



HOUSATONIC BOAT CLUB 2020 Racing Season UPDATE

Most of the clubs in the area are becoming active, following social distancing guidelines. We have discussed this season at the board meeting, and the decision was made to go forward with the remainder of season schedule.

We are very thankful for the response we have received from our racing community; it was helpful in developing a plan for the season. Based on the feedback, it appears there is mostly interest in the evening races and the HBC Invitational.

This has been a challenging year, and it would be nice, with this season almost half over, to make some changes for this racing season on a trial basis to avoid a repeat of last year with few boats sailing and qualifying.

As of today, there are 6 races scheduled for the remainder of the season. The schedule will be posted on the web and on the Official Sailing Notice Board located at HBC.

All HBC post-race parties are cancelled due to social distancing.

2 evening races, Chowder Race (no chowder provided) and Moonlight.
1 day race, start times are posted on the schedule.

3 ECSA Sponsored Events, MYC Boardman Cup, HBC Invitational, and WSC Last Chance Regatta.

The plan is to go forward with the HBC Invitational race; it will be an ECSA event. The post-race awards and party will be canceled, which appears to be common for the recent ECSA events, maintaining social distancing guidelines. Competitors will be required to complete and sign a Covid 19 release form before participating. These forms will be available on the web and on the Official Sailing Notice Board. The NOR, modified accordingly, will be posted at HBC.

ECSA sponsored events will be run under the NOR and sailing instructions of the sponsoring club. ECSA sponsored races are identified as such on the Housatonic Boat Club 2020 Racing Schedule.

For the 3 NON ECSA events, we will try to get a RC on line (Volunteers are appreciated). If that is not possible, an "Honor Start" will be used. Please record start and finish times and submit by email to the RC chair person. rkubis@netzero.net. TOT scoring as in the past will be used.

These NON ECSA races, times, and finishes will be posted. These races will be sailed as fun races, using US Sailing Racing Rules. There will be no scoring for end of season awards, with the intent of making this a more casual event to entice more people to come out.

In addition there will be intro to racing events scheduled, a mentoring program getting new sailors and their boats on the line with some "Seasoned Racers". This would involve setting short courses, hopefully giving novice racers starting and rounding confidence to sail in bigger fleets.

The HBC Club racing program is going through challenging times; to survive we have to develop more sailors. We will be soliciting new sailors for the program and looking for your support. All interested sailors (experienced and novice) should reply to the email above.

The 2020 Housatonic Boat Club Sailing Instructions have been modified from past years to get us through the 2020 Pandemic season, and an attempt to increase participation in the hope this will make the best of the situation and provide an enjoyable season for all.

(These Instructions will only apply for the 2020 season, and may be modified if conditions dictate.)

Regards,

Bob Kubis

Steve Hackett

Race Committee Co-Chairs