

North East and Yorkshire Youth Traveller Series (NEYYTS) 2023

Notes For Competitors & Parents/Guardians

This information pack has been written for the competitors and their parents/guardians. There is also an information pack for host clubs.

This document covers many basic points about travelling and open meeting etiquette that long term sailing families will already know as well as useful information about the series itself. The series encourages new sailing families out onto the circuit and this document attempts to answer the many questions that they have.

If you are able to offer assistance to another family to help them get the most out of the series, please do. Advice on strapping boats onto roof-racks, offering a space on your trailer, sharing how much clothing to put on when the weather is marginal and rigging help is always appreciated, pass on the knowledge you have picked up and help others get as much fun and enjoyment from sailing and travelling as your family does.

If you have a query that isn't covered in here, please contact NEYYSA via the email info.NEYYSA@gmail.com.

2023 is the series' 40th anniversary year. We plan to celebrate our past successes and the contribution the series has made to the region's sailors over the years whilst focusing on the current sailors and the impetus they are giving to the series to evolve and continue to meet their regional sailing needs. We are also looking to expand the association's offer by organising other events and activities and we will be hosting a team racing event in February 2023. 2023 is an exciting time to get involved with NEYYSA, come sailing with us and find out.

NEYYSA Steering Committee.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 A Brief History

In the early 1980's the series started as the Sheffield Schools Traveller series, it quickly grew with huge support and input from outdoor education specialists Andy Rangecroft and Chris Murrell and eventually it became the Yorkshire & Humberside Schools Traveller Series; this series ran throughout the area and grew in popularity and success.

The focus initially was to build a competitive racing series to encourage participation in the National School's Sailing Association annual regatta each July. In the late 1990's the series started to become known as the Yorkshire & Humberside Youth Traveller Series and continued to evolve to meet the needs of the region's youth sailors. The Yorkshire & Humberside Youth Sailing Association (YHYSA) was formed in the late 1990's to support the series.

In 1996, Barbara Darling started the North East Youth Travellers Series (NEYTS) using the Yorkshire & Humberside series as the successful model. This series was also well supported and provided a similar opportunity for high quality handicap racing for youth sailors at clubs across the region.

In 2016 the RYA's Regional Volunteer Team (RVT) accepted a supporting ownership role for the two series and merged them to match the re-organisation of the sailing regions which formed the RYA North East region encompassing the North East and Yorkshire.

Given the huge area of the region, the two series continued to run semi-separately but with links between the series and encouragement for the youth sailors to travel throughout the region to experience the diverse venues available across the region.

The series continued to be run under the YHYSA organising authority but various factors reduced support and although it continued to operate with over 100 sailors participating each year, this was largely at the competitors' home clubs and the benefits and pleasures of travelling to new venues was not being realised by many young sailors.

In late 2019 a group of parents took on the organisation of the series from the RVT and re-invigorated the series to take advantage of the more regional focus on youth sailing and to provide increased opportunity for an inclusive, supportive and competitive series within the region.

2021 saw a successful return to the water after the Covid19 pandemic. Over 170 sailors participated with an average turn out of over 20 boats per event.

The association held their AGM in November 2021 and voted to change their name to the North East & Yorkshire Youth Sailing Association (NEYYSA) to better reflect the geographical region they now represent. A managing committee was elected, including 2 sailor representatives. 2022 built on the renewed focus and support for the series and saw an average 24 boat turnout throughout the series.

2023 is the 40th anniversary year for series and it is an exciting time to be part of NEYSA - come sailing with us and find out!

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1.2 NEYYSA MANAGING COMMITTEE 2023

Chair	Fiona Spence
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Mandy Whitehead
Committee Members	David Manning John Horwood (entries & results)
Sailor Representatives	Ethan Wild Oliver Hirst

1.3 Series Ethos & Objectives

The objective is to promote competitive racing events, friendship, quality sailing skills and personal growth. The series offers opportunity to young sailors in the region in all classes to sail against their peers on a handicap basis. The series also visits several clubs which do not necessarily host RYA Youth Class events due to their location, specific geography or water size. Experiencing a variety of sailing venues is a key element in developing high quality sailing skills that will last a lifetime.

The series is a supportive, inclusive opportunity for all to race, those at the front are often competing in their chosen class at national level, those at the back may be venturing onto the race course for the first time. All are welcome and the series view is that the peer support offered by this series out on the water and on-shore is invaluable and represents and celebrates the essence of our sport.

This series offers opportunity for new experiences, competitive racing and friendships without the additional concerns of overnight accommodation as the majority of the venues are within a few hours travelling time of home allowing families to be *home in time for tea*. Sunday can then be spent at the home club or enjoying family time together.

2. GENERAL SERIES INFORMATION & ADMIN

The concept is quite simple, each club hosts an open meeting consisting of at least 3 races. The results at the end of each open meeting are then fed into the series results and at the last event, the series prizes are presented.

Due to the large geographical area of the region the series covers and the desire to ensure that families do not have long distances to travel to and from events, the region is split into two areas which is roughly along the 54° latitude line (Harrogate area). Events north of this are considered northern areas and events south of this are considered southern areas.

To encourage sailors to experience a breadth of sailing venues the regional prizes require sailors to compete in at least one event from the other area.

2.1 Series Organising Authority

North East & Yorkshire Youth Sailing Association (NEYYSA) is the organiser of the series.

They also provide support for publicity and any other queries the host club may have.

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They do not have any say under the NoR or SIs as to whether an open meeting goes ahead (due to weather, number of entries, Covid19 etc), the final decision as to whether racing happens rests solely with the organising club.

2.2 (Open Meeting) Race Organising Authority

The individual club is responsible for organising and managing all aspects of their open meeting and is identified in the Notice of Race (NoR) as the race organising authority.

The club is responsible for providing all race management officials, safety cover and any other personnel to run the event safely and the event is fully run under their burgee (& insurance etc). The club has the final decision as to whether the event will proceed on the day.

This means that the host Club's child protection and data privacy policies will apply and the club is responsible for any media reports issued for their event, the club also has responsibility for all images that are taken on the day and are released as official pictures from the event.

2.3 How Many Events Area There?

We are delighted to have 12 clubs participating in 2023. A full list of clubs hosting an event is listed in the NoR and on the website.

2.4 How Many Events Do I Need To Enter To Qualify For The Series?

The best 5 scores from all the events are used to calculate the sailor's position in the series. The more events they do, the better they will do overall as they can discard less good results.

2.5 NEYYSA Membership

Competitors who race in 3 or more events will automatically become a member of NEYYSA. This will enable them (& their parent/guardian) to have a say via the AGM about the direction of the 2023 series. The AGM will be held online in late 2023.

Sailors and supporters can join NEYYSA at any time, membership details are on the website.

2.6 Official Notice Board

The series official notice board is the association's website www.yhysa.org.

Each club will have an official notice board for their open meeting which will be defined in the supplement sailing instructions, it may be on www.yhysa.org if it is available before the event.

Competitors are encouraged to check the series notice board before travelling and to check the open meeting notice board when they arrive at the host club. Where possible any information known before the open meeting will be posted on the series official notice board but we can't guarantee this.

2.7 Notice of Race & Sailing Instructions

The series is organised using a Notice of Race (NoR) document and some Sailing Instructions (SI). These two documents outline the rules for the events and series and provide the framework for the series to operate. You are encouraged to read these

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documents but don't worry if you don't understand all of them if you are new to racing. Just come along and ask questions and someone will happily explain how it all works.

The Notice of Race covers all the important information needed to run the open meeting and the series, it's also list of rules and general dos and don'ts.

The sailing instructions cover the actual racing and any specific instructions pertinent to the specific venue.

The Notice of Race (NoR) for the series and the general sailing instructions are posted on the NEYYSA website. www.yhysa.org.

Sailing instructions for the open meetings are also on the NEYYSA website.

2.8 Entries & Fees

Entry will be via the on-line system on www.yhysa.org. On-line entries will close on the Thursday evening before the event to give the host club time to finalise plans. On the day entries may be allowed at the discretion of the host club providing the on-line entry is not full.

Entry declarations also includes media consent, clubs will be advised if any competitor has declined media consent by NEYYSA before the event.

If you do not wish your sailor to be included in any images released to the media on the day please ensure you select the correct option on the entry form. Please note that NEYYSA and the host club cannot be held responsible for other people present on the day taking photos that may include your party and sharing them on social media.

To encourage participation, the max entry fee for each open meeting is £10 per boat. £2 from each entry will be levied to NEYYSA to cover series prizes. The club gets the rest to cover the costs of the day – it may sound like a lot but £8 per boat to cover safety boat fuel (of which we will use a lot!), prizes and any other costs they incur is not actually that much.

2.9 Special Education Needs & Disability (SEND)

The series encourages and welcomes all sailors. If you have a specific SEND requirement please speak to the series organiser and the host club in confidence prior to the event so that arrangements can be made.

2.10 Welfare and Safeguarding

The NEYYSA complies and follows the RYA's safeguarding policy at all times. If you have a specific query or concern please contact the series organiser in complete confidence so that the matter can be investigated and dealt with promptly.

Each club participating in the series also has a safeguarding policy which complies and follows the RYA's recommendations. If you have a concern about a specific matter at a club, please contact the club's welfare officer directly, their contact details can usually be found on their club website, alternatively contact NEYYSA for assistance.

2.11 Covid19

Each club is responsible for communicating their Covid19 procedures and protocols should revised guidance be issued by HM Government during the course of the season. The NoR contains basic expectations regarding adherence to Covid19 procedures.

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If an open meeting needs to be cancelled to comply with the latest government requirements then competitors will receive a full refund of their entry fees.

2.12 Catering & Access to Clubrooms

An attempt will be made to share access information and catering availability for all the host clubs.

2.13 Sponsorship

Currently the series does not have any external sponsorship although we are looking into this. If a sponsor is found and requires competitors to display advertising, this is covered in the Notice of Race.

2.14 Joint Events With Junior & Youth Classes

The host club may run the open meeting alongside a youth or junior class event. NEYYSA encourages this, more boats on the start line, more opportunity to meet like-minded friends and more people going sailing in the region and also a lower load on the hard working club volunteers if they can combine two events and save a weekend! The series results will be pulled out of the overall results as usual.

2.15 Class Measurement, Class Association Membership and Sail Numbers

Class membership and measurement certificates are not an entry requirement. Boats are expected to *comply with the spirit of their class rules*. This is intended to encourage participation in events by sailors in club owned boats or with older boats that would not necessarily be class legal at a major class association organised competition.

We expect that competitors will treat this condition in the manner intended and not to use it to sail boats which are known to be out of class and which clubs would normally disqualify. Gross breaches of Class Rules can be protested and there is guidance in the NoR on how this is penalised.

Membership of the relevant class association is not required.

The use of replica sails is permitted and they do not need to have any measurement certification. This is to allow club sailors at their first open meeting to use club boats which often have replica sails which would not meet class rules.

Boats need to have an identifying feature on their sail (a duct tape X is quite sufficient) to aid the race management team. If you need help with this please speak to the open meeting organiser who will help you sort out something suitable.

2.16 Coaching During Racing

The competitor needs to enter the regatta fleet on the entry form if they want to receive on-water help (if it is available).

These sailors will be given some method of identifying their boat on the water so that the coach boat can assist them. They need to display this as part of the Notice of Race.

The NoR states that Rule 41 Outside Help is changed for this Youth Racing Series to allow outside help during the race for regatta fleet competitors needing assistance.

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The regatta fleet is aimed at the less experienced sailors and is designed to ensure they get round the course and finish & go home smiling. To clarify - this means that coaching less experienced sailors around the course so they obtain a finish is permitted without penalty. They will be expected to provide support on starting and points of sailing, they are not expected to offer rule advice which provides grounds for a protest.

The NoR has provision for a regatta fleet sailor to be moved into the main fleet if their performance warrants it. This is at the discretion of the race officer at each regatta. There are no grounds for redress for this decision (ie you can't appeal it via protest). This is a reason for celebration and the sailor should be encouraged by this news.

If inclement conditions prevent some of the regatta fleet from venturing out, some flexibility by the host club is encouraged (such as doubling up to get them out sailing or an adhoc onshore session) to ensure the regatta fleet sailors still get some benefit from the day.

The coach boat can double up as a safety boat as necessary, particularly if conditions are inclement.

2.17 Non-Regatta Fleet – Input By Coaching & Race Management Team

The non-regatta fleet will receive no on-water coaching on the day. They will be left to *fight-it-out* between themselves and any mistakes they make are theirs to own.

Non-regatta fleet sailors are encouraged to seek post-race feedback from the on-water coaches, feedback is only available after the protest time limit has expired.

To clarify where the race team may offer input to the main fleet racers – if they are over the line the race team may let them know as per the sailing rules. However, they are not obliged to identify the boats that are over and it remains the competitor's responsibility to make sure they were not OCS if code flag X is flown.

Likewise, at the finish line, all main fleet competitors are encouraged to check they have definitely crossed the finish line and any hoot they hear is definitely theirs. Average lap times mean that boats further down the fleet may finish before the leading boats and a hoot intended for a boat being finished a lap early can easily be mistaken for their finish.

Rule 41 is also amended to include paragraph (f) in the NoR so that all competitors can receive assistance from the safety patrol boats to enable them to return to racing as long as they do not benefit from the input. This means non-regatta fleet competitors may get help to recover from (say) a capsized, provided the assistance does not improve their result. For example, if a competitor is capsized for a while and gets help to recover the boat, they can return to the race but they will have lost so many places already they will not have benefited from the input, other than they actually finished the race rather than retiring.

2.18 Buddy Coaching

The series is investigating running a buddy coaching discussion at each event. After the main briefing the main fleet sailors will encourage a discussion with the regatta fleet sailors about the things they are going to be thinking about when they are afloat – for example if it's windy they may focus on sail set up, if it is tidal they will consider tidal. The idea is that the less experienced can learn from the more experienced and the more experienced benefit by having to articulate what they are thinking about so that it becomes a more structured thought process. After racing, before the prize-giving a short wash up discussion will be encouraged.

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2.19 Supporting Your Sailor

Help your sailor get the best out of the series by helping them prepare;

- Make sure they understand the NoR and Sailing Instructions.
- Make sure they have packed their kit and know where everything is.
- Get to the venue with adequate time to get organised.
- Be a calm supporting presence on the shore.
- Commiserate and support if things don't go well, celebrate appropriately if they do.
- Be the support team they turn to, rather than turn away from.
- A sailor's success, or lack of it, on the water is no reflection on your parenting abilities. However, your sailor's ability to interact positively with others, have confidence to try new things with the resilience to receive constructive feedback is a direct reflection on your parenting.

2.20 Series Help & Support – Get Involved

The series is a friendly and supportive environment where everyone is encouraged to help each other, this extends into the event management team. Parents who wish to get involved and help will be very welcome at all the clubs; this series is an excellent way of getting experience with race management, safety boat good practice and a host of other useful sailing skills. If you want to get involved, please let the series organiser or the host club know.

If a club is in need of specific skills, the parent body will be approached to assist. There is a wealth of knowledge and skills in the visiting parents and it is only appropriate that parents help to ensure their child and others get the most out of the day.

3. INFORMATION ABOUT THE EVENTS & RACING

3.1 Briefing

A briefing will be held prior to the first race at every event. Currently the intention is that the 2023 briefings will all be physical ones at the venue, if we need to amend this for any reason, information will be sent to competitors with appropriate notice.

Don't be afraid to ask any questions you may have, there is no such thing as a daft question and others are probably thinking it but are too afraid to ask. If you are really too uncomfortable asking the question publicly or the question is confidential, please contact NEYYSA or the host club directly using the contact details in the NoR or speak to the appropriate person privately when you arrive.

3.2 Pre-Event Checks – Before You Leave Home

Things to consider / pack;

- Car + Trailer/Roof-rack/ tail board / spare wheel are all in good working order
- The boat is tied on properly and you have spare bits of string/elastic.
- Weather forecast – have you packed suitable kit (for everyone)?
- Sailing kit is clean, dry and complete.

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- Shore supporter's kit is dry, warm and complete.
- Suncream, sunglasses, warm hat & gloves for all. Consider spares.
- Waterbottle & snack bag for the boat?
- Sails & foils.
- Food – don't underestimate how much a hungry sailor can eat. A means to heat up hot food is a really good idea.
- Boat spares and tools. Start a bit-box if you haven't got one already. Ask for advice on what to put in it.
- Rule book (if you have one).
- Sailing Instructions & Notice of Race printed out
- Course card printed out and laminated? (or a bit of duct tape & a permanent marker)
- Phone, camera, anything else?
- Directions, event information, what time do you need to leave?

3.3 Schedule

It can be a pretty full-on day; this is a typical schedule to fit everything in;

Before 09:30	Sailors arrive Meet & Greet, rig, change. Book lunch. Faff!
10:00	Short briefing
10:15	Permission to Launch
10:25	Race 1 start sequence At least 1 race needs to be completed before lunch.
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch
13:30	Permission to Launch
13.40	After noon race start sequence At least 2 races (if 3 or 4 planned in total).
16:00	Ashore, de-rig, pack up. Change Results calculated.
16:30	Prize-giving
17:00	Depart

Don't leave yourself short of time to unpack, rig, get changed, fuel up and sort out any last-minute hiccups before the start of the day. Better to arrive 30 minutes earlier and have a chill out with some food and a drink than be still rigging as everyone else launches!

For newcomers to travelling, make sure you give yourself plenty of time to get the boat off the trailer/roof rack. It is amazing how the time just disappears. Practically, you need to be at the venue at least one hour before the first publicised activity (usually the orientation briefing at 10am), this will give you enough time to get organised but not dally. If you know your family takes longer than usual to get changed and organised, give yourself more time.

Do not underestimate your young sailor's ability to enter a complete faff time-warp! Keep them on track to make the first start.

3.4 Open Meeting Format

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To obtain consistency across all events the format will be broadly similar for all open meetings.

- Briefing prior to launching at approx. 10am.
- First race no earlier than 10.30am.
- A minimum of 4 races of about 45 minutes duration for all competitors.
- Average lap times for all competitors (so the last placed boat may be finished first).
- A break for lunch.
- Prize Giving at end of the day.
- Simple courses (allowing for local variants).
- Start/Finish line the same to aid average laps.

3.5 Upon Arrival

- Friendship starts with a smile.
- Park as directed.
- Ask for help if you need a lift to unload.
- Rig & change quickly and be considerate of other people in the boat park & changing rooms.
- Find out where the noticeboard is and check it for any updates.
- Order any food for lunch as necessary.
- If you need to speak to the event organiser about any SEND requirements, please find them as soon as possible. Answer any questions they or the race team/safety crew may have about your needs.
- If you need a regatta fleet identifier – get it and fix it to your boat/person.
- Find out where the orientation briefing is going to be and get there on time.
- Follow the beach master's (if in use) directions about launching.
- If in doubt ask.

3.6 Clothing

Making sure the sailors are wearing suitable kit is important as a cold sailor is an unhappy sailor. If in doubt, ask others what they are wearing, particularly the locals!

Consider where the event is, an event on the sea usually means that the wind is a bit stronger and may be colder, it is also usually colder once you get out to sea. An event at a smaller lake may not need as many layers.

Dry-suits or wetsuits are popular but not essential, it is possible to go sailing in other clothing. If your child is wearing a dry-suit, make sure they have enough clothing on underneath as a dry-suit without insulation underneath is about as warm as a plastic bag!

Shortie wetsuits in summer are popular but usually need a wind/waterproof on the top. Don't forget suncream for the exposed legs!

Make sure sunscreen, sunglasses and a sun/warm hat are worn as necessary.

Also consider the shore team – standing around in the dinghy park can be chilly, especially if it is windy. Also consider how you will be able to assist your sailor with launching and recovery. Help is always available and it's good to get involved – get the shore crew kitted out to assist.

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If the event is going to run back-to-back races, a drinks bottle and a snack in the boat for them to eat between races is a good idea. Dehydration and hunger effects how a sailor performs and also impacts the body's ability to regulate temperature.

3.7 If Something Is Wrong, You Aren't Sure Or You Don't Understand

If something happens that you aren't happy about, or don't understand please ask and talk about it in a constructive manner. The first person to speak to is the event organiser to clarify what is happening and then they can help you solve the problem. If they can't help then the series organisers will be happy to try and help resolve it.

If you are new to sailing and are a bit lost as to what is going on then, **just ask** as everyone will be happy to help and explain. Likewise, don't be upset or offended if an experienced sailor or sailing parent realises something is amiss with your sailor or their boat and steps in to fix it quickly so your sailor can get back out sailing with minimal fuss. Ask them to explain afterwards, they will be happy to and are highly like to give you some top tips to make sure it doesn't happen again (& you'll have made a new friend).

If you aren't sure the conditions are suitable for your novice sailor, seek input from others. Ultimately, the decision as to whether your sailor goes sailing is between the sailor and their parent/guardian but talking about your concerns and the conditions is a good way to rationalise your decision.

3.8 Results

The results for the Open Meeting will be calculated and published by the host club throughout the day.

If you have a query with the results, please speak to the event organiser as soon as possible. The average lap system does mean mistakes can be made and it is better to clear up an error quickly and calmly than to let it fester.

The club will feed the results into the series organiser for compilation into the series results.

The open meetings will use Appendix A to calculate the results for the day's sailing. This means the person with the lowest score will win the open meeting.

The series will also use Appendix A to calculate the series results. If your sailor is 10th at the Open Meeting, they will get 10 points for the series score. If they don't attend an Open Meeting they will get the number of points at the largest open meeting in the series + 2 for that event. This is designed to ensure regular attendance is rewarded by better series results.

3.9 Protests

Protests occur every year and are encouraged. Fair sailing and good sportsmanship are key to a successful series and protests are a healthy by-product of this.

Sailors are expected to complete the protest form themselves and represent themselves in the hearing.

Only in exceptional circumstances will parents be allowed to attend the protest hearing, the series encourages the young sailors to conduct themselves in a fair minded, constructive manner and the protest hearing will be heard by experienced racers with a good knowledge of the rules. The sailor's age and experience will be taken into account during the protest

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hearing so that everyone feels they have been heard and their protest taken seriously.

Arbitration is encouraged and learning is key so where appropriate, the outcome of the protest including the reasons for the decision will be shared with everyone.

The host clubs and series organisers take a dim view of poor sportsmanship or lack of fair sailing and will not hesitate to use the system defined in the rules to deal with it.

3.10 Prizegiving

It is generally considered good etiquette for all competitors to attend the prize giving to celebrate participation as well as to see the leading sailors get their prizes. If you have to leave before hand, please give your apologies to the host club and give your thanks for the event.

Prizes will usually cover more than the top three competitors as part of the series ethos is to encourage sailors further down the fleet by recognising effort and participation.

NEYYSA will liaise with the host club to arrange the series prize-giving at the final event in the series.

The prize giving will be held as soon as possible after the sailing is finished although some time is always needed to calculate the results and proof-check them. If there is a protest it may delay the prize giving if it affects the results – a good time for a cup of tea and a natter!

It is the series' practice to encourage the open meeting winner to make a thank you speech, it is important to recognise the significant volunteer effort necessary to deliver the event and also provides public speaking practice in a friendly & supportive environment!

If your sailor needs to make this speech – congratulations! Help them prepare the thanks they need to give;

- Host club & organiser
- Race Management Team
- Safety Teams
- Coach
- Galley Team
- Parents & other competitors