



**VENICE YOUTH
BOATING
ASSOCIATION**

2025-2026

PARENT HANDBOOK
SCHOOL YEAR RACING and SAILING PROGRAMS

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SAILOR EXPECTATIONS

- Comply with the **VYBA Code of Conduct and Virus Prevention Policy**
- Uphold the Corinthian Spirit of Sailing both on and off the water
- Demonstrate good **Sportsmanship** at all times
- Maintain assigned boat and equipment (with assistance from Coach or Executive Director when necessary)
 - A Good Rule of Thumb: “Leave things in a better condition than you found them in!”
- **EFFORT** and **ATTITUDE** are the qualities that count when it comes to practices, drills, workdays, and regattas!
- Be **ON TIME** and come **PREPARED** for every day at the VYBA with:
 - Refillable Water Bottle
 - Snack or Lunch (depending on what’s going on)
 - Reef Friendly Sunscreen and Sun Protection Gear
 - Hat, Sunglasses, Tech Shirt, etc.
 - Closed-Toe Shoes (NO Crocs or Flip-flops)
 - USCG Approved Type 3 PFD
 - If NOT in a USCG Approved Life Vest you CANNOT sail
 - Sailing Gear (as required)
 - Gloves, Booties, Spray Jacket, Hiking Pants, etc.
- Work with VYBA teammates regardless of Fleet affiliation to accomplish goals and tasks
- Be **NEAT, TIDY**, and **CONSIDERATE** with communal spaces and pick up any trash, personal items, or other articles brought into the VYBA Sailing Center or surrounding grounds
- **Sail Fast, Have Fun, and Be Safe!**



INTRODUCTORY RACE TEAM INFORMATION

OPTI GREEN

- Sailor Description:
 - Ages 8-15
 - First-Year Racing
- Racing Style
 - Introductory Fleet
 - the back half of the fleet can be coached during a race
 - Usually given participation awards



RECOMMENDED FOR OPTI SAILORS THAT HAVE SAILED SUMMER LEARN TO SAIL OR ADDITIONAL CLINICS BUT HAVE NOT PARTICIPATED IN MORE THAN TWO REGATTAS.

OPTI RWB

- Sailor Description:
 - Ages 10-15
 - Prior Racing Experience – **ATTENDED AT LEAST THREE REGATTAS IN GREEN FLEET AND FINISHED RACES AT THOSE REGATTAS OR PREVIOUSLY PARTICIPATED IN THE RWB FLEET**
 - **Please discuss with your coach and/or Director if RWB is the right fleet to register for**
 - Avg. Opti Sailor is 110lbs (±30lbs)
 - Occasionally size is a reason to move on from this boat
- Racing Style
 - Red, White, and Blue Fleets compete on the same course and are competing both against their age bracket and for an overall prize
 - WHITE: 10 and under competitors
 - BLUE: All 11-12-year-old competitors
 - RED: All 13-15-year-old competitors

ILCA DEVELOPMENTAL CLASS

ILCA Full Rig, Radials and 4.7s are a single-handed sailboats and often the next step after Opti racing.

- Sailor Description:
 - Ages 13+
 - **Beginner Laser Course or Previous Dinghy Sailing Experience required!**
 - Avg. Laser Sailor is 140lbs (±30lbs)
 - Occasionally size is a reason to move up from Opti to this boat

- Racing Style
 - The ILCA Radial is the women's single-handed Olympic class and is raced competitively by men and women all over the globe. The ILCA Radial has a large following with national and international regattas. ILCA Class has a strong following with lighter weight sailors, youth, and women's racing.

C420

- Sailor Description:
 - Ages 12-18
 - The C420 is comparable to a youth version of the I470 (Olympic Class boat)
- Racing Style
 - Two Sailors race together against other two-person boats for the season using the boat Club-style (with Spinnaker and Trapeze)
 - This is a very competitive fleet as this is the boat of choice for most college sailing teams



VENICE HIGH SCHOOL SAILING TEAM

1. The Venice High Sailing Team is a club sport with all practices located at VYBA. Regattas are governed by South Atlantic Interscholastic Sailing Association (SAISA). The team consists of a JV team (8th graders and homeschool can participate on JV) and a Varsity team.
2. **VYBA will participate in the JV and Varsity SAISA SOUTH POINTS regattas. The JV team will only sail in west coast regattas unless coach approved.**
3. Team membership and the regatta attendance requirement does not guarantee that every sailor will sail at a regatta as that depends on the rotation of sailors at the regatta as well as weather conditions which determine the number of races that may be conducted at those regattas.
4. The fee includes one VHS uniform race shirt per sailor. Additional gear (buffs, sweatshirts, etc) will be available for purchase.
5. The fee excludes participation in the VYBA's School Year C420 Racing Team program or other VYBA-sponsored events for the C420 Racing Team Program.
6. The team will practice one day per week after school
7. Regatta attendance requires adult parents as chaperones at the regatta and during overnight hotel stays as may be required for certain regattas, particularly those on the east coast of Florida.

Please note: Sailors are not obligated to attend regattas but encouraged to as this leads to growth in the sport.

OTHER PROGRAMS

ADVENTURE SAIL

Adventure Sail is the option for any young sailor looking to stay involved with the sport or get more time on the water before joining our competitive team. There is no competition in Adventure Sailing.

- Sailors eligible to join will have participated in a summer Learn to Sail session or have previous experience.
 - Adventure Sailing meets once a week.
 - Adventure Sailors will have the opportunity to sail in a variety of our fleet boats.
 - This is a STEM in sailing program where sailors can expect to learn something each day, enjoy the cruising side of the sailing world, and spend time exploring the beautiful, local islands and sandbars.

Homeschool Sailing Program

Homeschool sailing program is the option for homeschooled students who are looking to learn to sail, to stay involved in the sport, or to get more time on the water before joining our competitive teams. There is no competition in Homeschool sailing.

- No experience necessary and is geared towards ages 6-8, 9-13, & 14-18
 - Homeschool meets once a week during the school year
 - VYBA uses the US Sailing curriculum for basic sail training
 - Homeschoolers will have the opportunity to sail a variety of our fleet boats
 - This is a STEM in sailing program where sailors can expect to learn something each day, enjoy the cruising side of the sailing world, and spend time exploring the beautiful, local islands and sandbars

Learn to Sail Programs

Learn to sail programs are for children wanting to learn how to sail during the school year. It is a progressive 8-day program for beginners that teaches them basic seamanship and, in the end, being able to rig and sail their own boat. Once the program is completed, they are eligible to attend the Adventure Sail program.

High School Sailing Club

This club allows teens ages 13-18 to get out on the water for adventure to keep their feet wet. Some sailing experience is necessary although the club founders are willing to teach the basics to be safe and have fun.

- High school club meets once a week after school
- Sailors have the opportunity to sail any non race boat we have available
- Sailors must follow VYBA rules and Code of Conduct to participate

REGATTAS

Sailing as a sport has two sides: recreational and competitive. The competitive side of sailing means participating in regattas, each of which consists of a series of races in which a sailor competes against other sailors to test and improve their skills. Typically, the VYBA attends regattas for Fleet Racing.

Fleet Racing: Every sailor on the course is in competition with every other sailor, even if they hail from the same club. Our local regattas usually have 40-100 competitors on each racecourse, so the competition is fierce, but also fun! The scoring is additive, from race to race, and the lowest overall score wins.

[1st place in a race = 1 point, 2nd place in a race = 2 points...etc. So, if I placed: 1st, 4th, 20th, and 6th then I would have 31 points]

Some quick important facts on regattas:

VYBA typically plans to participate in at least one regatta per month throughout the year from September to May. Club sailors are not obligated to attend regattas but are encouraged to for growth in the sport.

- **Typical Regatta registration fees are between \$50-\$200** depending on the race. Some regattas, including all Junior Olympic Regattas also require a US Sailing Junior Membership. More information will be provided on that membership. These fees are in addition to tuition fees!
- **VYBA provides all equipment for practices and regattas!** Before a race event we will have a boat loading day and determine volunteers who will tow coach boats and race boats.
- **Coaches and Directors will send a sign-up for regattas 4 weeks before the scheduled event.** A MINIMUM OF FOUR (4) BOATS per fleet will be needed for Optimists and Lasers combined and TWO (2) BOATS for C420s to provide equipment transportation and coaches for a regatta. Coaches and Directors will provide all information about registration and logistics before the event.
- Not all fleets will compete in all regattas and sailors are not obligated to attend regattas. See the expected regatta schedule to determine which fleets are competing.
- Racecourses are usually built to last about 30-45 mins per race
- Racing occurs far enough offshore (usually 1-2 miles) that binoculars are highly recommended to view it clearly
- Racing lasts for 4-8 hours each day of the regatta (times listed in the Notice of Race [NOR] or Sailing Instructions [SI's] – usually available the day before a race
- Occasionally, hotels are necessary to book (preferably ahead of time)
- Sailors are responsible for packing and unpacking their boats and equipment and bringing their gear to every regatta that they attend

- Sailors are responsible for their equipment and gear while at a regatta, and need to be sure to collect and pack up all items they arrived with after a regatta ends.
- Meeting times/places for the VYBA Sailors attending each regatta will be distributed the week of each regatta. We stay in contact through group text and email.

PARENT RESOURCES

WEB INFORMATION

- Venice Youth Boating Association: www.veniceyouthboating.com
- US Sailing: www.ussailing.org
- Florida Sailing Association: floridasailingassociation.org
- Regatta Network: www.regattanetwork.com
- Keep an eye out for the monthly newsletter Tell Tales, and email information from VYBA's [Executive Sailing Director, Yvonne Watson](#)

The Executive Sailing Director can also help point you in the right direction if any of these resources aren't what you're looking for!

PARENT COMMITTEE

- Team Parent Managers are needed from each fleet to assist with intra-fleet communication, feedback for the coach(es)/director, assist with gathering volunteers for events and fundraisers, and general knowledge sharing for new and returning parents. The Director will contact your fleet to organize volunteer efforts.

Executive Director of Sailing:

- Contact Info: **Yvonne Watson**
 - PHONE- 941.468.1719
 - EMAIL- director@veniceyouthboating.org
- All calls and emails are usually returned within 24 hours!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

VYBA SAILING TENTATIVE PRACTICE

Tuesday – 3:30pm to 7:30pm (or sunset)

- Opti RWB
- Opti Green
- C420

Wednesday – 3:30-7:30pm (or sunset)

- High School Race Team?
- Learn to Sail – TBD
- High school Sailing Team
- Homeschool Sailing – 12pm-3pm

Thursday

- Adult Twilight Sailing – Select nights
 - 4:30 to 7:30 (or sunset)
- High School Race Club

Friday – 4:30pm – 7pm (or sunset)

- Outreach programs
- Family Sail Night – select nights

Saturday

- Opti Green – 9am – 1pm
- Opti RWB – 9am – 1pm
- C420 – 9am – 3pm
- Laser – 9am – 3pm

Sunday – 1pm to 4pm

- Adventure Sail

It is VERY important for you to contact your Coach or Director if you are not going to attend practice or will be arriving late!

CANCELLATIONS:

Typically, we do not cancel for rain! We may need to cancel during full day rain events, severe weather, or Red Tide events.

The VYBA is a grassroots not-for-profit organization. We continue to appreciate your support in volunteering, participating, attending, or marketing our fundraising efforts. Our Director will be contacting you throughout the season with volunteer opportunities.