

GUIDELINES FOR GSBYRA JUNIOR REGATTAS

The objective is to give junior sailors a safe, fun and good learning experience.

Lunch should be provided by the host club for a fee.

Provide lemonade etc. and chips, cookies etc. after races for everyone to socialize.

Safety: Instructors and coaches shall view safety as the primary focus. Insure all problems are addressed and assist all sailors regardless of club affiliation. Although the primary responsibility of the instructor is to his or her charges, common sense dictates that problems must be covered. Bring a red folder that contains photocopied student medical information to each regatta.

Cooperation: Encourage sailors and clubs to help each other out before, during, and after the race no matter what their club affiliation is.

Coaching: Coach between races and give assistance to all participants in order to improve skills. Instructors provide feedback to participants at the end of the regatta before awards are presented.

Respect: Reinforce The Fundamental Rules and The Racing Rules of Sailing in a positive way to prevent competition from deteriorating. Use the two turns penalty in order to limit potential boat damage and risk to personal safety. Protests may be necessary. Encourage sailors to say “thank you” as they cross the line, particularly, after the last race.

Instructor responsibilities: Teach students to take care of business first. Register first, assist each other to rig boats, launch, tie up boats, then attend skippers meeting and ask questions. Monitor and assist student return into the marina or beach. After racing, boats and gear should be put away properly before engaging in play or eating. Monitor, motivate and assist students at all times. Be a good role model for students. Act as safety boat first, then as a coach to all students regardless of club affiliation. All boats should have numbers on their sails and a paddle. Monitor the weather.

Start Time: Schedule a skippers meeting for 10:30 a.m. The warning for the first race is 11:00 as stated in the GSBYRA yearbook and on the GSBYRA website. Use 3 minute dinghy starts.

Courses: Set one area with a committee boat for the Optimist class, and a separate area with a committee boat for 420, Mercury, Sunfish, and Blue Jay, or other similar classes. Tell the class what kind of course to sail: triangle, windward-leeward, or modified gold cup.

Races: Hold as many races as possible by scheduling back to back races with a lunch break. Stagger sending in the two fleets for lunch. After lunch return to racing as quickly as possible. If boats fall far behind, call them in with assistance if necessary, and score them in the order as they would have finished. Plan to finish racing by 3:00.

Host instructor responsibilities: Organize personnel for registration, skippers meeting, safety boats, committee boats, setting marks, scoring, and protest hearings. Provide prizes that are useful to the sailors: Telltales, clew tie downs, centerboard shock cord, wind vanes, whistles, water bottles, sponges, t-shirts, etc.

Use a lap top with the free Sailwave program for scoring final results if available.

Items necessary to run a Junior Regatta:

1. Download straight and score sheets, and protest forms from GSBYRA.org.
2. 3 instructors to register boats on score sheets by class. Require a number on the sail.
2. Large permanent marker or electrical tape to make sail numbers on both sides of sail.
3. Clipboards with rubber bands at the bottom and attach a pencil for straight sheets.
4. Committee, safety and mark set boats should have only working staff aboard, no others.
No other boats should tie to the committee boat.
Use other club instructor boats for safety boats.
5. 8 marks for 2 courses. Plan ahead, borrow some if necessary.
6. Whistles, water, and sun block on all committee boats.
7. VHF radios. Select a channel for communications and inform every instructor.
8. Timing watches or systems.
9. Racing Rules of Sailing and protest forms from US SAILING.
10. Calculators.

Committee boat instructor responsibilities: Be professional at all times.

1. Set a square start line and set other marks accurately.
2. Time accurately.
3. Write on the straight sheet for each race: start time, number of boats starting, course, finish time, and protests.
4. Sight start line and call boats over early. Notate sail numbers of those who do not return to start.
5. Monitor the course and weather conditions. Send safety boats to help those in need.
6. Record finishes in pencil on the straight sheet.
Use designations DNC, DNS, OCS, DNF, RAF, or DSQ accurately.
Account for all boats that started.
7. Hold protest hearings after racing is completed.
8. Use calculators to add scores. Double check your calculations.
Circle an excluded race score to keep it readable.
Low point scoring system rules:
 - a. Give one point more than the number of boats entered in the class to boats for DNC, DNS, DNF or DSQ.
 - b. Break a series tie by listing each boat's scores in order of best to worst, and at the first point where there is a difference the tie shall be broken in favor of the boat with the best score. Do not use any excluded scores. If a tie remains, rank boats in order of their scores in the last race, and if still tied, the next to last race until the tie is broken. Excluded scores may be used at this point.
9. Award prizes.
10. Give all forms, straight and score sheets to the GSBYRA official at the regatta, or to the GSBYRA scorer noted in the GSBYRA yearbook. Results from the Junior Regattas determine which yacht club wins the GSBYRA Team Race Trophy at the end of the season based on a High Point Scoring System. The trophy is awarded at the fall GSBYRA awards dinner meeting in October.