like to increase the frequency of such camps to allow a larger number of our sailor to benefit from these events. Based on this we would like to pilot a new format next autumn/winter that we can then adapt in coming years, based on popularity and feedback.

The planned event program is built on six design principles:

1. Train when the calendar is free

We do not want to interfere with clubs and regions and want to offer something when regional programs are slowing down during the winter.

2. Train on neutral ground

We want to have the training in a place that has similar travel distance across regions and not favor a region.

3. Keep fixed costs low and scale flexibly

We do not want to commit to large group and complicated logistics upfront. The additional training with the national coach should be easy to organize and allow flexibility to add a second team.

4. Build national identity and cross-regional bonds

The explicit goal is to bring sailors from all regions and Adri Barcelo together. They will train together, travel together, just like when they go to a World or European Championship.

5. Maximize participation through short, frequent camps

Instead of having one week-long training camp that works for some and not for other sailors, we want to offer three 4-day blocks. Families can commit to one or two blocks even if they cannot make all three. This should help expand the pool of participating sailors across regions.

6. Train in the best possible conditions

We want to go to a place with high probability of wind, warm conditions in the winter months and strong local fleets.

Based on above thinking, we are offering three 4-day camps in Palma de Mallorca between November 2026 and January 2027.

Overall concept

Palma in winter offers consistent wind, warm temperatures for full training days, and a large local Optimist fleet as training partners. We will use the facilities of Club El Arenal, where Adri is based, will rent boats from the club and will be staying at a hotel close to the club.

Travel timeline

- Flight to Palma: Wednesday afternoon/evening
- Training: Thursday through Sunday (4 full days on the water)
- Return flight: Sunday late afternoon

Camp dates

- Camp 1: Nov 19–22
- Camp 2: Dec 10–13
- Camp 3: Jan 21–24

Eligibility

- Camp participation is voluntary and based on application
- If you register by Sep 13 your place will be guaranteed and we can book flights early on
- Sailors who qualified for the 2026 Worlds or Europeans and remain active have automatic priority
- Remaining places are allocated first-come, first-served from the Top 30 Bestenliste ranking

- We strive for at least 2 girls per camp and will accordingly prioritize regardless of place
- If demand exceeds the first team of max 10 sailors, we are willing to open a second team provided there is enough demand. In this case, we will relax the Top 30 PM ranking condition
- We encourage top 20 sailors from the Bestenliste to participate in 2 out of 3 camps

Costs

- Cost excluding travel are estimated at EUR 550-650 per sailor and camp. This will include trainer costs, boat charter and accommodation

We will trial this format this year and we hope this will offer an additional training opportunity for our sailors across regions with our national coach and in a prime sea location that will be welcome. We will then adapt the format and concept based on learnings in upcoming years.

The [full program](https://www.swissoptimist.ch) for the season is available on our website [swissoptimist.ch](https://www.swissoptimist.ch).

Your Swiss Optimist Committee