

REGATTAS

Regattas

For sailors who already have the beginning skills, we offer a more competitive opportunity – sailing in Regattas.. While the CPYC YS “club races” are held at the club with just CPYC member participants, regattas are open to members of other clubs and sailing associations, and are hosted by various yacht clubs. While regattas are a larger commitment, both club races and regattas are open to new sailors and emphasize community and fun. A positive experience at your child’s first regatta goes a long way - Picking a day with good weather -- especially considering the winds -- is an important part of picking the first race. Your child’s instructors and our Program Director can help determine whether your child has mastered the skills necessary to compete, and can also help encourage your child.

What is a regatta - A Regatta is a term used to describe either a boat race, or series of boat races. Although the term typically describes racing events of unpowered watercraft, some powerboat race series are also called regattas. Most commonly, a regatta is either a series of rowing, sailing, gondola or yacht racing. A regatta often includes social and promotional activities which surround the racing event. Although regattas are typically amateur competitions, they are usually very highly organized, formally structured events, with complex rules precisely describing the schedule and procedures of the event. Regattas may be organized as championships for a particular area or type of boat, but are often held just for the joy of competition, camaraderie, and general promotion of the sport. For CPYC hosted and CPYC YS sanctioned regattas our instructors and coaches are on the water for the races and can assist your child as necessary. There are many local regattas and your sailor is welcome to sign up for any regatta which they want to sail but YS only sends instructors, coaches, and support to YS Sanctioned regattas. . All CPYC class fleets - Opti’s, N10’s and 420’s are suitable for racing in regattas and are available for use on a 1st come basis.

What is a CPYC YS sanctioned regatta? - A CPYC YS sanctioned regatta is a regatta that has been approved by the Program for a higher level of CPYC YS participation. They can be either hosted (at CPYC) or away. CPYC YS will supply instructors, coaching boats, club sailboats and whenever possible help with transportation of boats for sanctioned regattas. CPYC YS hosts at least two sanctioned regattas each year – an N10 Class regatta and CPYC’s Annual Make-A-Wish Regatta with opti, N10, and C420 participation. CPYC YS usually participates in several sanctioned away regattas.

Away regattas are generally a full day or multi-day event and conclude with an awards ceremony. Participation generally involves transporting the boats from CPYC the afternoon before race, attending the event, and then transporting the boats back to CPYC at the end of the regatta’s final day. Many parents meet early on race day and commute together with the boats and instructors. Often the hosting Club provides Sailor lunches on the water and a celebratory dinner. While parents are welcome and encouraged to attend the races, particularly for Green Fleet or inexperienced sailors, their presence is not required; however, they are required to coordinate the transportation of their children, boat, and “gear” to and from regattas. Sailors are solely responsible for their boats, gear and belongings at regattas. There is a strong sense of community around regattas and other parents are often able to help and parents of children who actively participate in regattas are encouraged to volunteer. Talk with our Program Director about your sailor’s individual situation. If you will not be attending the regatta with your sailor, it’s important to make sure that you carry your cell phone so that you are accessible to the Program.

While Attending Regattas - CPYC and our Junior Program sailors are expected to conduct themselves accordingly. Also encouraged is their participation in the social functions that are part of these events. Our goal is to create an environment that supports ethical and sportsmanlike behavior at CPYC. We want to stress being proactive rather than being reactive as we strive to give our sailors the tools to make positive choices. We want CPYC’s sailors to be known for their friendly, hardworking, positive, and sportsmanlike attitudes above all else.

All of us, including program chairs, instructors, coaches, and parents should work together with our junior sailors to accomplish this goal.

- Treat other persons and their property as you know they should be treated, and as you wish them to treat you and your property.
- Regard the rules as agreements, the spirit or letter of which you should not evade or break.
- Be gracious in victory or defeat.
- Be cooperative and respectful. Remember that your actions on and off the water reflect you, the CPYC, and the CPYC Youth Sailing Program

Guidelines for Parents

1. Please support the coaching staff's decisions. The coaches have the best interests of your athlete at heart.
2. Place winning in the context of fun, good sportsmanship and fair play.
3. Promote the total sport of sailing and boating, not just racing.
4. As spectators, remain in designated areas specified by coaches and directors.
5. Remember that any coaching during a race is prohibited, except for Opti Green, under the Racing Rules of Sailing.
6. Show respect for race officials and regatta rules.
7. Understand that they must uphold event regulations on and off the water
8. Assist all sailors to develop to their fullest potential.
9. Encourage your sailor to be organized and responsible for their own equipment and to respect the property of others.
10. Help your sailor set realistic goals/expectations for themselves

Please refer to our calendar, bulletin board in the snack bar, or CPYC.org for regattas being held in the area. Most clubs post information on line regarding fees, ages, lines of boats and schedules for sailors. We will keep you informed as soon as we know the notice of race has been posted.

Skipper and crew must be selected before the regatta and registered as such. Sailors interested in participating in a regatta should make it known to the instructors as well as their parents so that plans can be formulated.



Regattas – What to Expect

Registration – Many regattas offer online registration which opens well ahead of the regatta date. In the absence of online registration typically the sailor will register at the hosting club the evening before the regatta (this is convenient if bringing over a boat the day before the event) or arrive early the day of the regatta to register. When registering the sailor will receive useful information about the Club and event and likely receive a skipper bag which may contain necessary items (such as the Sailing Instructions) as well as some fun goodies.

A **Race Committee** is responsible for organizing and running a sailboat regatta. The responsibilities of this committee include informing participants, ensuring the venue is set up and ready, holding a Skippers Meeting, running the actual race and generating results. Generally, the Race Committee first sends out a **Notice of Race (NOR)**, usually months in advance. A set of **Sailing Instructions (SI's)** are also produced. Typically, these are handed out at the Skippers' Meeting.

The **Skippers' Meeting** is usually held on the morning of the regatta. Last-minute updates to the documentation are provided at this point, including race schedule updates, course corrections, local weather conditions, hazardous aspects of the course, etc.

The **Committee Boat** often occupies one end of the starting line. Through the use of flags, signals, guns and VHF radio, people aboard the committee boat will count down through the "starting sequence" and begin the race. If there are multiple fleets participating in a regatta, each fleet will have their own starting sequence, noted through the use of a "class flag". The committee boat will also make sure no boats have crossed the starting line early, and will signal over-early boats. A boat which was over early and did not make amends (usually by coming back to the starting line, or by going around one end of the starting line) will be penalized in the scoring process.

At the end of the race, the committee boat will write down finish-times. If the regatta has multiple races, the committee boat will begin the starting sequence for the next race, after all the boats have finished the previous race.

After the racing, hearings are held to handle any protests which have arisen. Finally, the scores are tallied and posted. If a fleet contained more than one class of boat, it is common to use the handicapping systems such as PHRF to adjust scores. Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) is a handicapping system used in regattas. It allows dissimilar classes of sailboats to be raced against each other. The aim is to cancel out the inherent advantages and disadvantages of each class of boats, so that results reflect crew skill rather than equipment superiority.



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F		O							
G		P							
H		Q		W		6			
I		R		X		7			

COMMON RACE SIGNALS

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The Class Flag (numeral or letter flag) is the Warning Signal: raised 5 min. before start and lowered at the start.
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Postponement: Lowered one minute before new warning signal.
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Rule 30.1 is in effect at the start (Around the Ends Rule). See 30.1 for details.
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P flag is the Preparatory Signal: Raised 4 minutes before start & lowered 1 minute before start.
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Change of Course: Position of next mark has been changed.
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Any boat over the line within a minute of the start receives a 20% scoring penalty. See 30.2.
- Class flag stays up from the warning signal to the starting signal. At the start, the Class Flag is dropped. The warning signal for succeeding classes shall be made with or after the starting signal. Read regatta's Sailing Instructions. See Rule 26 for more information.
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Shortened Course: Finish between this boat and nearest mark.
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Any boat over the starting line within a of minute the start is disqualified. See Rule 30.3.
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Boat or object with this flag replaces a missing mark.
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Race abandoned; return to starting area.
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X Flag: Indicates one or more boats started early. Flag is lowered once all boats have started correctly.
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Ashore: Indicates that a notice to competitors has been posted. Afloat: Come within hail or follow me.
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Flags N over A: All races for the day are abandoned. Go home.
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General Recall. Flag lowered one minute before new prep.
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All competitors are required to wear personal buoyancy.
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YOUTH SAILING