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Yacht Racing Association of San Francisco Bay

2021 YRA Guidelines for Holding Races under the tiered COVID-19 system *As of 1/25/21**

The YRA has been in talks with the USCG and has developed these guidelines to more clearly define what types of races should be run under each of the currently defined tiers during the COVID pandemic. As an organizing authority headquartered in Solano County, the YRA will be following the current health orders/tier status of Solano County to determine what type of race we will run. These guidelines will be updated as necessary as the course of the pandemic changes and county and/or state orders are revised. We encourage all organizing authorities to follow these guidelines and to follow the tiered status of the county they are headquartered in to determine what types of races they can run. Check back frequently for updates.

County Status: California State Regional Stay at Home order in effect:

- Canceling or postponing races is preferred.
- If an event is held, Single handed, or Same-Household-doublehanded crews only, are OK.
- No pre or post race activities.
- RC is limited to a sole individual or volunteers from the same household.
- Races should not count for a series unless the series is designed for singlehanded or doublehanded crews only, regardless of the county Covid Status.

County Status: Widespread / Tier 1, Purple tier:

- Racing is limited to singlehanded or double handed crews. Doublehanded crews from two separate households are OK.
- RC is limited to 3 households. Race committee members must practice social distancing.
- Masks are required for all participants and race committee members.
- Crewed divisions can opt to race double handed but races do not count for a series.
- No pre or post race activities.

County Status: Substantial / Tier 2, Red tier:

- Crewed racing is OK. Crews must wear masks at all times.
- Crew should be made up from a “social bubble” of no more than 12 people.
- Limit crew below deck to one person at a time for the duration of the sail (including pre and post race).
- Race committee members must wear masks and practice social distancing.
- No after pre or post race activities.

County Status: Moderate / Tier 3, Orange tier:

- Crewed racing is OK. Crews must wear masks at all times.
- Crews should be made up from a “social bubble” of no more than 12 people.

- Race committee members must wear masks and practice social distancing.
- Host yacht clubs can be open for outside bar service or take out only and must follow the bar and restaurant guidelines of their county.

County Status: Minimal / Tier 4, Yellow tier:

- Crewed racing is OK. Masks are recommended.
- Crew should be made up from a “social bubble” of no more than 12 people.
- Host yacht clubs can open for inside bar service with a limit of 50% capacity and must follow the bar and restaurant guidelines of their county.

In addition to these guidelines for what type of race to hold, the following guidelines are still recommended for the running of regattas.

Guidelines for Organized Regattas during COVID-19

In the interest of the health and safety of race organizers, race committees and regatta participants, the following guidelines are recommended for running races during the COVID-19 pandemic. Races must be run in compliance with the current county and state health orders in effect for the organizing authority’s county of residence.

Race Committees/Race Management

1. **Race Organizers must ensure their regattas follow the current health orders and social distancing requirements for their county.**
2. Race Committees must be comprised of the least number of people needed to safely start and finish a race.
3. When more than 1 person is on the race deck social distancing measures must be adhered to, including remaining at least 6’ apart, wearing face coverings as appropriate and not shaking hands or engaging in any unnecessary physical contact.
4. Race Committees must maintain a Contact Logbook tracking which volunteers are on the race committee, including their county of residence.
5. Race entrants must be limited to single-handed divisions or crewed divisions where all persons on board have been sheltered in home at the same residence, unless the current county orders permit mixed household outdoor activities.

Race Committees may want to consider:

- Having All RC personnel take their temperature the morning of a race. Anyone with an elevated temperature or anyone exhibiting other symptoms should stay home.
- Wiping down common surfaces used by the race committee with disinfectant wipes. These include items such as radios, rails, pens/pencils, clipboards, etc
- Using only sound signals and omitting flags to minimize the number of people needed to start a race. Use of VHF Radio to announce courses and starting sequences is highly recommended.

- Using alternative starts, such as rabbit starts.
- Using programs such as RaceQS to track finishes, or asking participants to text finish times to the race committee.
- Using a scoring program or other system that allows racers to maintain a crew manifest for contact tracing purposes.
- Asking race committee members to provide their own food and water
- When possible, using fixed marks for race courses to avoid the need for more than one committee boat.
- Offering Non-Spinnaker divisions for family crews.
- Modifying sailing instructions to allow the use of hand signals for important hails as facemasks may impair the ability to hail.
- Race Organizers should consider designating a flag to indicate “Penalty Accepted” or some other method of accepting penalties to avoid a protest hearing.

Regatta Participants

1. **Participants in a regatta must ensure they are following their current county health orders and social distancing requirements.**
2. When at their marina, launching their boat and putting their boat away, racers must comply with social distancing and health/safety protocols posted at the site and any other restrictions, including prohibitions, on access and use established by the Health Officer, government, or other entity that manages such area to reduce crowding and risk of transmission of COVID-19.
3. If not racing singlehanded, crews must be limited to only those who have been sheltered in home in the same residence, unless the current county orders permit mixed household outdoor activities.
4. If mixed household crews are permissible for that regatta, the same crew should be maintained for a minimum of 3 weeks.

Racers may want to consider:

- Taking their temperature the morning of a race. Anyone with an elevated temperature or anyone exhibiting other symptoms should stay home.
- Wiping down common surfaces with disinfectant wipes.
- Maintaining a Contact Logbook tracking who is on the boat for each race including their county of residence.

Protest Hearings

1. Protest hearings should be handled via Zoom or some other remote platform when possible
2. Protest Hearing procedures should be added to sailing instructions.

Skipper Meeting/Post Event Parties

1. Skippers Meeting should be held via Zoom or some other remote platform, unless the county is in a tier that allows group gatherings.
2. No pre or post-race in-person gatherings or activities may be planned unless the county is in a tier that allows group gatherings.