

Summary of the JSA Annual Meeting October 22, 2015

Presentation of season trophies and junior big boat trophies:

The season awards based on high point scores and awards for specific big boat events were presented at the beginning of the meeting. Details about these awards and recipients are available on the JibeTalk blog www.JibeTalk.com

Special Awards for Sportsmanship, Character and Achievement:

Junior program representatives in attendance were reminded by JSA chairperson, Tricia Leicht, to nominate deserving candidates for the JSA Special Awards during the 2014 season. These awards are the Mitchell S. Weeks Trophy honoring sportsmanship in the Club 420, Laser and Laser Radial classes; the Brooke E. Gonzalez Memorial Trophy honoring a young woman who demonstrates sportsmanship, exceptional ethical behavior and dedication to the sport of sailing; and the Susie Trotman Trophy awarded to the instructor who demonstrates outstanding sailing instruction. Nomination forms for these awards may be found on the JSA website www.JSALIS.org > News section.

Election of board members for 2014-2015:

The motion to approve the JSA board nominees was approved by vote of the member program representatives. The list of elected board members may be viewed on the JSA website www.JSALIS.org > Contact JSA menu tab.

US Sailing Training Discussion: Cristen Schifino, the small boat training manager at US sailing, discussed upcoming training events and enhanced training programs that will be available in western Long Island Sound.

- A regional symposium for the Metro New York region will be held November 8 at Oakcliff Sailing Center in Oyster Bay. Participants at this regional symposium may obtain a 10% discount on their registration fee for the 2015 National Sailing Programs Symposium to be held in New Orleans January 21-24. Information about these two training events may be found on the [US sailing website](#).
- All small boat Instructor training courses for the Long Island Sound region will be announced simultaneously in late February so course participants may each have an equal opportunity to register for an appropriate course convenient to their residence. If your sailing facility would like to host a training event for Level 1 or Level 2 instructors, Cristen asks you contact the regional training coordinators for western Long Island Sound, who are Mary von Conta for Fairfield and Westchester counties [mvonconta@optonline.net] and Joan Lawson for western Long Island [joan.lawson@gmail.com].
- Head instructors and program directors may benefit from a new training course that will teach sailing program management. The new course, which will be known as Level 4, requires Level 1 and Level 2 certification as prerequisite. The new course may also be available without prerequisites for volunteer program leaders who wish to understand best practices that may be applied to the management of their own sailing program. This new Level 4 course was developed with the assistance of Kevin Broome, sailing director at American Yacht Club, who is a member of the national training faculty at US sailing.

Open Discussion Topics:

- Application for hosting a JSA championship: Any JSA member program may apply for hosting a 2015 JSA championship by filling out an application indicating how they propose to manage the championship. If more than one program applies to host the same event, JSA will discuss the proposals with each program and then choose a host for 2015. Member programs having a champs winner in 2014 may be given extra consideration, but that will be just one element in

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the selection of a JSA championship host for 2015. The application is available on the JSA website www.JSALIS.org > News.

- Proposal for hosting a JSA qualifier event: A list was circulated among the annual meeting attendees and member program representatives were able to request the qualifier events to be hosted by their club in 2015. If your program was not at the meeting, you may email the JSA office to specify events you wish to host and preferred dates. Dave Waldo, the JSA vice chair who is managing JSA event scheduling, will contact you to discuss your club's proposed event.
- Scheduling of events: The JSA schedule in 2015 is expected to commence on June 22. Connecticut schools will be finished by that date, but New York schools will not be finished until later in that week, same as occurred this past summer. As a result, the JSA Racing Clinic may be moved to a Saturday and Sunday schedule, instead of weekdays, to prevent conflict with programs that have already started and allow students who may still be at school to attend the clinic. Jr. Big Boat Sailing events were split in 2014 between the 7th and 8th program week, which a commenter said boat owners and junior programs found difficult to manage. So in 2015 JSA will return the scheduling of the Dorade and Beach Point Overnight to consecutive days at beginning of the 8th week. JSA expects to schedule its Optimist Champs at beginning of week 8 to avoid the USODA Optimist New England Championship that again intrudes in week 7 during 2015 (avoiding Opti NE champs may not be possible in all future years). In general, JSA prefers to stay away from champs events on both Saturday and Sunday, to minimize instructor overtime pay. A commenter suggested no JSA champs be held on the second Saturday in August because that is the usual date for Fairfield County Swim League championships.
- Regatta fees: To encourage junior programs to send more instructors to regattas, a commenter suggested entry fees for instructors be significantly reduced, because the instructors and their boats are a valuable part of the safety network at a regatta. They serve without pay by the host, so should not be charged a large entry fee. In other regions it is typical to charge no fee or a reduced fee for the instructor entries. Another commenter mentioned that some host clubs provide a wide variety of food and beverage as part of the sailor entry fee, whereas other hosts charge extra for food and beverage. A JSA subcommittee is planning to review regatta services and fees charged in order to provide guidance to host clubs about the types of services that should be expected as a minimum at any JSA event, and a reasonable range of fees for the services received by the competitors.
- Junior instructor earnings are currently restricted to \$1000 per year, per JSA Rule 3.5. At private clubs where junior instructors help in the mornings and sail in the afternoon as a registered member of the junior program, this dollar limit has not been a problem because the instructors are considered volunteers who work without pay, or receive only a modest honorarium. However, a commenter pointed out that sailors 18 years of age or younger who work full time as a junior instructor for minimum wage are prevented from competing in JSA events by the \$1000 limitation. For other categories of junior events, such as the US Sailing Sears/Bemis/Smythe championships, there is no such limit on earnings as a sailing instructor. A JSA subcommittee will review this matter for discussion at the midwinter meeting.
- Instructors often have been observed at regattas improperly wearing PFDs, according to a commenter. The PFDs are sometimes not Coast Guard approved, or not properly worn (unzipped or unbuckled) or not worn at all. JSA will encourage regatta organizers hosting JSA events to enforce the proper wearing of PFD's at their events by instructors. In addition the junior programs should enforce proper wearing of PFD's during daily activities so instructors serve as role models for their junior sailors.

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- What is the role of the JSA in encouraging the sailing of new types of boats? An example of a high performance boat that is popular in Europe is the 29er. Tricia Leicht stated JSA is a member driven organization, so any member program that wishes to sail a particular type of boat, or include a start for such boats in a regatta, may contact the JSA office to make arrangements to publicize that activity to other JSA member programs. The majority of juniors at JSA member programs are not elite sailors. So, two years ago, in support of active racers, JSA began to encourage member programs to consider working with the performance coaching teams to support their sailors who may compete outside of Long Island Sound or move into boats not sailed at the local program. A commenter stated that teens at a particular junior program may be shifting to Laser Radials because the Club 420 is not considered exciting to sail. Another commenter said their family owns a 29er, which the juniors were able to handle only because of the foundation they gained sailing boats in the junior program. Concerning the Pixel, which was a new boat when introduced in 2006, it appears this boat's appeal remains attractive to junior programs that use it for recreational sailing, although there is a small decrease in the number of Pixels currently racing. Another commenter mentioned the rapid growth of the J/70 class. This fleet, which is now active at clubs on Long Island Sound, may be an opportunity to get juniors involved in a new boat that has excited adult sailors.
- A review of the JSA website is underway. The objective will be to enhance the ability of users to quickly access the information they need. Online pre-payment of regatta entry fees has been requested by a host club that had difficulty collecting fees from entrants. Another commenter concurred this would be a desirable feature for its events. However other program representatives indicated that they do not charge individual fees for each regatta, instead including a lump sum for regatta fees in the program charges to their racing sailor families. A JSA subcommittee will consider alternative event payment procedures during the review of the website.
- "Clean" regattas are seen as desirable by many of the program representatives. Eliminating disposable water bottles at every junior sailing event should be an objective according to one commenter. Many other sports, such as soccer, assume the players will bring their own refreshments and water - why not sailing? Sailors could be sent from home each day with two refillable water bottles. The college sailing community has already made this change and has experience in using refillable water bottles for several years. To make this effective a commenter suggested junior programs use refillable bottles daily so that they have the appropriate equipment in their coach boats and at their dock for rapid refill of their sailors' water bottles.
- Jr. Big boat navigation training has been a disappointment, according to a commenter. Even though the member program's volunteer navigation instructor spent a lot of effort, the kids got only a 40% grade on the navigation test. Various suggestions were discussed, including scheduling the classes during normal program hours, instead of after the daily program when sailors are tired. Require the sailors to review the entire online course on their own time, and dedicate class time only to the most significant concepts. If JSA set a passing grade, what level should that grade be? Or should a passing grade be set also for the instructors who will be the advisors on the overnight race? Remove unnecessary questions from the test to make passing a bit more attainable. The JSA big boat subcommittee will review these suggestions.

If you were unable to attend the annual meeting on October 22 and have suggestions for junior sailing enhancements or wish to host an event in 2015, please contact Bob Whittredge at the JSA office by email info@jsalis.org or phone 914-834-4202.