

Dear Northwest Youth Racing Circuit Families,

Welcome to the 2025 Northwest Youth Racing Circuit (NWYRC)! The Notice of Series can be [found here](#). Please try to register two weeks ahead of each event to make sure the organizers are the best prepared which helps keep costs low.

Membership

The Northwest Youth Racing Circuit has an annual membership fee to help offset the costs of running the series. This is a mandatory membership, much like regional racing circuits across the country. This membership helps pay for improvements as participation grows in the NWYRC.

The membership will be free for Green Fleet sailors and \$50 for all other fleets. After August 4th, the membership fee will be reduced 50%, for sailors joining the circuit at the end of the season. At membership registration, fee waivers will be available for sailors on scholarship. [Become a member today!](#)

Fun fact: Since the onset of The Sailing Foundation's leadership of the NWRYC in 2015, participation has more than doubled! 379 participants in 2014 to 838 participants in 2023!

Damage

Please remember that when there is damage to a boat due to a collision it is expected that there will be a protest filed. This means that there will be a panel of adults who are well versed in the rules who will decide who is at fault for the collision. If your sailor is found at fault for the collision, it is expected that you will pay for the repairs.

Crashes are part of learning, no one will hold it against a sailor if they own up to their mistake, but repair bills still need to be paid. Part of going sailing is knowing your limits and making the decision whether or not to go sailing if you think you cannot maintain control over your sailboat.

Coaching

It is strongly advised that all the sailors participating in the NWYRC have a coach on the water.

The Sailing Foundation is no longer able to provide free coaching to sailors who are unable to bring a coach. At most events coaching will be offered for a subsidized fee, to sign up, fill out [this questionnaire](#). Email ysd@thesailingfoundation.org for information on how to get a scholarship to cover this fee.

Green Fleet

Please be aware that the Green Fleet at NWYRC is a stepping stone to the Opti Championship Fleet at NWYRC, this means that sailors must be largely self-sufficient on the water. We are extending the race target time (how long it takes the first place boat to finish)

to 20 minutes in order to make it a more reasonable jump to the target times of the champ fleet races (30-45 minutes). Sailors should have attended a race day before coming to a NWYRC regatta. i.e. Milfoil Regatta, Development Regatta, or race day at practice.

For the sake of your sailor's enjoyment and safety of all the sailors on the water, Green Fleet sailors should be comfortable performing the following skills:

- Remain calm when a capsize occurs, are able to independently climb back into their boat and bail
- Rig/de-rig in under 15 minutes.
- Consistently uses the tiller extension correctly.
- Sail upwind for 10 minutes.
- Trims the sail appropriately at a basic level while using the tiller extension.
- Jibes with confidence and control.
- Understands and follows BASIC right of way rules.
- Sail around marks for a race where it will take the first place sailor 20 minutes to finish.

FJ Circuit

Last year we started the FJ Circuit and it was a huge success! We were able to engage a lot of new communities and we were able to provide much safer environments. Our Youth Sailing Director, Solvig Sayre went from getting many emails about safety concerns to receiving none, thanks to the change!

The FJ Circuit has allowed for a better experience for the sailors. The sailors that race FJs in the NWYRC need a different experience. Programs have been struggling to have enough coaches and coach boats to coach the two Opti fleets, 3 ILCA fleets, c420s, and FJs. As a result the FJs were not getting the coaching they deserve. With their own regattas, FJs are now able to get better instruction and more focus from their coaches.

Thanks to the FJ Task Force, there will be five regattas this summer! During the NWYRC planning meeting, the coaches voted to once again try to include the FJs at JOs. This is a trial for 2025 and the FJs will share a course with the C420s while the Optis share the ILCA course. The final event of the series will be Octoberfest, bringing all the fleets together to celebrate the summer and everyone's accomplishments.

We look forward to a fun and fast 2025 Northwest Youth Racing Circuit! If you have any questions please reach out to Solvig Sayre, The Sailing Foundation Youth Sailing Director, at ysd@thesailingfoundation.org or Erin Timms, The Sailing Foundation Vice President at e.timms@comcast.net. Thank you for all your support,

Youth Advisory Committee,
Erin Timms (Chair)

Haley Lhamon, Ramesh Parameswaran, Tanya Starke, Burke Thomas, Mike Visser, Andrew Nelson