

Sail Nauticus is a program that is inclusive to sailors of all skill levels. We passionately introduce novice sailors to the activity we love. At the other end of the spectrum, our more experienced sailors take part in weekly racing. Many of the new sailors, emboldened by their developing talents, wonder how they might get join the racing action, and crewing is a great starting point. But we can do more.

We all know there are differing skill levels of sailors on every race course. We strive for a course to be fair for those at the top, and fun for those are not yet race leaders. We espouse a level of fairness here at Sail Nauticus and I think we do a good job of celebrating the accomplishments of spirit and character, with higher regard than the order of finish. Sometimes it seems the competitive nature of sport tempts one to 'win at all costs'. That's not who we are - not in this sport, or our organization. I don't necessarily believe our evening racing often has this issue, but I do observe a significant degree of disregard for the rules and penalty taking. The threat from this behavior is the degradation of the quality and fairness of the racing and increase in the likelihood of personal injury, boat damage, hurt feelings and less fun.

I'd like to introduce you to recently created #FairSailing initiative by the Inland Lake Yachting Association (ILYA). It encourages; sportsmanship, ethical play, inviting and safe experiences on a consistent playing field. The ILYA has put forth a tremendous effort in the creation of #FairSailing and has asked all of its' sailing clubs to embrace the concept. They believe it is vital to the health of each of their member clubs and the ILYA as a whole. It's a rejuvenation, a re-set of sorts for their organization...and they've kicked it off by emphasizing rule knowledge and the notion of personal responsibility. Though Sail Nauticus is not an ILYA member club, I feel strongly that if we take a similar tack, the quality, fairness and fun of our racing will grow.

The following is verbiage I've paraphrased from the Basic Principals section of the 2017-2020 Racing Rules of Sailing: "The underlying premise of the sport of sailing is that competitors are governed by sportsmanship and the rules. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a rule they assume responsibility and promptly take a penalty."

Before you read further please understand, there is no such thing as halfway with this. We must be 'all in'...fully committed...like a job! Sounds fun, doesn't it? Seriously, here goes-

- The ILYA has created a series of short videos that explain and answer commonly encountered rule situations/questions. These are much the same situations we experience each Monday night.
- They've also created a rules quiz and are asking their clubs to pledge a certain pass rate percentage among racers (skippers & crew) at each club.

What better way to start fair sailing here at Sail Nauticus, than by each one of us taking responsibility to learn and enforce the rules to make our racing safer, more competitive and consistent. New and experienced sailors alike can learn together and from each other.

We ask that Sail Nauticus members please visit the website <https://sailzing.com/> and click the #FairSailing and take the quiz. Members who wish to skipper any race **MUST** complete the quiz before August 31st of 2018. If you have any questions about the process, the quiz, or help with clarification of an answer; please do not hesitate to reach out to myself or Jacob Raymond. You may take the test as many times as needed to pass. ***Please note to list Sail Nauticus as your club / organization as well as to opt to send your result to Sail Nauticus so we may confirm you have taken the quiz.*** You will also receive a free hat from the ILYA as a thank you for participating in #FairSailing.

Thank you to our friends at Sailzing and the ILYA for allowing us to use this wonderful resource.