

## 2022 Racing Programs Q&A

- 1. How many coaches and (women) coaches are expected to be available this season?**
  - a. At the moment, we have 1 coach who is available for all 3 series and 2-3 others who are sporadically available for series 1-3. We are working with one of our women instructors to see if she will be available to coach a women's ballard cup team.
- 2. Are the requirements for Run-Your-Own-Boat hard requirements? I.e. Skipper in at least 1 season of Ballard Cup, participation in at least 3 regattas**
  - a. These requirements are not set in stone, however they are preferred. There are some workarounds for this such as joining in a regatta and gaining the experience, or signing up to race on Wednesday with Steve Summers for him to evaluate your experience level.
- 3. If I have never raced before, are the Fun Races a good way to figure out if racing is for me?**
  - a. The Fun Races are great for practice, but they do not provide the opportunity to practice real starts as there is no official Race Committee running the race. The Intro to Racing Clinic & Fun Race is a great place to start as you are teamed with a coach who will guide you through the motions of a real race structure.
- 4. What is the difference between the Intro the Racing Clinic and the Intro to Racing Rules & Tactics seminar?**
  - a. The Intro to Racing Clinic revolves around learning the fundamentals of mark roundings, raising and dousing the spinnaker, basic rules of racing, as well as a hands-on Fun Race scheduled after the event to put those new skills into action. The Intro to Race Rules and Tactics (Zoom) Seminar dives further into the race rules and explores more of the tactical aspects of racing. Both are suited for beginners/intermediate racers.
- 5. There are 2 dates for the Intro to Racing Clinic, should I sign up for 1 or both of these events?**
  - a. Please only sign up for 1 Intro to Racing Clinic. We encourage you to participate in the Fun Races after the clinics, but only 1 Intro to Racing Clinic per person should be completed.
- 6. If I sign up to be a Roving Racer now, can I change to be a Team Racer later on in the season?**
  - a. Absolutely! This goes for all of the Racing Options and Racer Options. You can crew one series, and move onto skippering a team later on in the season. You can be a Team Racer for one series and more to being a sub or a roving racer in another series.
- 7. What is the best program for beginners to start racing?**
  - a. We would suggest starting with a coached or member skippered team. As a racer type, depending on your availability, signing up as a Team or a Roving racer is a good place to start. Being a "Roving Racer" will give you opportunities to try out different boats and teams which will give you a better idea of your interests in racing.
- 8. What is the difference between Roving Racers and Substitute Racers?**
  - a. Roving racers are folks who want to commit to specific race dates and are interested in exploring different boats, teams, and positions on those boats. Substitutes are those who cannot commit to specific dates, but would like to be contacted in the event of a needed sub.
- 9. If I sign up now for the season and I find out 6 months from now that I can't make some of the races, what is the best solution for this circumstance?**
  - a. As a general rule of thumb, if you can make 4 of the 6 races in Ballard Cup or 4 of the 5 races in CYC Sound Wednesdays, you are eligible to be placed on a permanent team for the series. If something comes up after you've already signed up, we have a running list of subs we will contact to cover you on your team. If you've signed up for all 3 (or 4)

series and you find out that you won't be able to make most of the races, the sooner you let us know the easier it will be for us to find a replacement for you.

**10. Between racing and cruising, what sailing skills are different for racing than cruising?**

- a. There are many skills that pertain to both cruising and racing. In racing particularly, you sail at close-haul (pinching the wind), whereas in cruising you pinch the wind less. Practicing tacking is especially important as getting your tacks right and losing as little momentum as possible during each tack, keeps your team competitive on the course. Additionally, while cruising you would not use a racing spinnaker, instead you would choose a larger genoa. Sailing with a spinnaker adds an entirely new and exciting sailing experience.

**11. When do I need to return my Racer Interest Form?**

- a. For Ballard Cup Series 1, forms need to be completed by March 1
- b. For CYC Spring Series, forms need to be completed by March 7
- c. For additional series, please have your form in at least 2 weeks before the series starts to be considered for that series.
- d. For regattas, the form must be submitted at least 2 weeks to a month before the regatta.

**12. The dates for Women at the Helm Regattas have been changed by Sloop Tavern Yacht Club:**

- a. Women at the Helm: Going the Distance - Saturday, July 23rd
- b. Women at the Helm (short) - Saturday, September 24th

**13. Will there be any Spinnaker courses added to the schedule?**

- a. We are working on adding additional courses to the schedule and will notify racers as soon as additional lessons are added.

**14. Can you explain further what the Race Committee does and how that works?**

- a. Race Committee is the team which goes on the water to carry out the planned sailing activities, including laying marks, setting the starting and finishing lines, signaling, timing and scoring. There is no experience necessary to perform race committee duties, however, participating in race committee is a great learning experience and is valued tremendously. For STYC race committee, there will always be a skipper of the boat (Margaret Pommert has volunteered to help out!) as well as an STYC representative who will train the committee on best practices before the race.

**15. Will the Intro to Race Rules & Tactics seminar be recorded?**

- a. Unfortunately, no this seminar will not be recorded as it is a paid seminar for members to participate in.

**16. What if the choices I've chosen on my Racer Interest Form are not available?**

- a. If this is the case, we will notify you with all of the available options for you. Oftentimes, if we are unable to set you up with your first choices immediately, there is a high possibility we will be able to do so later on in the season.