

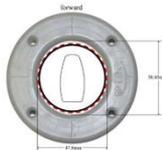
Optimist Pre Season Maintenance

Many of you will be familiar with what your boats need from last season, but for those of you new to BSYC and Opti's we have provided this guide to help you through.

Hull



Dagger-board trunk-rubbers. Check you have 4 and they are securely glued in. Lost rubbers lead to damaged dagger boards.



Mast Collar –Inspect for cracks replace before cracking of hull. Note these are not round rather oval shaped so orientation sensitive.



Leaning Straps. Check leaning straps are tight and in good condition so your sailor won't go overboard when hiking.

Sail/Mainsheet/lines



Wind Indicator. Broken or bent wind indicators. Either straighten or get a new one. A spare is a good idea. Capsized boats tend to come up with bent ones.



Snap shackles. Check your's are operational - they seize up and little fingers find them hard to operate. Attach a loop of rope to the key ring part to make it easier to open.

Ropes/Ties/Sheets

Make sure you have the right gauge rope / ties for the right application. If in doubt check out a dressed boat and compare. It's a good idea to keep a roll of each in your fix it kit.



Check for frayed mainsheet /pulley/block operation.

Check vang and sprit halyard lines, they fray with all the tightening. Binks Marine can splice new vang lines. Make sure the vang line is long enough to loop back over the boom to help with setting tight. .

Consider a 4 way block/pulley set up for beginners- easier to pull on the main sheet to start with - greater mechanical advantage.

Foils

Check your tiller stick- universal joints (rubber) can shear.



Particularly check your pintels and Gudgeons- they bend and result in rudders "popping" out. Sometimes you can straighten them out with pliers. Replacement of bents ones is a good plan. Make sure the retaining clip works and keeps the rudder on.



Centre Board Bungee. This is the shock cord that is "woven" around the dagger board trunk. Check rope is in good condition and "weave" configuration suitable. If shock chord is spent the centre board won't stay in position.

Safety Gear

- 2 x bailers – 2L milk cartons will work!
- 1 x whistle- affixed to the sailors life jacket is best
- 3 x functioning buoyancy bags
- paddle

Trailer



- inflate flat tyres!
- Split pins to the axels for wheels
- Pool noodles or other for hull protection
- Wash down the axels (through the hub) to get sand out- else sand will wear out the axle.
- **PLEASE - Clearly labelled boat name and sail number- helps beach retrievers**

Buoyancy Bags

- Check you have 3 and they are hold inflation.
- Have a spare – especially for road trips/ competitions /clinics.
- Check webbing strap is secure and not torn.

Covers

- Stick on self-adhesive patches available for those with small rips (Binks).
- Shock cord from hardware store (thread through with large nappy pin).



Fix it essentials kit

- Phillips head screw driver
- Varying gauge ropes and ties
- Small flame thrower to melt cut rope ends(aka cigarette lighter)
- Scissors/ knife to cut rope
- 2 x small adjustable spanners/small ring spanners
- Permanent marker pen (to label all your new stuff with your sail number!)
- Pliers

Clothing

- My kids keep growing so check last year's gear fits this year's child!

Cleaning

- Sponges and cloths

Handy reference sites

<https://binksmarine.com.au/store/optimist-dinghy/301-optimist-spares>

<http://optistuff.com/info/faqs-manuals.html>

Have fun checking over your boats for the upcoming sailing season. Cheers Ros, Youth Chariperson.