2026 Northwest Youth Racing Circuit

www.nwyouthsailing.org

Notice of Series

1. RULES

1.1 Each regatta will be governed by the Rules as defined in 2025-2028 Racing Rules of Sailing, the prescriptions of US Sailing, this Notice of Series, the Notice of Race, and the Sailing Instructions issued by the organizers of each individual regatta.

1.2 Class rules are to be observed and enforced by competitors, with the following exceptions:

1.2.1 "Club" or "practice" sails are permissible in all fleets, provided they are of the same size, shape, material, and of similar construction compared to class legal sails.

1.2.2 Class membership is not required to participate in the NWYRC Summer Series. However, class membership may be necessary when a class sanctioned championship is listed as part of the series.

1.3 RRS 41 is changed as follows: Add "41(e) Coaching of the back 25% is permitted. Coaches shall avoid interfering with other boats."

1.4 Participants who register for any event in the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit agree to follow the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit Code of Conduct, Addendum A.

1.4.1 An alleged breach of Northwest Youth Racing Circuit Code of Conduct shall not be grounds for a protest by another boat; this changes RRS 60.1(a). When issues arise, competitors should approach a member of the organizing authority and the organizing authority will make a hearing request. When a protest committee believes that a competitor may have breached Northwest Youth Racing Circuit Code of Conduct, it shall follow the process described in the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit Code of Conduct, Addendum A.

2. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

2.1 Sailors who have not yet reached their 19th birthday are invited to participate in the NWYRC, except that recent high school graduates, age 19, may compete the summer immediately after graduation.

2.2 The determining date for Opti fleet placement in the series shall be the sailor's age as of the last NWYRC summer regatta. Opti class rules regarding age limits shall also apply.

2.3 All competitors shall be 2026 NWYRC members. Become a 2026 NWYRC member here.

2.4 Sailors must register separately for each individual regatta through the host club.

3. FEES

3.1 Membership fees for the 2026 NWYRC are as follows:

3.1.1 Membership for Opti Green Fleet is $0 per sailor.

3.1.2 Membership for all other fleets is $100 per sailor.

3.1.3 Early membership before June 15, 2026 is $50 per sailor.

3.1.4 Membership after August 18, 2026 is $50 per sailor.

3.2 Click here to purchase 2026 NWYRC Membership

3.3 Membership fees shall be paid in advance of a sailor's first NWYRC regatta.

3.4 Membership fees may be waived on a case-by-case basis for sailors who regularly receive financial assistance from their yacht club or sailing program.

4. SCHEDULE FOR 2026

4.1 Optimist Championship Fleet- 5 Regattas

- June 27-28 Bellingham Youth Regatta @Bellingham YC & Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch
- July 18-19 USODA Optimist Northwest Championships @Columbia Gorge Racing Association (Cascade Locks, OR)
- Aug 15-16 Johnny Adams Memorial (J.A.M.) Regatta @Port Madison YC (Bainbridge Island, WA)
- Aug 29-30 US Sailing Northwest Junior Olympics @Corinthian YC of Seattle (Shilshole, hosted by Seattle YC)
- Sept. 12-13 Octoberfest @Sail Sand Point (Magnuson Park, Seattle, WA)

4.2 ILCA and c420 Classes- 5 Regattas

- June 27-28 Bellingham Youth Regatta @Bellingham YC & Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch
- July 11-12 WIND Regatta @Columbia Gorge Racing Association (Cascade Locks, OR)
- Aug 15-16 Johnny Adams Memorial (J.A.M.) Regatta @Port Madison YC (Bainbridge Island, WA)
- Aug 29-30 US Sailing Northwest Junior Olympics @Corinthian YC of Seattle (Shilshole, hosted by Seattle YC)
- Sept. 12-13 Octoberfest @Sail Sand Point (Magnuson Park, Seattle, WA)

4.3 Doublehanded Development Fleet (FJ, or similar depending on event)- 5 Regattas

- June 20-21 FJ Frenzy on the Fresh Water @ Vancouver Lake Sailing Club (Vancouver, WA)
- July 25-26 Ray Jarecki Regatta @Sail Orcas (Orcas Is, WA)
- Aug 8-9 Shilshole Showdown @Corinthian YC of Seattle
- Aug 29-30 US Sailing Northwest Junior Olympics @Corinthian YC of Seattle (Shilshole, hosted by Seattle YC)
- Sept. 12-13 Octoberfest @Sail Sand Point (Magnuson Park, Seattle, WA)

5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS AND NOTICES OF RACE

5.1 Separate Sailing Instructions and Notices of Race shall be published by each host club.

5.2 All Notices of Race shall be posted at nwyouthsailing.org on the NWYRC page. Hosts are also encouraged to post these documents to their website.

5.3 Questions regarding details about individual regattas should be directed to the host club.

6. SERIES SCORING

6.1 Individual regattas shall be scored in accordance with RRS Appendix A.

6.2 Series points shall only be awarded to classes who participate in regattas in accordance with the schedule as described in Section 4 of this document.

6.3 The NWYRC series scores shall be calculated using a modified Low Point Scoring methodology.

6.3.1 A competitor's NWYRC series score shall be the sum total of their regatta finishes, excluding a competitor's worst regatta finish.

6.3.2 A sailor's overall finishing position at the end of each regatta shall be used to determine the number of points earned for that regatta, not the individual races within the regatta.

6.3.3 Competitors who do not compete in a regatta will be awarded 1 point more than their largest regatta fleet of the series (this means that the points awarded for your "DNC" may retroactively change throughout the summer as fleet sizes grow).

a. For example: An opti sailor didn't compete at Bellingham Youth Regatta (BYR), they would get a DNC. There were 16 opti sailors at BYR. After BYR, the points awarded for the DNC will be 17 points. At NW Opti Champs there were 20 optis. All the DNCs (including those at

BYR) will be changed to 21 points. At JAM there were 15 optis. All the DNCs (including those at JAM) will be 21 points because to date the biggest regatta fleet of the series is at NW Opti Champs. This process continues throughout the series.

6.3.4 Competitors who register for a regatta, but do not compete in any races will be scored as DNC for that regatta.

6.3.5 Competitors not meeting the eligibility criteria (i.e. adults) shall be excluded when calculating regatta point totals.

6.3.6 In the event of a tie between two or more boats in the overall NWYRC series standings, the tie- breaking formula described in RRS Appendix A (Rule A8) shall be used, except that regatta scores shall be used in place of scores from individual races. Ties occurring outside of podium positions shall remain unbroken.

6.4 A class which is not present in at least three (3) NWYRC regattas shall not be eligible for overall series awards or honors.

6.5 With the exception of Green Fleet, the Optimist class shall be scored collectively, although regatta organizers may extract separate results to recognize top finishers in the White, Blue, and Red fleets.

6.6 Laser/ILCA dinghy classes shall be scored separately. Scores may not be substituted when sailing with different rigs.

6.7 For all double-handed classes, points will be awarded to the skipper and crew, for separate rankings. Scores will not be substituted when sailing in different positions.

7. NWYRC AWARDS

7.1 Overall winners of each class shall have their name(s) engraved on the NWYRC perpetual plaques/trophies.

7.1.1 For double-handed classes, the names will be of the top ranked skipper and the top ranked crew, even if they did not sail together.

7.2 In addition to plaques, there will be a number of prizes given to the top overall finishers in each fleet. These prizes will be proportionate to the overall size of the fleet.

7.3 Prizes and awards for individual regattas are encouraged. The awarding of such prizes is at the discretion of each host club.

7.4 Sailors who have a perfect attendance in their respective fleet will be recognized.

8. PROTESTS

RRS 60.4(c)(1) is changed to include that in addition to the protest committee, NWYRC series organizers may protest a boat when it learns of an incident that may have resulted in injury to a person or serious damage to a boat from any source, including from *an invalid protest* or overhearing competitors discussing an incident in the parking lot.

8. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

Competitors participate in this series entirely at their own risk. See Rule 3, Decision to Race. The organizers, hosts, and sponsors of this series will not accept liability for property damage, personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after any NWYRC regatta.

9. RIGHT TO USE LIKENESS

Regatta and series organizers reserve the right to use the likeness of sailors and other individuals in attendance at NWYRC events. Photos and other images will be used for promotional purposes only, and will not be sold to third parties. Anyone objecting to the use of their likeness, or their child's, should contact the series organizer in writing stating so.

10. FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information, please contact the representatives of the host clubs listed below. Questions about the series can be directed to Solvig Sayre, The Sailing Foundation Youth Sailing Director, @ ysd@thesailingfoundation.org.

- June 20-21 FJ Frenzy on the Fresh Water @Vancouver Lake Sailing Club—Chris Thobaben crthobaben@gmail.com
- June 27-28 Bellingham Youth Regatta @Bellingham YC & Squalicum Harbor Boat Launch—Blaine Pedlow bpedlow@gmail.com
- July 11-12 WIND Regatta @Columbia Gorge Racing Association (Cascade Locks, OR)—Andrew Nelson hikeharder@gmail.com
- July 18-19 USODA Optimist Northwest Championships @Columbia Gorge Racing Association (Cascade Locks, OR)—Andrew Nelson hikeharder@gmail.com
- July 25-26 Ray Jarecki Regatta @Sail Orcas (Orcas Is, WA)—Burke Thomas orcassailingcoach@gmail.com
- Aug 8-9 Shilshole Showdown @Corinthian YC of Seattle- Jack Kilalea jack@cyccommunitysailing.org
- Aug 15-16 J.A.M. @Port Madison YC (Bainbridge Island, WA)—John & Kimberley Dewey jam@portmadisonyc.org
- Aug 29-30 Sailing Northwest Junior Olympics @Corinthian YC of Seattle (Shilshole, hosted by Seattle YC)—Brian Ledbetter brianL@seattleyachtclub.org
- Sept. 12-13 Octoberfest @Sail Sand Point (Seattle, WA)—Peter Hall- peter@sailsandpoint.org

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Addendum A

Northwest Youth Racing Circuit Code of Conduct

1. **Introduction**

   Each competitor in a Northwest Youth Racing Circuit event shall agree, as a condition of entry, to this Northwest Youth Racing Circuit Code of Conduct (Code).

   This Code begins to apply upon arrival at an event venue and ends, after conclusion of the event, upon leaving the event venue. This Code applies to behavior both on and off the water. This Code applies to a competitor's support person(s) (see RRS Definition *Support Person*). This Code applies in addition to the Racing Rules of Sailing. A competitor may be subject to additional conduct rules at a class sanctioned event. When this Code is in conflict with other rules at US Sailing and/ or USODA sanctioned events, their rules supersede this Code.

   This Code is not intended to establish a set of rules that will, by inclusion or exclusion, prescribe the appropriate behavior for competitors and support persons in every aspect of their participation in the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit. Rather, the Code offers general principles to guide the conduct of competitors and support persons in situations that have ethical implications.

   The competitor commits to familiarization with this Code and understands that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of participation in a Northwest Youth Racing Circuit event.

   Violations of this Code may result in a hearing or punishment from the NWYRC directly and violation of this Code may additionally violate the Racing Rules of Sailing, subjecting a competitor or support person to hearing, punishment or sanction imposed by US Sailing.

2. **Support persons** are defined by people who are supporting competitors. This includes guardians, family members, friends, coaches, etc.

   2.1 Support persons should be familiar with RRS 62

   2.2 Support persons should refrain from disciplining, harassing, or showing other negative behavior toward another support person's competitor. Issues are best resolved by approaching the sailor's coach or the Organizing Authority (OA).

   2.3 A support person that repeatedly and/or intentionally violates this Code may be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including exclusion from the venue.

3. **Respect-** Respect the environment that allows you to enjoy the sport you love. Respect your teammates, competitors, coaches, parents, support persons, board members, race officials, organizing authority, event venue, equipment, etc.

   3.1 Adherence to SAFESPORT CODE FOR THE U.S. OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC MOVEMENT by competitors, race officials, organizing authority, and support persons.

4. **Drugs and Alcohol**

No competitor shall use, either on or off the water, marijuana or any other controlled substance, as defined in 21 U.S. Code 802, the possession of which is unlawful under U.S. Code 841, or alcoholic beverages (distilled spirits, wine, and beer, each as defined in Chapter 51 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and intended for beverage use). This regulation is in effect during the entire event from the date and time of arrival through the date and time of departure from the regatta site, when the competitor is at the regatta site, or on their way to or at the racing area.

5. **Enforcement of the Code**

5.1 Compliance with this Code depends primarily upon understanding the Code and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peers, and, when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary action as outlined by the *RRS*, the SafeSport Code, and the Northwest Youth Racing Circuit NOS.

(a) Any competitor, coach, person, support person, or race official may report, at any time, an alleged breach of this Code by a competitor or support person during an event.

5.2 If an incident is brought to the attention of the Organizing Authority, the Protest Committee shall review the Code violation allegation and conduct a hearing that meets the requirements of Part 5 of the *RRS*. The competitor has the right and option to voluntarily withdraw from the event rather than proceeding with a hearing. If the Protest Committee decides that the competitor has violated the Code and is not exonerated, it may

(a) issue a warning that will be kept and maintained in the competitor's membership file, or

(b) disqualify the competitor's boat from the race or races sailed nearest in time to that of the incident. The race or races will be scored as DNE (disqualification that is not excludable), or

(c) disqualify the competitor's boat or exclude support persons from the event or events sailed nearest in time to that of the incident, or

(d) disqualify the competitor's boat from the 2026 Northwest Youth Racing Circuit and exclude the competitor or support persons from the 2026 Northwest Youth Racing Circuit events, or

(e) disqualify the competitor's boat from all races in the event and exclude the competitor from the event or venue. Further action may be determined by the Protest Committee if warranted including considering calling a hearing under *RRS* 69.2(b) with judges that have Rule 69 training and experience, according to US Sailing's policy.