

# AVALON YACHT CLUB RACING TEAM INFORMATION (2024)

We encourage all sailors in our AYC Junior Sailing Program to join the Racing Team and participate in the South Jersey Summer Series (SJSS) Junior Regattas. The SJSS is a series of events that take place on Thursdays throughout the summer at locations between Cooper River and Cape May, New Jersey. Regattas are hosted by member yacht clubs of the Mid-Atlantic Yacht Racing Association (MAYRA), including the Avalon Yacht Club. The AYC Racing Team is made up primarily of sailors in our Level III, IV, and V Optimist classes, the Intermediate/Advanced Sunfish class, and the Laser, Feva & Club 420 classes. In addition, Level II Optimist sailors are encouraged to compete when they are ready in the Green Fleet races, which are sailed separately on simple courses close to shore as fun, low-key introductions to competitive sailing.

The number of AYC sailors participating in the MAYRA SJSS regattas has grown in recent years. The team has traveled with as many as forty sailors, thirty boats, a dozen instructors, two patrol boats, and all the accompanying sails, spars, blades, bailers, dollies, trailers, and other equipment needed to support the team. The Racing Team's efforts demonstrate how sailing at the Club is a team activity, and our sailors, instructors, and parents come together and create memories that last all winter and beyond.

In an effort to outline the expectations of everyone involved in making the AYC Racing Team possible, we have highlighted some of the responsibilities below.

## **Sailors on the Racing Team are expected to:**

- Be responsible for themselves, their boats, their equipment, and their belongings;
- Be a team player, assisting with the loading and unloading of all boats and equipment;
- Be capable of rigging (and de-rigging) their boats independently;
- Have a working knowledge of racing skills and the Racing Rules of Sailing;
- Read and be familiar with the SJSS 2024 Rules & Regulations for Junior Events, available for download at [MAYRA Junior Events - SJSS \(https://mayrasailing.org/youth-series-%26-racing\)](https://mayrasailing.org/youth-series-%26-racing);
- Read the Notice of Race and any Sailing Instructions issued for each regatta, attend the Skippers' Meetings, and prepare to **race**;
- Act appropriately as AYC representatives while guests at the host yacht clubs; and,
- Compete to the best of their abilities, with enthusiasm and sportsmanship.

## **Instructors assigned to work with the Racing Team on race days are expected to:**

- Coach sailors before, during, and after regattas, check for proper rigging, help with any equipment issues, and offer instruction and encouragement (within the limits of the Racing Rules of Sailing);
- Be attentive to the safety of all sailors on the water;
- Communicate with sailors' parents and guardians; and,
- Oversee the loading and unloading of boats on trailers, including the safe tie downs of all boats and equipment for road travel.

## **Parents of sailors on the Racing Team are expected to:**

- Attend the Parent Racing Meeting on the first Monday of each sailing session;
- Register sailors for regattas, including the payment of fees;
- Be present with sailors at regattas in case of emergency (or arrange for a designee to act if needed);
- Trailer boats, haul equipment, and/or transport sailors to and from regattas;
- Assist with loading and unloading of boats and equipment, launching, and general organization of sailors, boats, and equipment;
- Volunteer at the AYC Junior Regatta and extend all courtesies to our guests; and,
- Cheer on all sailors (within the limits of the Racing Rules of Sailing).

The AYC Racing Team has grown substantially over the past few years, and we have implemented procedures intended to help the travel team run smoothly.

- **Attend the Racing Team Parent Meeting on the first Monday of each session** (Session 1: Monday, June 24 10:00 am, and Session II: Monday, July 22 10:00 am). After the Sailing Director makes introductory comments and all sailors are organized in their classes, Racing Team Parents meet to share information and plan the travel season.
- **Instructors will be available to give "skills evaluations"** to determine if sailors are ready to travel. Racing Team sailors should understand the basic rules of sailing and be able to rig and de-rig their boats independently. Sailors need to rig themselves because instructors are often responsible for unloading boats, attending coaches' meetings, and preparing other sailors to race. (Note, the Green Fleet typically starts later and finishes earlier, allowing more time for those instructors to assist younger and less experienced sailors.)
- **All sailors that intend to sail on a Thursday must commit by Tuesday at 10 am.** This allows time to organize boat trailers and schedule drivers. It is usually difficult to add boats (or take them off) at the last minute, especially where changes require an extra driver that may not be available.

- **Sailors that compete on Thursday must have their boats and equipment unloaded and returned to the boat yard before the start of sailing on Monday at 10 am.** We ask that boats and equipment be unloaded and readied on sailors' own time before sailing on Monday, because too much time has been spent doing this on Mondays, thereby losing time on the water.
- **Prepaid lunch fees may be pro-rated for sailors on the Racing Team.** Sailors who prepay lunch for either a half or full season may pro-rate the lunch fee by \$7.50 per regatta. Please see the schedule to determine the number of missed lunches and make a note when submitting payment.

**MAYRA's 2024 South Jersey Summer Series Junior Regatta Schedule:**

- June 27 Greater Wildwood Yacht Club (GWYC) and Yacht Club of Sea Isle City (YCSIC)
- July 3 (**Wednesday**) Ocean City Yacht Club (OCYC)
- **July 11 Avalon Yacht Club (AYC)**
- July 18 Brigantine Yacht Club (BYC)
- July 25 Yacht Club of Stone Harbor (YCSH)
- August 1 Cooper River Yacht Club (CRYC)
- August 8 Corinthian Yacht Club of Cape May (CYCCM)
- August 13 MAYRA SJSS Awards Event - Yacht Club of Sea Isle City

**Additional 2024 Regatta Opportunities:**

- July 5 - Powder Puff Regatta at the Metedeconk River Yacht Club. Popular girls-only event with races for Optimists, Sunfish, Lasers, and Club 420 Fleets
- July 15-16 - Junior Olympics at the Island Heights Yacht Club. Large regional regatta open to Optimists, Sunfish, Lasers and 420s
- August 13 – No Tears Regatta at Toms River Yacht Club – Sailors 10 years old or younger, 3 years or less in a sailing program.
- August 18-20 — New Jersey Optimist State Championship at Brant Beach Yacht Club. Competitive, Optimist-only event recommended for the more advanced Optimist sailors.

**Age Requirements/Limits:**

- Optimist age requirements adhere to the US Optimist Dinghy Association (USODA) class rules. The competitive Optimist Dinghy fleet is grouped in three divisions based on the ages of competitors on the first day of the scheduled competition (*i.e.*, June 27, 2024):
  - White Fleet: 10 years old or younger
  - Blue Fleet: 11 or 12 years old
  - Red Fleet: 13, 14, or 15 years old and shall not have reached their 16th birthday in the current calendar year (*i.e.*, sailors who will turn 16 in the current year have aged out of the class).
  - Sailors up to 15 years old may participate as Green Fleet sailors. The purpose of the Green Fleet is to encourage novice sailors, and the USODA's policy is to present "Participation Awards" to all skippers sailing Green Fleet. A sailor is only eligible to race in Green Fleet for one season, after which he or she should join the appropriate fleet based on his/her age.
- Laser 4.7, Laser Radial, RS Feva, Club 420, and Sunfish sailors may be 18 years old or younger, and no sailor may turn 19 years old at any time during the summer series.

**The Avalon Yacht Club will host the MAYRA SJSS regatta on Thursday July 11!** We aim to repeat the great events that we have hosted previously and will need volunteers to help put our best foot forward. Please consider lending a hand. More information will follow.

**Other Junior Racing at the Club:** There are seven competitive weekend intraclub regattas at the Club that are open to all junior sailors in the Optimist, Sunfish, Laser, and Club 420 classes:

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| Sunday, May 26 at 1 pm  | Memorial Day Regatta                                     |
| Sunday, June 30 at 1 pm | Independence Day Regatta ("AYC Summer Series" #1)        |
| Sunday, July 14 at 1 pm | Past-Commodores' Regatta ("AYC Summer Series" #2)        |
| Sunday, July 28 at 1 pm | Pirates' Regatta ("AYC Summer Series" #3)                |
| Sunday, Aug. 4 at 1 pm  | AYC Foundation Pizza Regatta ("AYC Summer Series" #4)    |
| Sunday, Aug. 11 at 1 pm | Commodore's Regatta ("AYC Summer Series" #5)             |
| Sunday, Sept. 1 at 1 pm | Labor Day Regatta including Mother, Fathers & Old Timers |

We are truly looking forward to an exciting summer on the road with the AYC Racing Team!