

GUIDELINES AND PROCEDURES
FOR RUNNING A
SUNFISH® REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Compiled by the
United States SUNFISH® Class Association Regatta Chairman

Thank you for your interest in holding the SUNFISH® Regional Championship at your club. We hope it will be a rewarding regatta experience for your club members and committees, as well as the sailors involved. The following is an outline of how the regatta is usually run and it covers most areas of procedure that are usually asked about.

1. QUALIFICATION:

All SUNFISH sailors **must be current USSCA members (dues paid)**. All USSCA members are issued a membership card with an expiration date that verifies their eligibility. All entrants must **show** a current membership card at registration. Do **not** accept any excuses. If an entrant does not have a current membership card, they must fill out an USSCA membership application form and provide the appropriate fee by cash or check. All membership applications and fees must be sent to the Class Office once registration is closed. If an entrant is already a current member, the Class Office will return their cash or check. Membership forms should be available for participants to register with the Class. These forms are available from the Class Office (USSCA, P.O. Box 300128, Waterford, MI 48330-0128, 248/673-2750). All boats should have class legal or highly visible numbers on the sail. Boats are expected to be legally outfitted, although no official measurement is performed at a regional event because of lack of time. The winner of the regional will qualify for the next years SUNFISH World Championship.

2. FEES:

Fees for a SUNFISH Regional Championship range anywhere from \$20 to \$30 (1990 prices). The fees include the two days of racing, any paraphernalia that is given away, a dinner or party or BBQ on Saturday night, trophies, and often, lunches each day or at least donuts and coffee each morning. (Depending on club budgets).

3. ACCOMMODATIONS:

About 1/3 to 1/2 of the sailors will be traveling some distance to the regatta. It is recommended that before hand, the club spell out where sailors can stay. Motels, camping and volunteer housing arrangements are the best bets.

4. MAILINGS:

A flyer should be sent out about a month (no later than two weeks) before the regatta. It should be typed and possibly include a picture or drawing. The mailer should tell the date, place and times of the regatta, state that it is a World Qualifying Regatta, give ideas for accommodations, talk about lunches, fees, parties, etc.

A good rule of thumb for mailings is to send a few to all the local clubs in the area and to get a mailing list or set of mailing labels from the Class Office in order to send flyers to all sailors in the surrounding regions. (If the regional is on Long Island for example, you might send mailings to all of Long Island, NYC, lower upstate counties, Western Connecticut and Eastern New Jersey.)

Labels can be acquired by writing to the Class Office (USSCA, P.O. Box 300128, Waterford, MI 48330-0128) or by calling the Class Office (248/673-2750). Mailing labels are available for a small fee. You need to know what areas (states, zip codes, telephone area codes, etc.) you want them for.

5. **SCHEDULE:**

A typical schedule for the event is usually as follows:

EXAMPLE: NY REGIONAL AT GREAT SOUTH BAY YACHT CLUB AUG. 18-19, 1990

SAT. AUG. 18

8:30 am-10:30 am	Registration and donuts in clubhouse
11:00 am	Skippers meeting
11:30 am	Start of races 1 and 2
1:30 pm	Lunch
2:00 pm	Start of races 3 and 4
7:00 pm	BBQ/Beach party at GSB clubhouse

SUN. AUG. 19

10:00 am	Start of races 5 and 6
12:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm	Start of race 7
4:00 pm	Awards ceremony and departure of sailors

6. **RACING INSTRUCTIONS AND COURSES:**

This regatta is to be governed by the rules of the IYRA, USYRU, ISCA and the USSCA. The 720° rule is always used and protests are usually by word of mouth since flags are often too complicated for SUNFISH.

The courses that usually are run for a regional are Olympic if at all possible. If time is running short, run a modified Olympic course or even a triangular course if the wind runs short. Clubs should follow their typical formats as far as signals are concerned. Large cylinders or buoys are recommended for marks and it is highly recommended that the courses be of decent length. Races should take about 45 minutes to an hour to finish.

The starting sequence for a regional should be five minute intervals due to the fleet size, although a three minute set up may be substituted. The starting line should consist of a large boat at the starboard end. An "X" boat or mark can be used at the port end. A couple of crash boats should be utilized for course changes, rescues, leading the fleet in the fog and as possibly a "kinetic violation jury".

Three races should constitute a regatta. The committee should try to get in 7 or even 8 races if they can. However, racing should end early on Sunday in order to add scores, give away awards and see the sailors off at a decent hour.

7. TROPHIES AND AWARDS:

At a SUNFISH Regional, trophies are awarded for the top five finishers at least, expecting that the fleet size will be around 30 to 40 boats. These trophies should become larger as you ascend the order of finish. They should be traditional or classical in nature (i.e., silver or pewter bowls, engraved plaques). Gift awards (sail bags, daggerboard covers, drink holders) are basically a no-no for this regatta.

Other trophy ideas are listed below:

- Top Master (over 50)
- Top Female
- Top Junior (under 16)
- Bullet awards (top finisher in each race)
- Sportsmanship
- Farthest traveller (Marco Polo award)
- Most consistent
- Most inconsistent
- Most improved

These are just some ideas. Just a few trophies are sufficient.

8. DINNERS OR PARTIES:

Saturday night during the event is usually the time for either a party, a dinner or a barbecue. This will be included in the entrants fee, but will be purchased as an extra by guests of the sailors or of the club. The club must decide upon the price. Again, the party can be whatever you make of it.

9. LUNCHES:

Lunches can be done in a couple of ways. They are often included in the regatta fee, especially in such a case where lunches are to be served on the water. They will usually consist of a sandwich, soda, chips and cookies. Lunches can also be served on land, however. In this case, they can be purchased (hot lunches can be served) or included in the regatta fee. It all depends on the clubs budget, facilities and financial management of the regatta. Many clubs have snack bars, we do understand.

10. SPONSORS:

Sponsors may be attained for the regatta. They can donate a service or money in return for a simple thanks or by putting their name on a tee shirt or some other gift. Tee shirts are a welcome addition to the regional event. Sponsors can put their name on the sleeve or on the back. Participants would receive one with their entry fee. Extra shirts would have to be purchased. Sponsors can give money towards trophies also in return for recognition. A sailboat dealer has been on the premises in the past to sell parts, sailing nick knacks, etc.

11. PUBLICITY:

The regatta will be as big or as small a success as the individual club makes it. The sailing end of things almost always works out. Showing people a good time and getting club members and the community involved is another aspect. The regatta can be publicized locally on radio stations, in local newspapers and in store windows. The mailings and word of mouth are most important in bringing in a competitive fleet, however.

12. RESULTS:

A copy of the racing results must be sent to the Class Office once the racing is completed. The results can be emailed or mailed. The email address of the Class Office is SunFishOff@aol.com. The mailing address of the Class Office is:

USSCA
PO BOX 300128
WATERFORD MI 48330-0128

We wish you luck and smooth sailing in running this year's SUNFISH Regional Championship. Remember, your Regional USSCA Representative and the Class Office are there to help you in any way they can.