



JSA 2020 Pandemic Summer Playbook

Introduction

Due to special circumstances, the 2020 suggested format for JSA events is significantly modified from its traditional format. The safety of our junior sailors, volunteers, instructors and club members is of paramount importance, and this modified format radically simplifies event management to facilitate safety for all participants.

Events typically co-organized by the JSA will not be qualifiers or championships in 2020. Logistics for registering, launching, skipper's meetings, awards ceremonies and race committee work preclude the ability to hold traditional regattas. In addition, many programs may be restricting entry on their properties to club members only.

As an alternative, programs are encouraged to plan for local scrimmages with neighboring programs that can be conducted entirely on-water.

We are taking these measures to provide a safe and fun experience for our junior sailors while also ensuring that social distancing is respected, instructors can set and manage simple courses, towing is minimized, dependence on volunteers is minimized, and clubs can eliminate non-member use of their facilities.

Basic Guidelines

Due to special circumstances, the 2020 suggested format for JSA events is significantly modified:

- Plan local scrimmages with neighboring programs using planned meet-ups on the water. Where on-water meet-ups are not geographically feasible, arrange with local clubs for small controlled groups to use guest launching if the clubs' special 2020 policies will allow.
- Substitute instructors with whistles for traditional race committees. Suspend use of flags for 2020.
- Limit scrimmages to 10 – 20 boats.
- Eliminate onsite skipper's meetings and award ceremonies, by converting to virtual.
- Distribute give-aways on-water, or after the event. Give-aways such as tee shirts and hats will continue to be important mementos to Junior Sailors.

JSA Role

While circumstances dictate that the format will change, the JSA will still conduct Head Instructor Training and the All Instructor Workshop. We continue to be a resource for member programs in all the usual ways, including posting events on the JSA calendar and Clubspot for programs to submit their scores for scrimmages and local series.

While these regattas are executed in a more 'informal' way, JSA encourages each program to keep scores and submit results for posting on the JSA Website.

We are happy to make any introductions or connections to neighboring programs to ensure that all JSA member junior programs can benefit from this special format.

Format

1. Scheduled by and for a few neighboring programs in close geographic proximity.
2. Sailing program Directors/Instructors organize informal regional "zones" to schedule scrimmages and rotate program "on-water hosting" over 2-3 local scrimmages.

Example Zones: [Milford, Black Rock], [Pequot, Cedar Point], [Noroton, Norwalk, Stamford], [Larchmont, American], [Riverside, Indian Harbor, Belle Haven], [Northport, Centerport].... These are examples only. You know your program's instructors and equipment best. Local arrangements should be selected to work best for your program.

3. Conduct a weekly planning call within your zone to tentatively schedule scrimmages. Confirm the morning of the meet-up that the conditions will be suitable for a few hours on the water and (possibly) at a farther distance from your program than usual.

Be conservative and be flexible! Postpone or cancel **ON LAND** if conditions are questionable. Understand that some clubs will not allow sailors to linger on land if they are not immediately launching - they will send them home for the day.

4. Designate a meet-up location and report time. Sailors sail from their home club or Instructors tow sailors out to the course eliminating land-side activities.
5. Designate a radio channel.
6. Fleet size – limit to small fleets based on Instructors' ability to manage the event: 10-20 boats per event recommended.

Staffing

1. Race Committee consists of Instructor Boats with 1 – 2 Instructors in each.
2. Designate one Instructor boat as the Committee Boat and the other 1 – 2 boats as Mark Boats and roving on-water Judge Boats (see Protests).
3. Each Instructor boat should arrive at the pre-arranged location with all equipment needed to run the day's races.

Equipment Checklist

1. 3 – 4 small practice marks (hippity-hops are owned by most programs) with light anchors for short courses and quick mark movement.
2. An automatic timing device set for 3 minute starts or a watch and whistle or horn. Confirm that the Instructor knows how to use it before leaving the dock.
3. The instructor boat's anchor out of its storage location ready to be used. Confirm there is sufficient line to enable the Instructor boat to be used as a stationary Committee Boat at the designated location.
4. An extra throwable or other bright colored life jacket. These can be used as a placeholder to tie off to the anchor in case a stationary Instructor boat needs to leave their station to move a mark or perform a rescue.
5. An orange starting line flag and suitable mounting location.
6. Paper and pencil to record finishes.
7. Radio.
8. A bullhorn if possible.

Courses & Starts

1. Fleet racing – Windward / leeward with start / finish in the middle. Triangle if resources and conditions allow. Trapezoids are not recommended due to resource requirements and length of race.
2. Team racing – Port Box.
3. Course length should be 10 – 15 minutes.
4. 3 minute starts. No flags. Signal an alert with a series of short tweets to get the attention of the sailors.
5. OCS, general recalls and abandonments – hail sailors using the best available means. Use a bullhorn or roving Instructor Boat to notify sailors.

Protests

1. No protest hearings. Use the roving Instructor Boat for on-water judging when possible.
2. Prepare your sailors before leaving the dock to take a 360 penalty if they are not sure, and review events with their Instructors when they return to the dock.

Logistics & Strategies

1. Keep it moving! Start new sequences immediately after the last boat finishes.
2. Keep it simple! Allow for a snack break, but don't try to incorporate a lunch break.
3. If you have give-aways, put them on the Instructor Boat and hand them out on the water after racing.
4. Mark your practice marks so your Instructors return with the same marks they left with.
5. Go through the Equipment Checklist with your Instructors each day before they leave the dock for a scrimmage. Remember that while most Instructors have raced in this format in High School or College, they may not have run races before.
6. Submit scores daily to the JSA by emailing to info@jsalis.org.