



Sarasota Youth Sailing (SYS)
1717 Ken Thompson Parkway Sarasota,
Florida 34236 941.504.4236

Welcome Red, White and Blue Sailing Team

Welcome to our 2020-2021 SYS Racing Program. I look forward to an exciting year! Sarasota Youth Sailing initially started with a summer camp program and since its inception, it has grown to a program with a summer camp attendance of more than 450 and approximately 80 sailors who attend our year round race program.

SYS Red, White and Blue Fleet - Overview

According to the USODA, there are 150,000 optimist sailors in 110 countries around the world and 85% of Olympic medal winners have sailed in the opti. Red, White and Blue Optimist Fleets are for intermediate and advanced sailors ages 9-15, who have also completed a season of Green Fleet. Younger sailors may join by coach recommendation only. Sailors are allowed to participate in regattas until December 31st of the year they turn 15. Building further upon the basic skills the sailors acquired in Green Fleet, in RWB the focus is on higher level boat handling skills, racing tactics, and strategy. The SYS R/W/B program will sponsor travel to approximately one regatta per month. Private boat ownership is required.

Practices

The practice schedule is as follows. Please be **rigged and ready to go** by the time specified. Plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the scheduled start time.

Saturdays: 9:30am - 4:00pm

Sundays: 1:00pm - 4:00pm

Wednesdays: 3:30-7:00

Sailors will eat lunch on the water during Saturday practices. Please bring a lunch and half gallon insulated water

jug with ice each day. Sailors should arrive with sunscreen applied.

Fall Session dates:

August 22-December 12

Spring Session Dates:

January 16-May 8

Practice will not be held during team regattas. See schedule at the end of this document.

Fees

Full payment due on or before the first day of class \$775 practice fee per session

Regatta Fees: \$60/day fee for away regattas due two weeks in advance of each event in order to work out transportation logistics, assure we have enough sailors to send a coach, and be sure to allow our sailors to register for regattas at a discounted rate. Most regattas are 2 days/\$60; however, additional day fees might be assessed for in-state regattas which require an entire day's travel to and from the event.

SYS encourages attendance at additional in-state, national and out-of-state events. SYS sailors will be charged a rate to cover coaching expenses including hotel, transportation, and the coaches hourly rate divided by the number of participants who wish to attend in order to attend national regattas and otherwise unscheduled events.

Regattas

Parents are responsible for towing the coach boat(s) to regattas. You are also responsible for getting your own boat to the regatta. Typically parents roof-top their opti, or use a trailer. Parents need to coordinate providing coach lunches, sailor snacks, water and ice during the regatta. Besides being a great learning opportunity, regattas are often experienced as lots of fun by the sailors and by parents alike. A team dinner, organized by the parents themselves, can be a great way to enhance the fun of the overall regatta. We recommend the families stay at the same hotels, so that the children and parents can easily work together.

Registration for regattas can typically be done at either www.regattanetwork.com or usoda.com. Sometimes regattas use a dedicated web site. Sailors need to be a member of US sailing for most regattas and of the USODA for their regattas (see details at the end of this document). For uniformity, please register the sailors under "Sarasota Youth Sailing Program". Keep in mind that there are sometimes strict deadlines for registration and often there are discounted registration fees for those registering early. Ahead of a regatta, the coach will reach out to the sailors and parents with a rigged-and-ready time, as well as a meeting time at the start of each regatta.

Team Parent A team parent will be designated and will help communicate deadline dates, hotel suggestions, and other information. The team parent is typically a parent that has had a child in R/W/B for at least a year and will share his or her past experiences and will help coordinate regatta parent duties (snacks, water and towing, etc.) and team activities such as team dinners at regattas.

Volunteering

Parents are an important part of our program. All parents are expected to help in one of several areas including but not limited to:

- Fundraising
- Team Travel Logistics
- Special Events and Regattas (Sailfest)
- Program maintenance
- Marketing

SYS Contact Information

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General Opti R/W/B information

We are fortunate to be in Florida with an almost year round opti regatta schedule. The sailors get exposure to different levels of regattas, ranging from smaller regional regattas, to national USODA qualifiers right here in Florida. It is not uncommon for major national events such as Team Trials, Midwinters, or Nationals to take place in Florida too.

The United States Optimist Dinghy Association (USODA) is the national organization for Optimist sailing in the United States. The USODA is the US member of the International Optimist Dinghy Association (IODA). This association coordinates rules and standards for the Optimist as a strict One Design class. IODA is a member of World Sailing. US Sailing oversees sailing in the USA.

The USODA organizes the US Opti Nationals, USODA qualifiers, and Team Trials regattas and coordinates the US National Team and Development Team. During the Team Trials and the USODA Midwinter regattas, sailors can qualify to represent the US during international regattas, including the IODA North Americans, European, Asian, South American, and World championships.

In order to qualify for Team Trials, a sailor has to qualify for one of the USODA qualifiers that are organized throughout the US. We are fortunate to have at least two of those in Florida (Valentine's Day Regatta in St. Petersburg and Sunshine State in Jensen Beach). Sailors can also qualify for the US

National Team and Development team during Team Trials and Midwinters.

In order to participate in regattas on the schedule, sailors need to be members of both US Sailing and USODA. Membership fees are \$24/year for US Sailing and \$39/year for USODA (rates may vary over time). See www.usoda.org and www.ussailing.org for more detail on the organizations' activities. The USODA membership comes with a subscription to OptiNews, which is a great publication about everything related to optis.

At USODA regattas and some other large regattas, opti manufacturers provide charter boats at a charge. This way, the sailors only need to bring their personal sail to those far away regattas.