

# Registration



**US Sailing membership is required** for all racing participants at all Junior Olympic Sailing Festivals. If you have nonracing participants, they are not required to join US Sailing.

When setting up your entry form and event fees, please incorporate US Sailing membership by providing a space for the competitor's US Sailing member **number and expiration date** for both skipper and crew. **Please make this section highly visible** and indicate that US Sailing membership is mandatory for all individuals who are competing.

**Competitors who are not members** or are not sure should contact US Sailing Membership Department at **800 US SAIL-1** before the event. If competitors neglect to become members before the event, they can sign up at registration. See the sample Entry Form in the reference section and Notice of Race in the "Race Management" section.

## Online Event Registration System - Regatta Network

The online event registration system has greatly simplify the registration process and nearly eliminated paperwork. Junior Olympic hosts are able to use the system at a special discount rate.

The system provides for all the information that you need to collect from entrants from date of birth to T-shirt size. You set the fees for entry, dinner tickets, etc. You set the registration deadlines and late fees. Medical forms and waivers are incorporated. Reports for catering, merchandise, scratch sheets, etc. can be produced. The system feeds data directly into the **St. Pete scoring system** as well as other scoring programs.

**Note:** The Online Registration System incorporates US Sailing membership verification automatically. However, if you don't have a registration deadline (i.e., you allow people to walk in the day of the event), you will need to verify US Sailing membership for all entrants (skippers and crew) at registration.

**Regatta Network**, who administers the system, will work with you to provide training and customer service for you and your event participants. Go to [www.regattanetwork.com](http://www.regattanetwork.com) and/or contact Ken Taylor ([taylor@regattanetwork.com](mailto:taylor@regattanetwork.com) or 512-392-9091).

## Preregistrations

### Assigning a Volunteer

US Sailing will not be available at every event to verify US Sailing membership. Please assign a capable volunteer to the task. Instructions and forms will be provided. A membership roster will be sent via overnight mail just prior to the event.

## Setting Up US Sailing Membership Check-in

If you can put the person checking US Sailing membership right next to the forms desk (at the beginning), all participants can be cleared by this person (or pay membership) before receiving their goodie bag. The volunteer who's checking membership will be seen as a positive addition to registration and the event.

## US Sailing MVP (discount membership)

The Member Value Program (MVP) is designed for any US Sailing organizational member, such as yacht clubs, sailing associations, one-design classes, community sailing programs and junior sailing programs. Once the group is an organizational member of US Sailing, a single contact for the organization becomes responsible for collecting the US Sailing dues for the group and forwards the membership information and dues payments to US Sailing's Membership Department. In return, the youth members may join at a reduced rate, and the club receives credits to purchase products or services. For more information, email [info@ussailing.org](mailto:info@ussailing.org) or call 401.683.0800 or check out the [Member Value Program](#).

# Fun & Learning



## Smart Planning: The Secret to a Fun Festival

Fun is an essential element of every USA Junior Olympic Sailing Festival. In order to plan a successful event, you'll need to know:

- **What's the age group?** How experienced/inexperienced are they? Is your Festival basically a regatta format, or Introduction to sailing? Or both?
- **Who's your target audience?** Junior programs, camps with sailing. Introducing sailing to nonsailing families? Scouts, YMCA, Boys and Girls Clubs, general day camps. How do you get them to the event? Send event flyers and preregistration info out one month in advance. Then follow up by phone, calling head instructors, program directors and parents of the kids. Line up junior programs to staff an activity. Encourage them to wear shirts from their club.
- **Is the event also a regatta?** Fun activities "are included" in racing entry fee. Give racing kids a Competitor Card (laminated neon cards, attach sunglasses-keepers): Lets them into fun stuff and is racer's lunch ticket. Makes them feel special. Allow time for racing kids to do fun activities (like while they wait for awards ceremony)!
- **Activities Schedule should be publicized well ahead.** Half-hour segments are realistic. Stick to your schedule, to avoid disappointing the kids.

## Activities, Games, Skills

Here are some terrific kid-tested ideas for all ages:

Boat Rides	Hiking Bench
Gutter Races	Knot Relay
Model Boat Contest (needs 1 adult)	Sand Boats
Obstacle Course (heavy maintenance)	Tube a Doo
Treasure Hunt	Shoe Regatta
Sea Chanteys	Sailing Pictionary
Opti Scavenger Hunt	Sailing Jeopardy
Synchronized Sailing	Protest Practice
Keel Haul	Opti Pinata

## Things to Remember

- **Kids must be accompanied by parent/instructor;** clarify with everyone before event
- **Invite the whole family**
- **Group the activities** in a central place, possibly under a tent
- **Signs** are helpful - BIG ones are best
- **Staff** every activity; rotate often; use local experts to demo and judge
- **T-shirts** (included or for sale?) - Shirts & goodie bags all look alike. Tell kids to keep track of their own stuff.
- **Food and drink** (preferably juices and water) are important; selling minimizes waste
- **Music** adds to the fun
- **Take pictures** - and give them out at awards ceremony - great mementos for kids!

# Fun with Windsurfing

Add more diversity to Junior Olympics by offering windsurfing. Young sailors will enjoy applying their know-how to windsurfing. Contact US Windsurfing to put you in touch with your local boardsailing shops, clubs and schools. They can help incorporate a windsurfing mini-event into your JO Festival.

## Ideas for Your Windsurfing Events

### Expo -

Show windsurfing equipment: Olympic, beginner, funboard and formula boards. Ask knowledgeable windsurfing volunteers to set up the booth, talk with kids and families, provide US Windsurfing brochures and other info, and explain where they can learn more about the sport

### Land -

Land simulators are useful for introducing kids to the basic windsurfing skills: uphauling, basic position, steering, 180° turns, getting underway. Your local dealer or club can help you set this up. Combine expo and simulator whenever possible. Make sure the instructor is certified to teach windsurfing.

### Mini-Clinics -

Options include rotating small groups through simulator skills; racing rules clinics that highlight differences between sailing and windsurfing rules; videos, such as “Racing with Champions” featuring Olympian Mike Gebhardt (available from US Windsurfing free if you add a windsurfing module to your Festival). Always talk safety.

### Full Beginner Clinics -

Can vary from four hours to one-day or more. Goals can range from basic simulator skills combined with on-water skills practice to mini-races on beginner equipment.

### Races -

Short, simple courses with expected 20-minute time for winner; wind 5-15 range; use Appendix B of *Racing Rules of Sailing*.

### Other Activities -

Relay races on beginner equipment; no-wind board paddling races; technique clinics.

## Tips to Remember

- Advertise that kids can try windsurfing.
- Plan adequate beach space: if possible grass is ideal for rigging, sand for launching.
- Schedule so your core JO racing group can join the windsurfing fun!
- Require personal floatation devices; and make sure your Notice of Race indicates that you will require them.
- younger, more inexperienced kids should be closely supervised.
- Provide refreshments as this is a very physical sport.

## For More Information

Contact US Windsurfing or find your local windsurfing club on the web at [www.uswindsurfing.org](http://www.uswindsurfing.org).

# Coaches



## Set up a Productive Learning Environment

The most important thing you can do, as a Junior Olympic event organizer (second only to ensuring the safety of all), is to set up a productive learning environment. Coaches, instructors and parents can make a big difference. Hiring a qualified coach to head your clinics is money well spent. In exchange for a plane ticket, daily fee and a bed, they can handle all aspects of the learning element, and take a load off your shoulders.

## Coaches can be your MVPs

You'll probably have several kinds of "coaches": coaches who support individuals or groups, any coach you may hire specifically for group clinics, and parents with varying experience who support individual groups. Your goal is to maximize their contributions.

Most coaches are young men and women who have had a positive experience as junior sailors and want that experience to be repeated for the next generation. They are a helpful, energetic, knowledgeable and experienced group and can be the key to a successful regatta. Although they are paid or have volunteered to represent specific clubs or groups of sailors, they are more than willing to help in any way that will not hinder them from fulfilling that primary responsibility. You shouldn't expect that they will run your regatta, but they can be a work force that can enhance the safety and success of your event.

Try to ascertain ahead of time how many coaches and how many safety boats you might expect. You might put a blank on your registration form that would include that information or call a few sailors on your preregistration list and ask if they'll have a coach or safety boat with them. One coach for about every ten sailors can reasonably be expected. Don't rely on them alone. But you can count on at least half of them to be very helpful with reasonable requests.

Besides helping with race management and safety, these coaches are key to your clinics. With input from all coaches, you'll have a great knowledge pool.

## How Coaches Can Help at Your Event:

1. Have coaches check in at registration and fill out the Coach's Registration and Regatta Assistance Form (see "Registration" section). Consider giving them a free lunch on the water and/or free dinner ticket.
2. After completing the Coach's Registration Form, they pick up their coach's packet. The coach's packet should contain a goodie or two that the kids got, the sailing instructions and an event schedule.
3. Remind them about the Coaches' Meeting time and place. If there's time, also let them know briefly what their role will be at the clinics.
4. Meet with the coaches before the Competitors' Meeting and explain what you would like them to do. (It was on the Notice of Race and event flyer, too.) Share with them the Basic Clinic Coaches Concept: You would like each of them to share with all participants what they normally share with just their own sailors. It's as simple as that. Aside from prompting them in the morning, stand back and watch them shine.
5. Point out there's time at the beginning and end of each day which they'll spend with their sailors, before or after the all-hands Debriefing.
6. All coaches should be present and introduced at the Competitors' Meeting. Explain to all the sailors how these valuable people will help them during the course of the event.
7. Thank the coaches at the awards ceremony.

## Tips for Coaches

Have coaches register, so you know who they are, who they're responsible for and what kind of powerboat they may be driving. Coaches running a specific clinic should have guidelines for how you want it run.

- Make sure they have everything they need (powerboats; marks, line and anchors; loud-hailer, white board & markers, etc.)
- Check that powerboats, etc. are in working order. (Drivers not needed.)
- Give them a list of students in their clinic group, along with a general idea of skill level. Ask the clinic instructor to include other coaches and parents whenever practical, to encourage knowledge sharing.

## The Coaches/Parent Meeting

Organize meeting before racing just for coaches/parents to explain guidelines. Explain towing procedure and make sure each boat has a towline.

Ask all coaches/parents to:

- Participate in a Debrief after each clinic or race day (or first thing next day)
- Wear PFD on the water
- Work with safety/RC people to ensure a safe regatta; monitor radio channel
- Avoid interfering in running of races, unless specifically asked to help out
- Assist event organizers by identifying recipients of special awards
- Uphold sportsmanship principles
- Pick up trash on water and land
- Generally model good behavior (refrain from smoking, alcohol, bad language)

# Clinics, Briefings & Debriefs



Plan the launching, racing and social schedule to accommodate learning time. Instructors need:

- An assigned area where their group can gather for a discussion (a room,
- a corner under the tent, a quiet grassy spot, an area of the parking lot)
- An event site diagram at registration, showing where/when each group meets
- Portable white boards with markers; if possible, magnet boards with boats
- A club volunteer to help, making sure instructors have everything they need.

**Clinics the day before the event:** Have an instructor for each class of boat for a half- or full-day clinic. Combination of onshore talks, rigging demos and on-the-water drills followed by debriefs.

**Practice starts and races** set up the afternoon/evening before the event for early comers. Even if there's little instruction, it's a chance for sailors to get used to the sailing venue. Hold a debrief, however short, afterward.

**Clinics the morning of racing** work well where races are scheduled later due to wind conditions. Can be either tactical topics of interest to all or breakout groups for specific boats. Include local knowledge (wind shifts, tide/current).

**Debriefs after each day of racing** or whenever there's a break in the action, due to too little wind or too much. Before racing, ask instructors who will be out on the course and who know a particular class to run a debrief immediately after racing. There's often a narrow window of time to make this happen. The organizer can announce the time/place of the Debrief for (xyz) course as sailors are coming off the water and remind instructors to be there on time and start the Debrief. It's best to have a knowledgeable coach run these, but a Debrief can work if you just get the group together, talking about what happened on the race course.

**Get the kids talking and asking questions.** The less experienced kids want to hear their more experienced peers talk about the race; they want to learn. Always encourage questions. Have an experienced coach point out things they noticed and illustrate on a white board.

**Debriefs are a great time to include any guest experts,** Olympians, US Sailing Team members. Ask the top sailors in your club to help with Debriefs, too. Debriefs can be a team effort with coaches, parents and competitors.

**Event Organizers should facilitate these learning activities,** setting the tone of learning and helping each other out, as well as the expectation of good behavior and sportsmanship.