

TSA YOUTH CIRCUIT REGATTAS

REGATTA GUIDELINES

Guidelines For Regatta Chairmen, PRO's and Race Committees

In order to enhance the quality and promote increased familiarity and participation in the Circuit, the TSA Youth Circuit Committee, requests that the Regatta Chairmen, PRO's and Race Committees of our venue hosts (i.e., the local sailing and yacht clubs) adhere, as nearly as possible under local circumstances, to the following guidelines for running Circuit Regattas:

1. The Texas Youth Racing Circuit Conditions require "to the extent possible" the use of the standard TSA Youth Circuit Notices of Race and Sailing Instructions, which are published on the TSA website at <http://www.tx sail.org/>. The NOR is designed for you to customize times, dates and race schedule for your regatta (please do not alter regatta racing rules, TSA eligibility or Opti fleet participation rules). Sample Registration Forms and Medical Consent forms are also on the website as are the "Texas Youth Racing Circuit Conditions". The host club's Regatta Chairman should forward drafts of the NOR and registration forms to the TSA Youth Committee Chair(s) by email no later than one month before the scheduled date of the regatta. After review the Chair(s) will arrange for the final drafts of the NOR and registration forms to be distributed to the TSA Youth Committee email list and posted on the TSA website. Our goal is to have the NOR and registration forms distributed and posted on the TSA website one month before the scheduled date of the regatta. The Sailing Instructions should be prepared as soon thereafter as possible and forwarded to the Chair(s). We prefer to have the SI's finalized for distribution and posting prior to the regatta, but it is acceptable to have the SI's first available at the time registration opens on the first day of the regatta.
2. Texas Youth Race Week is an official US SAILING Junior Olympic Event. For this event on the water judges are required for the enforcement of Appendix P (as amended). In addition the Sailing Instructions for this event will use the on the water judges to enforce on the water rule infraction notification for the Opti fleets. The use of US SAILING Certified Officials is strongly recommended for all events.
 - a. A listing of certified Race Officers is available on the US SAILING Web site at: http://ussailing.org/racemgt/ro_search.htm
 - b. A listing of certified Judges is available on the US SAILING web site at: http://www.ussailing.org/judges/Judge_Search.htm
3. All yacht clubs hosting a Texas Youth Circuit Regatta are expected to provide the race committee and sufficient support and rescue boats for the conditions that may exist. In addition the host clubs for Texas Youth Race Week need to provide for boats for the on the water judges as required.
4. Please try to keep your regatta fees as low as possible, in the range of \$40-\$50, including meals and T-Shirt. T-Shirts are not required to be provided for every 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 and 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.
5. Please keep your Saturday morning registration open until the time of or very shortly before your skipper's meeting. Registration should never close earlier than 1 1/2 hour before the scheduled first warning signal.

6. The Skipper's meeting is mandatory and should be used as an opportunity to:
 - a. 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.
 - b. Emphasize any potential safety hazards and to strongly encourage all competitors to wear protective footwear while on any wooden pier, dock or club facility and when wading in any shallow water.
 - c. Promote good sportsmanship and the concepts of fair sailing.
 - d. Remind competitors that per the Racing rules of Sailing (Part 1, Rule 4) it is ultimately their decision on whether to race or not.
7. The use of at least two race courses, one for the Optimists and one for all other fleets, is required per the Conditions. At the discretion of the Race Committee, a third racing area for the Optimist Green Fleet may also be set; particularly if conditions warrant that novice Green Fleet skippers should sail in a protected area closer to the harbor.
8. For Optimist red, white and blue fleets, the event 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.

For Laser (Full Rig, Radial Rig or 4.7 Rig) and Double-Handed (420 Club, 420 Collegiate or other double handed boat as provided by the host club) fleets, the regatta 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 under the Texas Youth Racing Circuit Conditions. "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 awards at the regatta.

Per TSA's standard NOR and SI's the Low Point Scoring System (Appendix A) must be used to score all races; one throw out will be awarded if five or more races are completed and if ten or more races are completed there will be one additional throw out – two total – for scoring purposes. Completion of one (1) race shall constitute a TSA Youth Circuit Regatta.

9. Arrange for a volunteer to take photos of the sailors and awards presentation to send to *Optinews* and other publications.
10. Caution coach and spectator boats about interfering with the sailors by creating wakes or infringing on the race course. Coach boats conferring with sailors who have finished should stay clear of the laylines so as not to interfere with boats approaching the finish.
11. Our goal is to sail as many races as the conditions will permit. With that goal in mind, please adjust your race courses so that the majority of individual races do not last longer than 35-45 minutes. (Green Fleet (Novice) Opti courses may be shorter than other fleets – Opti Red, White, Blue age group fleets, Lasers, etc.) Our sailors have worked hard and often have traveled a long way to attend your regatta and have come to *race*. Please make every effort to get and keep them on the water a long time. Make every effort to start the first race promptly at the published time for the First Warning Signal and try to keep the time interval between subsequent races to a minimum. If the course needs to be reset between races, be prepared to accomplish that asap after completion of the previous race to avoid having the kids waiting an inordinate amount of time between races. We would like to get in at least 6 races during the regatta and several more than that if possible. Our standard NOR states that "6 or more" races are scheduled. But if it is possible under the conditions to run up to 10 or even more races over a two day period, then do so.

12. We prefer to get on the water as early as conditions permit and stay out there as long as possible. Please try to avoid having the kids sitting around on shore when there is wind. If you expect to have acceptable wind in the mornings, schedule the first start of each day in the morning, and rather than expend the time necessary to bring everyone in for lunch, serve lunch on the water, then continue racing until relatively late in the day. If the lack of wind pushes your starting time back, but it is still blowing at 5 o'clock, keep them on the water as long as there is wind and light. Lunch or snacks on the water can be served relatively easily in plastic bags. An on the water late afternoon snack is recommended, particularly if first gun is scheduled for after lunch and you continue sailing late into the afternoon or evening. If the breeze typically does not come in until early or mid afternoon, schedule first gun in your NOR accordingly and plan to keep the kids out racing into the late afternoon or early evening, scheduling your dinner, banquet and evening activities later.
13. With the exception of the regatta racing rules, the Texas Youth Racing Circuit Conditions, TSA eligibility or Opti fleet participation rules, these are guidelines only and should not be taken as directives should the host venue PRO/Race Committee consider in its discretion that to do so would raise a concern for the safety or well-being of the youth sailors. Host venue PRO and Race Committees are encouraged to address any questions (particularly any safety concerns) about the implementation of these guidelines with the TSA Youth Committee Chair(s).
14. If you have questions regarding these Guidelines or want further information or advice regarding race management or how to prepare for your regatta, feel free to contact the TSA Youth Committee Chair(s). Their contact information is posted under the "Officer" link on the TSA website.