

Texas Youth Racing Circuit Conditions

Each year the Texas Sailing Association (“TSA”) Texas Youth Racing Circuit has 14 or 15 regattas at various Texas sailing clubs. These Conditions apply to those regattas.

Boats

The events are open to all boats of the Optimist, Laser (Full, Radial and 4.7) and Double-Handed (420 Club, 420 Collegiate or other double handed boat as provided by the host club) classes. All classes are typically “bring your own boat”. Some clubs may choose to provide double handed boats if they are available.

Eligibility

Circuit regattas are open to all junior sailors who are less than twenty (20) years old and who do not turn twenty (20) years of age in the calendar year. Sailors are eligible to race Optimists through December 31 of the year in which they turn age 15. Additionally, 420 sailors and crew under age 22 may participate in all events.

US SAILING Membership

Each youth participating in the Circuit should be a member of US SAILING. Host clubs should provide opportunity for registration to US SAILING at each regatta. US SAILING membership is mandatory for all participants in the Texas Youth Race Week event because it is an official US SAILING Junior Olympic Event. Optimist sailors are also required to have USODA membership at Texas Youth Race Week.

Circuit Schedule

The [schedule](http://www.tx sail.org/) of the regattas for this year can be found on the TSA website at <http://www.tx sail.org/>.

Classes

Optimists are sailed in four divisions: **Green Fleet**: Open to all novice sailors under age 15 and through 12/31 of the calendar year in which they turn age 15; **White Fleet**: Age 10 and under; **Blue Fleet**: Age 11 - 12; and **Red Fleet**: Age 13 - 15. Skipper's age on the first day of a regatta determines his or her fleet for that regatta (consistent with USODA requirements). Skippers move fleets on their 11th and 13th birthdays. Those turning 15 may continue in the **Red Fleet** through December 31st of that year. Sailors who change fleets during the year will still receive participation points for each regatta sailed. Optimist Red, White, and Blue sailors will be assigned a fleet for TSA year end scoring purposes. The fleet assigned is the appropriate fleet for the last regatta of the year. Example: A sailor sails 4 individual regattas in Blue fleet and then 4 in Red fleet as directed by the age requirement above. For the TSA annual scoring, the sailor will be placed in Red fleet (based on their age at the year-end TSA regatta) and the best 7 scores of the eight regattas sailed will be used as their score. Green fleet scores are handled separately and do not contribute to the year-end standing of Opti RWB sailors. For proper scoring of Optimist Red, White and Blue see Scoring below.

Laser Full, Laser Radial, Laser 4.7 and Double-Handed boats (420 Club, 420 Collegiate or other double handed boat as provided by the host club) are sailed as senior fleets. Club 420 with trapeze and spinnaker is the double-handed boat of choice, but College 420 or other double handed boat as provided by the host club can be sailed. Individual regattas should designate the double-handed boat that will be sailed at their event and if the boats will be provided by the club.

Texas Junior Laser Championship: Each year one TSA Youth Circuit Regatta, or other appropriate regatta held in Texas, will be designated by the TSA as the “Texas Junior Laser Championship.” Eligible classes for the Championship shall be Laser Full Rig, Laser Radial and Laser 4.7. A perpetual trophy for each class will be provided by TSA to be displayed at the Austin Yacht Club. The name of the First Place Finisher in each class at the Championship regatta will be added to each trophy.

Texas Girls Championship: Each year one TSA Youth Circuit Regatta, or other appropriate regatta held in Texas, will be designated by the TSA as the “Texas Girls Championship.” Eligible classes for the Championship shall be Laser Full Rig, Laser Radial and Laser 4.7, Optimist RWB and Double Handed. A minimum of 3 boats with female skippers (skippers and crew for doubled handed boats) sailing in a given class is required to make a class. The race officials may combine Optimist Classes to make a girls class as appropriate. A perpetual trophy for each class will be provided by TSA to be displayed at the Grapevine Sailing Club. The name of the First Place Finisher in each class at the Championship regatta will be added to the trophy each year.

Texas Youth Race Week – US SAILING Junior Olympic Event – is an official Texas Youth Racing Circuit event. There are additional specific requirements for this event as noted in these Conditions.

Host Club Support & Contact information

The names of and contact information for the Regatta Chairman and the regatta PRO('s) should be supplied to the TSA Youth Committee Chair(s) at least one month prior to the regatta.

Each participating yacht club is required to contribute \$5 per participant in the regatta, with a maximum of \$300, to defray costs of circuit mailings, season's awards and trophies. The funds should be sent to the TSA Treasurer as soon as possible after receipt of the invoice from the TSA Treasurer.

Modifications to the Racing Rules of Sailing

- Appendix A2, Scoring Systems is modified to specify the number of throw outs permitted. (1 throw out after 5 races and 2 throw outs if 10 or more races completed)
- The rules for all classes are altered so that membership in a class organization is not required.
- Racing Rule 49.1 is changed to allow the use of hiking pants.
- A boat intending to protest about an incident that occurs in the racing area should be required to notify the race committee finish boat of her intention, including the sail number of the boat(s) being protested. This changes RRS 61.1(a).
- Before any protest is heard, a pre-hearing with one Judge, the Protester and Protestee will be conducted. If these three can unanimously agree on a resolution of the protest within 15 minutes, no protest hearing will be held. If the pre-hearing participants agree that the protested or protesting boat infringed a rule, that boat may take the scoring penalty set forth below by completing a Penalty Acceptance Report and submitting it to the protest committee. If the protest is not resolved during the pre-hearing, a full protest hearing will be conducted according to Racing Rules Part 5. The person who served as mediator may not serve on the protest committee. This modifies RRS Rules 63.1 and 63.2.

Any boat accepting a penalty in a pre-hearing will receive a penalty score equal to the score for the place worst than her actual finishing place by the whole number (rounding .5 upward) nearest to 40% of the number of boats racing in the race in which the infringement occurred,

except that it shall not be scored worse than DNF. The scores of the other boats in the race shall not be changed; therefore two boats may receive the same score.

- For the US SAILING Junior Olympic Event – Texas Youth Race Week Appendix P – Immediate Penalties for Braking Rules 42 will apply, modified as follows:
 - P2.2 is changed to “second time and subsequent times.”
 - P2.3 is deleted.
 - P3 is changed to read: “If a boat has been protested under rule P1 and the race committee signals a postponement, general recall, or abandonment, the penalty or penalties are cancelled.”

Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions, Regatta Guidelines and other Forms

The TSA Youth Circuit has standard forms for [Sailing Instructions](#), [Notice of Race](#), [Entry Form](#) and [Medical Consent Form](#) including a standard NOR and a standard SI for the US SAILING Junior Olympic – Texas Youth Race Week event. Host clubs are required to review these documents and incorporate them into their regatta to the extent possible. These forms are available for download on the TSA website from the links above. [Guidelines](#) for the Regatta Chairman, PRO's and Race Committees are also posted on the TSA website. These Guidelines should be consulted and followed to the extent possible. Questions concerning the Guidelines or recommended regatta procedures should be directed to the TSA Youth Committee Chair(s). Contact information is provided at the end of this document.

Each club's Notice of Race (NOR) and registration material should be emailed at least one month before the scheduled date of the regatta to the Youth Committee Chair(s) (see contact information below). After review the NOR and related registration materials will then be forwarded to the [TSA webmaster](#) for posting on the TSA website.

Local Knowledge

Before beginning an event, the host club should familiarize all competitors with the waters, wind and seasonal weather conditions in which the races are to be held, emphasizing obstructions (if any), tidal currents and conditions, and probable location of marks

Circuit Scoring

The scoring for the Circuit uses the low point scoring system as set for the Racing Rules of Sailing. Only the junior's final place for each regatta will be counted toward his/her season standing in that particular boat class in the Circuit - not his/her individual races. In the event there are fewer than three (3) participants competing in a given class in a regatta, then for Circuit season scoring purposes, those juniors participating will be scored for that regatta by using the average of their finishes in all those regattas in which they compete having three (3) or more participants in the class. For example, if a sailor sailed in thirteen (13) regattas, ten (10) of which had three (3) or more participants in the class, then the average of the finishes in those ten (10) regattas will be the sailor's score for each of the other (3) regattas sailed where the total participants were less than three (3). Regatta finishes excluded from the Season Standings as not being among the sailor's best (7) seven finishes are included in the calculation of average finish for purposes of scoring regattas with less than three (3) participants.

For a sailor to be counted as having competed in a regatta for purposes of Circuit scoring, the sailor must have completed registration, paid all applicable fees, and checked in at the regatta registration. Sailors who register in advance but do not complete on-site registration at the regatta will not be scored.

If a regatta does not complete enough races to be considered an official regatta (for example, due to weather or other uncontrollable circumstances) all sailors who completed on-site registration will be counted as having attended the regatta for participation purposes, but will not be scored within a specific fleet.

At each Circuit regatta Optimist Red, White and Blue fleets shall be scored as a whole with all boats receiving scores according to recorded finish position. "Overall Scoring" shall be used to determine red, blue, and white awards.

At each Circuit regatta Laser (Full, Radial and 4.7) and Double-Handed (Club 420, College 420 and FJ) fleets shall be scored as a whole with all boats receiving scores according to recorded finish position regardless of whether the sailor meets the age requirement of a junior sailor as provided under "Eligibility" above. "Overall Scoring" shall be used to determine the finish place of each junior aged sailor for purposes of the TSA Youth Circuit standings and for junior place finishes and junior awards at each regatta. Awards for participating Laser Full Rig, Laser Radial and Double-Handed sailors who exceed the junior age eligibility limit are at the host club's discretion.

If multiple double-handed classes participate in a single regatta (for example, a fleet of Club 420 and a fleet of Collegiate 420), all competitors in both fleets will be scored in the doublehanded Circuit results with the finish positions scored in their respective fleets.

Regatta Trophies and Participation Awards

Trophies should be awarded to at least the top three in each class, and deeper if the class is large. As a general guide, at a minimum the top third of the sailors in classes larger than three should receive place awards.

All Green Fleet Optimist sailors should receive participation awards, which may take the form of certificates or other such recognition. While the Optimist Class discourages place awards for Green Fleet, the finishes of Green Fleet sailors may be recognized by some form of place award or recognition, as long as all Green Fleet sailors receive a participation award

Scores

The final results of each regatta should be sent to the TSA Youth Circuit Official Scorer within one week after the event. For purposes of the Circuit, the results will be tabulated by the TSA Youth Committee and are final.

Regatta results and season standings will be posted on the TSA website as soon as possible after receipt of each regatta's scores.

Season Standings

Each sailor's best seven (7) regatta scores are scored for the season results. One regatta of the seven must be out of the sailor's local area (defined as a regatta more than 70 miles from the sailor's home club).

Circuit Participation Awards

Each sailor who competes in at least seven (7) Circuit regattas qualifies for a season participation award.

Safety

A U.S. Coast Guard approved personal buoyancy device will be worn by all competitors while on the water. Wet or Dry suits are not considered adequate buoyancy devices for this purpose. All buoyancy devices shall be worn on the outside of all clothing.

Any local requirements related to safety either at the facility or on the water should be explained in detail to the regatta participants at the first opportunity.

US SAILING Certified Race Officials

The use of certified Race Officers and Judges is strongly recommended.

- A listing of certified Race Officers is available on the US SAILING Web site at:
http://ussailing.org/racemgt/ro_search.htm
- A listing of certified Judges is available on the US SAILING web site at:
http://www.ussailing.org/judges/Judge_Search.htm

For the US SAILING Junior Olympic–Texas Youth Race Week Event, Appendix P- Immediate Penalties for Breaking Rules 42 is in effect and on the water judges are required.

Youth Participation on Protest Committees

Where possible, all protests in a TSA Youth Circuit Regatta are to be heard by a protest committee that will include non-interested Youth participants with adult members overseeing and advising the youth.

Discipline

No contestant shall use, either on or off the water, during any Texas Sailing Association Junior event: marijuana or any other controlled substance (as defined in 21 U.S. Code 802) the possession of which is unlawful under 21 U.S. Code 841, or alcoholic beverages (distilled spirits, wine and beer, each as defined in chapter 51 of the U.S. IRC Code and intended for beverage use). The penalty shall be that the contestant after a proper hearing, be immediately removed from the regatta venue and, where practical, sent home. Any additional costs associated with enforcement of the penalty will be born by the contestant.

All competitors, coaches and parents are expected to maintain the highest level of conduct throughout the entire event. When the Protest Committee, from its own observation or a report received from any source believes that a competitor may have committed a breach of a rule, good manners, or sportsmanship, or may have brought the sport into disrepute, it may call a hearing. After a proper hearing the penalty may range from a reprimand to dismissal from the regatta and additional action may be taken under RRS 69.

Hearings will be held generally in accordance with the recommendations of Appendix M5 of the RRS. The officers for hearing a violation will consist of the Chief Judge, acting as chairman of the hearing, the Protest Committee and a representative from the TSA Youth Committee or their designee if available. The local regatta chair shall serve ex officio as a nonvoting member of the panel and will have an open right to express his or her views during the course of the hearing process.

Youth Program Contacts

[Jennifer Draheim](#) Co-Chair: TSA Youth Committee; Phone: 972.988.1800

[Kara Mings](#) Co-Chair TSA Youth Committee; Phone: 713.304.2505

[Steve Comen](#) TSA Youth Circuit Official Scorer; Phone: 214-417-3864