

# US Sailing Championships Code of Conduct



## Introduction

Each competitor in a US Sailing event hereby pledges that he or she agrees to uphold the spirit of this US Sailing Code of Conduct (Code). This Code is not intended to establish a set of rules that will, by inclusion or exclusion, prescribe the appropriate behavior for competitors in every aspect of their participation in a Championship or Qualifier. Rather, the Code offers general principles to guide the conduct of competitors in situations that have ethical implications.

The competitor commits to familiarization with this Code and understands that acceptance of its provisions is a condition of participation in a US Sailing event. Competitors who do not conform to this Code will be subject to the consequences of their actions, as specified below. The competitor has a right to a hearing if charged with a violation of this Code.

This applies to any activity related to a US Sailing Championship or one of its qualifying events. This includes activities before, during, and after the regatta from the time a competitor arrives at the venue until they leave the venue at the conclusion of the event.

## Enforcement of the Code

Compliance with this Code depends primarily upon understanding the Code and voluntary compliance, secondarily upon reinforcement by peers, and, when necessary, upon enforcement through disciplinary action as outlined by the following documents:

- a) US Sailing Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS): <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/rules-officiating/the-racing-rules-of-sailing-2025-2028/>
- b) US Sailing SafeSport Handbook: <https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/SafeSportHandbook.pdf>
- c) US Sailing Regulations: <https://www.ussailing.org/about/our-organization/#resources-block>
- d) US Sailing Bylaws: <https://www.ussailing.org/about/our-organization/#resources-block>

When the protest committee receives a report alleging a violation of this code from any source, it shall treat the report as an allegation of misconduct and proceed in accordance with RRS 69 (Misconduct), US Sailing Regulations, and/or the US Sailing SafeSport Handbook.

The competitor may, with the approval of the protest committee, voluntarily withdraw from the event rather than proceeding with a hearing.

If, as the result of a misconduct hearing, the protest committee decides that the competitor has violated the code and is not exonerated, the protest committee shall impose penalties in accordance with RRS 69. These penalties could include any or all of the following:

- a) remove some or all the competitor's event privileges or benefits
- b) exclude the competitor from the remaining races in the event
- c) disqualify the competitor's boat from the race or races sailed nearest in time to that of the incident
- d) disqualify the competitor's boat from all races in the event and exclude the competitor from the event or venue
- e) impose another penalty permitted by RRS 69

If required by RRS 69.2(h), the protest committee shall report its findings to US Sailing for further action or review in accordance with US Sailing Regulation 15.

## Scoring

When a competitor withdraws from part of an event pursuant to the Code, the scores of all completed races shall stand for the purposes of determining the seeding of subsequent rounds or stages in the event. However, that competitor's boat/team will no longer be eligible to compete in the event, shall be removed from the final event scores, and each boat/team with a worse finishing place in the event shall be moved up one place. The same scoring applies if a boat is disqualified from the remaining races in an event.

## Elements of the Code

Each competitor in a US Sailing event pledges they agree to abide by the following elements of the code of conduction during the event. The event is defined as running from on-site registration to departure from the venue at the conclusion of the event.

### Participation

- I agree to abide by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the US Sailing Regulations and Bylaws, all rules related to the Championship selection procedures as specified by US Sailing, the Championship Conditions, the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions for the Championship or Qualifier.
- I am eligible to compete in this event under the “rules” of this event.

### Fair Play and Conduct

- I will abide by the *The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*, in particular the Basic Principles of “Sportsmanship and the Rules, rule 2 and rule 69, and the US Sailing SafeSport Handbook.
- I will comply with any reasonable request from a regatta official and shall handle any equipment provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

### Drugs, Alcohol, Other Prohibited Substances

- I will abide by US Sailing Regulation 10.03 for Prohibited Substances as defined below:
- For Adult US Sailing championship events, no competitor shall use or possess, either on or off the water: marijuana or any other substance if possession is illegal under state or federal law.
- For Junior and Youth events or for junior or youth competitors in any US Sailing championship, no competitor shall use or possess, either on or off the water: marijuana or any other substance if possession is illegal under state or federal law; or any alcoholic beverages.

### Sexual Abuse & Harassment

- I will abide by the US Sailing SafeSport Handbook and US Sailing Regulation 13.04 for Sexual Abuse & Harassment.

### Physical Abuse & Assault

- I will abide by the US Sailing SafeSport Handbook and US Sailing Regulation 13.05 for Physical Abuse & Assault.

### Bullying & Hazing

- I will abide by the US Sailing SafeSport Handbook and US Sailing Regulation 13.06 for Bullying & Hazing.

I have read the above Code and agree to abide by it as a condition of my (or if under 18, my child's) participation.

Event Name:		
Competitor Name (Printed)	Competitor Signature	Date
Parent/Guardian Name (Printed)	Parent/Guardian Signature	Date