



**Wild Harbor Yacht Club**  
**Parents Guide to Junior Sailing Program**  
**2010**

This is being provided to you as a guide to our Junior Sailing Program. If you have questions pertaining to the information provided, or general questions, feel free to contact one of the chairpersons for the Junior Sailing Program (Russ Gasdia – [RJGasdia@comcast.net](mailto:RJGasdia@comcast.net) or Jane O’Connor – [moconnor01@comcast.net](mailto:moconnor01@comcast.net)), or our Commodore, Jim Rafferty at [kmrafferty@comcast.net](mailto:kmrafferty@comcast.net).

Feel free to visit our website at [www.sailwhyc.com](http://www.sailwhyc.com) for information regarding our schedule, event calendar (regatta dates) and other useful information.

**Junior Sailing Program:**

Our season begins Monday, June 28 and ends Friday, August 20. Our year-end awards and recognition meeting takes place on Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>. Class times/days are as follows:

Mates:	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	9:00am – 11:00am
Skippers & IJS:	Monday, Wednesday, Friday	11:15am – 1:15pm
Opti I:	Monday, Wednesday, Thursday	8:30am – 11:00am
Opti Intermediate:	Tuesday & Friday Thursday	8:30am - 11:00am 11:15am - 1:15pm
Opti III:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	2:00pm – 4:00pm
420 I:	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday	11:15am – 1:15pm
420 II:	Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday	2:00pm – 4:00pm
Opti Race/420 Race	Monday – Friday	2:00pm – 5:00pm

- Children should arrive at WHYC no sooner than 15 minutes prior to the start of their class
  - Children arriving earlier than 15 minutes before the start of their class will be sent home
- Children should come to class fully prepared with:
  - Life jacket
  - Sunscreen/hats/sunglasses
  - CLOSED TOE SHOES – No Crocs! Cheap/old canvas sneakers work, as do neoprene style reef shoes or if in Optis or 420s, Gill brand boats
    - Children wearing flip-flops, open toed sandals or no shoes will be sent home



- Every effort will be made to get out on the water each day. Weather and wind will play a major role in determining if it is safe to go out for classes. Obviously, with the younger children, greater consideration is given to the weather and winds.
  - The Program Director and Senior Instructors are tasked with determining whether to go out or not. The main focus is safety for the children and if they feel that safety could be compromised they will not go out on the water.
  - This also holds true should weather turn bad during class. Every effort will be made to get children back on shore as soon as possible and as safely as possible.
  
- On days where weather keeps the children off the water, the instructors will conduct onshore activities.
  - These will range from learning knots, nautical games to reinforce sailing skills and terms, as well as movies/videos that are sailing-based whenever possible. These may be instructional videos or sailing-themed movies.
  - In some cases, if there is an unusual number of days when sailing is prohibited, the instructors may show movies that are age appropriate but not sailing-themed AFTER a nautical lesson has been presented.
  - We will have a projector/screen at the club so we can show these movies/videos
  
- During class transition, we ask that parents remain off to the side of the yacht club so as to not impede the flow and directions of the lessons.
  - One objective of the sailing program is to encourage the children to work cooperatively by helping each other un-rack and re-rack their Optis, assist each other with rigging boats and work with the instructor staff during this time period.
  - Parent involvement during this period of time can interfere with the learning process. If you feel that your child is not receiving the support you expect, this is something you can address with the Program Director.

**Our Staff:**

<u>Position:</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Leader For:</u>	<u>Email:</u>
Program Director	Peter Wisotzkey	Entire Program	peter.wisotzkey@gmail.com
420 Race Coach	Ryan Byrne	420 Race Team	RMBSB1223@aol.com
Opti Race Coach	Connor Watson	Opti Race Team	CDWATS12@holycross.edu
Senior Instructor	Nick Baird	Opti I and 420 I	nbaird@providence.edu
Senior Instructor	Russ Gasdia	IJS/ Skippers & 420 II	rg7296a@student.american.edu
Senior Instructor	Rachel Perkins	Opti II"A" & Mates	perkins.r@neu.edu
Senior Instructor	Caitlin Watson	Opti II"B" & Opti 3	cmwatson91@gmail.com

### **Communicating with Program Director & Senior Instructors:**

- Immediately prior to and after classes (transition periods) our Senior Instructor staff are focused on preparing for the next class or finishing up on the class just concluded.
  - This is a difficult time to speak to the Senior Instructor staff.
  - Therefore, we will establish days/times where the Program Director and the Senior Instructors will be available to meet with. These will be posted and/or provided to parents the first week of the program. Also, we encourage emailing with questions.
  - We ask that you allow the Senior Instructors and Program Director to focus on class transitions and activities taking place at the start of class and during class.
- Each day we will try to have one member of the Senior Instructor staff available to speak to parents during class transition. The intent is to provide an opportunity to meet and greet parents and be available to answer general questions.

### **Sailing Gear and Member Owned Boats:**

- WHYC is open to all its members so sailors are NOT to leave personal items such as life jackets, sneakers/boots, rash guards and clothes at WHYC club house.

#### **OPTIs:**

- Sails, rudders and dagger boards for Optis may be stored in the WHYC club house
  - PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND PHONE # ON THESE ITEMS
- If you have a dolly for your Opti, PLEASE PUT YOUR NAME AND PHONE # ON THE DOLLY
- Optis should be racked and not left on the grass area

#### **420s:**

- Rudders, sails, misc. gear for 420s may be stored in the WHYC club house.
  - PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND PHONE # ON THESE ITEMS
  - Also place name and phone # on your 420 dolly

#### **Sunfish:**

- Rudder, dagger boards sails/spars can be stored in WHYC club house
- Place name and phone # on Sunfish dolly

### **Saturday Races:**

- Each Saturday, we hold races that are specifically geared towards our beginner/novice/intermediate sailors for Opti, 420s, Hunters\* & Sunfish\*
  - \* ONLY children who are enrolled in classes that use Hunters and Sunfish are allowed to use the WHYC owned Hunters and Sunfish during Saturday races.*
- The races are coordinated by two of our board members, John Kirk and Brian O'Rourke
- Children interested in racing should be at WHYC by 9:30 to prepare for the race
- Following the races, we hold our Saturday Cookouts for ALL members and guests of members, which are a great way for the children to socialize following the races.

### **Other Racing Opportunities:**

Wild Harbor YC has a long and successful tradition of racing. We are a member of US Sailing and the Southern Massachusetts Sailing Association (SMSA). Also, we are one of five local yacht clubs who participate in what is known as the UNKIE CUP Series (The "UNKIES" are two of our members Richard Watson and his brother-in-law Rick Flynn. When their children were young and participating in the WHYC Junior Sailing Program, they came up with the idea of providing an opportunity for Opti sailors to hone their sailing/racing skills on local waters).

We encourage children in the Opti and 420 programs to work towards becoming members of our race teams. Representing WHYC at SMSA regattas held throughout the summer is a great experience. Like other sports, sailing in SMSA regattas provides for healthy competition, points are accumulated in a Grand Prix fashion throughout the summer and sailors are then ranked, not only at the individual regatta, but within SMSA. Awards are provided at regattas and at the end of the year for top sailors.

Check out our website for a listing of SMSA events (calendar)

### **Optimist Racing Fleet Information:**

Fleets: Red, Blue, White, and Green. (The following guidelines are from USODA)

- White fleet is for skippers who are 10 and under.
- Blue fleet is for skippers who are 11 or 12.
- Red fleet is for skippers who are 13, 14, or 15.
  - In all fleets, the determining date is the skipper's age on the first day of the regatta not the skipper's age at the end of the current year. Skippers move up to blue fleet on their 11th birthday and red fleet on their 13th birthday. At most regattas, the red, blue, and white fleets all start at the same time and race on the same course.
- Green fleet is a special fleet for beginners. Green fleet sailors can be any age up to 15. A green fleet might have skippers who are as young as 6 and as old as 15, but sooner or later they'll move into their age-appropriate fleet. A ten year old green fletcher would move into white fleet, a thirteen year old green fletcher would move into red fleet, etc.

### **420 Racing Information:**

There is only one fleet in a 420 race. All 420s race against each other, regardless of experience/age of skipper and crew

Go to [www.southernmasssailing.com](http://www.southernmasssailing.com) for more information.

### **"UNKIE CUP " – Buzzards Bay Optimist Series**

- This series is held over the summer on four Wednesdays (see our calendar on the web site)
- The UNKIE CUP is for all Opti sailors (beginner (Green Fleet) through advanced (Red Fleet)
- Five local yacht/sailing clubs participate and rotate hosting the UNKIE CUP (with one of the five clubs getting a year off each year)
  - Chappaquoit YC – Megansett YC - Quissett YC - Buzzard's Sailing School (Wing's Neck Pocassett) & Wild Harbor YC
- Individual awards are provided at each event for each fleet. Overall points are also accumulated throughout the summer and overall awards are provided at the last event of the season. There is also a team/club award for the top scoring team/club
- We encourage all of our Opti sailors to give the UNKIE a try, especially when we host the UNKIE.

### **WHYC 420 Invitational Regatta:**

- This is a one-day regatta hosted by WHYC. It was created to provide our beginner and novice 420 (420 I and II classes) sailors with an opportunity to race against other yacht clubs and sailors with similar experience levels.
- We usually have eight clubs and approximately 30 boats each year. It is held the first Thursday of August and is a great way to put their skills to the test following the first half of the season.
- We encourage all 420 I and II skippers and crew to participate in this event.

### **Junior Sailing Program Rules:**

1. Be prompt to class and ready to sail, rain or shine
2. LIFE JACKETS - US Coast Guard approved PFDs (Personal Flotation Devices) are mandatory. They must be zipped and buckled on the water. Children will NOT be allowed on the water without a Life Jacket.
3. FOOTWEAR - No bare feet. Feet must be covered around the club and on boats. Canvas sneakers are recommended. Flip flops and sandals are discouraged.
4. MEDICAL FORMS - An up-to-date WHYC Medical Form must be filed for every child with the program director before the start of classes. The form is available on the WHYC website - [www.sailwhyc.com](http://www.sailwhyc.com)
5. PARKING - Parking at the club is limited. Drop children off at the corner of Grove and West Streets. A few public spaces are available on Grove Street, harbor side. A parking lot is located adjacent to New Silver Beach tennis courts across the harbor from WHYC. We encourage children to walk or bike to their sailing lessons (and use the bike rack).
6. CONDUCT - Safe boating requires cooperation and control. *Pushing, shoving, name-calling and other disruptive behavior* will NOT be tolerated. Children deemed disruptive to the classes will be sent home.

### **Policy regarding sailors representing Wild Harbor Yacht Club at regattas:**

No member of the Wild Harbor Yacht Club under the age of twenty-one (21) shall use, either on or off the water, alcoholic beverages or controlled substances, the possession of which is unlawful. This rule is in effect during an entire event, from date and time of departure from Wild Harbor Yacht Club through the time of arrival back at the Wild Harbor Yacht Club. Penalties for a violation of this rule may range from reprimand to dismissal from the Wild Harbor Yacht Club.

### **Policy regarding the Use of Club Trailers:**

The Club 420 (two boat) and Optimist (6 boat) trailers were purchased to assist members in getting their boats to and from various regattas, but it has necessitated the establishment of the following rules:

1. It is the responsibility of the boat's owner:
  - a) Make a request to the Junior Sailing Committee Chairperson(s) a week in advance of the regatta that they desire to have their boat transported to that specific regatta.
  - b) If the Junior Committee Chairperson(s) accepts the request, the owner must load the boat onto the trailer, properly secure the boat and spars to the trailer.
  - c) At the regatta, unload the boat.
  - d) At the end of the regatta, reload and secure the boat and spars on the trailer.
  - e) Upon the trailer returning to the WHYC, immediately unload the boat and spars. No boat shall be stored on the trailer.
  
2. It is the responsibility of the WHYC to ensure a driver with a valid license and proper vehicle tow the trailer to and from the regatta. The WHYC is not responsible for any physical damage which might occur to the boat or spars.

### **Handling Member's Boats During Class:**

- During the normal course of instruction, the Program Director, Race Coaches or Senior Instructors may need to *assist* children with rigging, de-rigging, and racking member's boats.
- In addition, they may need to perform emergency repairs on the water.
- *These activities are allowed and the instructor staff will take every precaution to ensure that member's boats are handled properly in these instances.*