

Jr. Sailing Program Update

Now is the time to start planning for next summer with your child/children and consider buying a boat if there is a possibility that your child might like to try racing next summer.

Fun “low key” club racing was introduced last summer on Monday nights. We plan to continue this successful format starting in early July and include Lasers and 420’s when the schedule allows. Racing is the “game” that sailors play when they compete- the CYC Junior Sailing staff is committed to introducing racing to our young sailors in a way that encourages participation, good sportsmanship, learning and fun. Our enthusiastic Optimist, 420 and Laser racers had a great time this summer visiting nearby clubs on Narragansett Bay, racing in different venues and making many new friends.

Anyone who thinks that their child will be entering a racing class – Optimist or Laser it is strongly recommended that you own your own boat. Now is the time to start planning for that and looking for good deals on boats and equipment. CYC Jr sailing supports all NBYA regattas by encouraging participation from our sailors.- you need your own Optimist or Laser to participate in NBYA regattas. This is the next step beyond racing on Mondays and in sailing class.

There is limited space in the 420 class for racers. Last summer there were several NBYA events where all 8 of the CYC 420’s were raced. We are asking all 420 racers going into their 2nd or 3rd year of racing to consider purchasing a boat so they have the option of attending regattas outside of NBYA.

Owning your own boat has several advantages to using a club-owned boat. If you have your own boat your child has access to it outside of class time and can go for a sail on the weekend. In order for kids to maximize their potential, it is important that they “get out of their own pond”, so to speak. This year, we will be encouraging many of the kids to go to events outside of NBYA, such as: the Buzzards Regatta,

Hyannis Yacht Club Regatta, Optimist New England's, Optimist Atlantic Coasts and others to be determined.

In order to have kids travel to events outside the club, they will need their own boats. The program has 8 club 420's that are all utilized during classes, so there is not much wiggle room in terms of keeping daily classes going and getting kids the experience they need and deserve at "outside" events.

The equipment on all of the club boats (that includes sails, blades, and lines) is adequate for local NBYA events and daily classes. However, in order to maximize a child's potential oftentimes newer equipment is required. In order to grow the program, more boats are required. CYC is not in a position to own and maintain a boat for every Jr. sailor - no club can do that.

Finally, boat ownership is a great way to teach responsibility and pride. Next year we hope to teach boat maintenance in each class, as well as start a ship shape award. The ship shape award will go to the sailor who shows they he/she best treats and maintains their boat.

Any questions about what direction your child should take next year in terms of classes and/or what to look for in buying a boat, feel free to contact Meg Myles: Mgaillard@aol.com .