

## 2026 SFYC Opti Race Team Handbook

The San Francisco Yacht Club has one of the most competitive Opti racing teams on the West Coast. Ample dinghy sailing experience is required to join the team. Our goal is to create a top-level, single-handed sailing team where the sailors – representing The San Francisco Yacht Club – work together in a culture of trust, commitment, continuous self-improvement, and excellence.

The Opti Race Team tuition is a yearly commitment of \$5,850 for Champ sailors who are SFYC members and \$8,190 for non-members. Green Fleet tuition is \$5,660 for SFYC members and \$7,840 for non-members. This annual fee includes local and some in-state regattas and boat storage (see list below). Team members must use SFYC coaching at SFYC supported events and are not to hire private coaches. The Team events supported with a coach are outlined below.

Here at SFYC we aim for low coach to sailor ratios as we find this to be a major contributing factor towards success along with high-level coaches who bring sailing experience from all over the country/world. This season we will have a flat fee for all practices and local regattas and will have a separate coaching fee for 'a-la-carte' regattas. This coaching fee does not include towing or boat transportation. To keep costs low, we need parents to volunteer to tow coach boat trailers to events, otherwise we will have to charge a trailering fee.

In order to send a coach to an event, we must require **a minimum of 7 SFYC sailors to participate.** That is a total number and includes any green fleters. In the case that we do not get enough interest to attend a regatta, it is possible to schedule a home practice. Our tuition is non-refundable and is due prior to the start of each season. You may be able to pay this monthly as an SFYC Member. Scholarships may be available through the Belvedere Cove Foundation. See 'Information Sources' below.

### **Tuition**

#### Option 1: Pay per Year

For those of you who choose to pay the annual rate, you will pay an all-in fee that includes coaching at practices and some regattas (see list below) and boat storage. SFYC Members may choose to pay their tuition monthly through the member billing and will NOT be billed the months of January and December. Non members must either pay via credit card at registration or must mail a check.

### Option 2: Pay per Season

For those who choose to participate for part of the year have the option to sign up for an individual season. The tuition covers coaching at practices and some regattas (See list below) and boat storage.

<b>SFYC Members</b>		<b>Non Members</b>	
<i>Champ</i>	Annual = <b>\$5,850</b>	<i>Champ</i>	Annual = <b>\$8,190</b>
	Spring = <b>\$3,075</b>		Spring = <b>\$4,305</b>
	Summer = <b>\$2,875</b>		Summer = <b>\$4,025</b>
	Fall = <b>\$2,530</b>		Fall = <b>\$3,540</b>
<i>Green</i>	Annual = <b>\$5,600</b>	<i>Green</i>	Annual = <b>\$7,840</b>
	Spring = <b>\$3,015</b>		Spring = <b>\$4,220</b>
	Summer = <b>\$2,820</b>		Summer = <b>\$3,950</b>
	Fall = <b>\$2,480</b>		Fall = <b>\$3,475</b>
Spring (January-May), Summer (June -August 7), Fall (August 8-November)			

### Option 3: Pay per Day

If you only plan to participate a few times, then you have the option to pay a daily rate for any practice or regatta. The daily rate does not include boat storage. To choose the pay-per-day option you MUST sign up for all practices and regattas on the sign-up sheet provided. Failure to sign up will result in a \$30/fee per practice.

**\$160/day (SFYC Member)**

**\$225/day (non-member)**

### **Regattas included in Annual/Seasonal Tuition**

- Carrie Regattas (if listed on the Opti Calendar)
- Harken Series Regattas
- BAYS Summer and Winter Series Regattas
- Fall Dinghy
- Junior Olympics (if local)
- USODA Pacific Coast Championships (if local)

## **Regattas NOT included in your Tuition**

- USODA Teams Trials @ Fairhope Yacht Club, Alabama (April 23-26): **\$800/sailor**
- USODA Nationals @ Little Egg Harbor Yacht Club, New Jersey: **\$900/sailor**
- USODA West Coast Champs @ TBD: **\$TBD/sailor**
- USODA Spring Teams Qualifier: **\$TBD/sailor**

## **Payment for Non-members**

If you're not an SFYC Member, then you have the option to pay via Active Network, although there will be an additional credit card fee added. Please email Abby if you choose to pay via check. Non-members who choose to pay via check can make checks out to:

The San Francisco Yacht Club

Youth Sailing

98 Beach Road

Belvedere, CA 94920

## **Add/Drop Policy**

We will require parents/sailors to sign up no later than a week prior to the practice so that we can schedule the appropriate number of coaches. Also, if you plan to attend a practice with less than a week's notice, we will consider that late and there's a chance your sailor won't be able to participate. An email must be sent to Abby if you'd like to attend a practice on late notice.

## **Trailing Fees**

In order to get Optis to these events we will need parent volunteers to help tow the coach boat trailer so our staff can tow the Opti trailer. If we can't get any parent volunteers, then we will have to hire outside help and charge a trailing fee. SFYC has vehicles that can tow so you will not need to use your own vehicle unless you choose to.

## **Boat Storage**

Boat storage is offered for members of the Opti Race Team in hopes of allowing easy access to the water for practices. Boats are to be stored on the youth dock and allows for one Opti hull per team member. Please note that SFYC is not responsible for the loss or theft and we HIGHLY recommend that sailors take their blades, sails, and spars home at the end of each day. Your dolly should be stored at home unless you are traveling for an away regatta. The monthly fee to store your boat here at SFYC is included in your tuition, otherwise it is \$50/month. You must notify the Youth Director at [youth@sfyc.org](mailto:youth@sfyc.org) if you add or remove your boat to/from SFYC.

### **Registration (ALL SAILORS MUST REGISTER THROUGH ACTIVE)**

Link:

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/SanFranciscoYachtClub?orglink=camps-registration>

### **Refunds**

All decisions regarding program admission and safety will be made by the coaching staff and Sailing Director. Certain weather conditions may require the Sailing Director and Fleet Captain to restrict certain practices for safety reasons. All session fees are nonrefundable.

What if we want to attend a regatta not listed? The San Francisco Yacht Club encourages Opti sailors to travel and race as much as possible and with some organization it is possible to attend events not listed. Expenses for major regattas not listed above need to be covered individually or through financial assistance from outside sources. If you're looking to attend a regatta as part of a group within SFYC then we suggest reaching out to the Youth Sailing Director Abby Featherstone at [youth@sfyc.org](mailto:youth@sfyc.org)

### **Team Expectations:**

- 1.) SFYC Regatta Sign Up Sheet Policy: Each regatta takes a LOT of planning and will require a commitment at least 4 weeks prior to a regatta. For each event there is a sign up/drop deadline date, if a sailor is signed up or decides to drop after the deadline there will be a fee. Personal conversations and/or emails with SFYC staff is not grounds for removal of the fee. It is the sailor's/parent's sole responsibility to sign up or delete the sailor's name from the list. Link to the sign-up sheet:

- 2.) Boat Loading: It is the responsibility of the sailor and his/her family to get their boat, sails, blades and all other necessary racing equipment to regattas. If a SFYC trailer is transporting boats and equipment then it is the responsibility of the sailor and his/her family to load their boat onto the designated trailer by the designated time, or they can car-top. Boat loading for a regatta will take place at the practice before the regatta unless given another time. If you cannot make the practice then you will have to plan a different time to come and load your boat. Typically, you will need at least 2 adults to load a boat if you miss the loading day. **Boats and gear must be unloaded from trailers and towing vehicles after travel before the following weekend practice at the latest (unless otherwise noted)**, as trailers and vehicles are used for many other purposes and teams.
- 3.) Registration: Each regatta will use a different program for collecting regatta registration and it is the sailor's responsibility to register individually for the event, with the exception being a team racing event. This registration is SEPARATE from the team sign-up sheet. Typically, regattas will use Regatta Toolbox, or Regatta Network.
- 4.) Away-Regattas: Some events will need a parent volunteer to help organize things like hotel, boat charters, team dinners, etc.

### **Parent Participation – Fund Raising**

We expect ALL families to participate in our fundraising efforts. Our biggest fund-raising effort this year will be the BCF summer event with an auction. We ask for your participation in soliciting donations for this event, and attending if possible.

### **Parent Participation – Volunteer Hours**

We need ongoing help from ALL parents of the team. We ask that all team families help at Youth regattas that the SFYC hosts. In addition, we require all families to contribute twenty volunteer hours to help make our program successful. We have detailed descriptions of many of the ways you can help. If you have not signed up for a volunteer task, one will be assigned to you. Here are some of the ways that parents can make a valued contribution:

- Join the Committee for the Summer BCF Fund Raising event
- Be a Parent Volunteer at a SFYC hosted regatta
- Drive the Laser trailer or coach boat trailer to an away regatta
- Help coordinate travel accommodations for events like Harken series, USODA events, etc.

### **Class Membership**

SFYC strongly encourages all race team members to join both the United States Optimist Dinghy Association (USODA) and US Sailing. These

memberships are required at many of the regattas we encourage you to sail in. Membership supports American sailing on many levels.

## **Information Sources**

SFYC youth page & calendar: <https://www.sfyc.org/web/pages/youth-sailing>

Belvedere Cove Foundation: <https://www.belvederecovefoundation.org/>

BAYS: [www.bayareayouthsailing.org/](http://www.bayareayouthsailing.org/)

USODA: [www.usoda.org](http://www.usoda.org)

US Sailing: [www.ussailing.org/](http://www.ussailing.org/)

## **SFYC Private Practice Policy**

Private coaching sessions for sailors may be set up with any SFYC non-salaried employee through the SFYC Youth Office under the following policies. Sessions must be for at least two sailors, or in the case of individual sailors, have a parent or second coach present at all times including on the water. (Per California AB-506 and SafeSport regulations.)

- 1.) Parents must set up private coaching with the coach. Parent or sailor must be an SFYC Member.
- 2.) Sessions must be requested via email at least one week prior to the sailing date as to be approved by the Youth Sailing Director Abby Featherstone.
- 3.) Once approved, a coach boat will be assigned and coaches will be required to launch and pull coach boats at the beginning/end of each session, while on private payroll time.
- 4.) Parents' SFYC Member account will be charged for the coaches' hourly rate plus an additional \$25/hour for equipment use, insurance, taxes, and program administration. (No checks or cash.)
- 5.) Coach will be paid their rate through SFYC payroll. Please inquire with Youth Sailing Director Abby Featherstone for coaches' hourly rates.