

SSS 2013 Membership, Racing and Volunteer FAQ

Should I join SSS or just enter individual races?

Apart from the fact that SSS members are really cool, you should become a member if you think you may do three or more of our races this year. Members get to enter the races (except the LongPac or TransPac) for free, so after your third race you're saving money by being a member. And you avoid the repetitive payments.

If you're not sure about your racing schedule, enter a race or two. If you decide to become a member after that, we'll credit those entry fees toward your membership.

If I become a member, does that mean I'm signed up for all the races?

No, you need to go through the online entry process for each race (just once for Vallejo 1-2 weekend). Generally, you can't enter a given race until after the previous race. We want to be sure that your emergency contact info is current, and that you've had a chance to see any amendments to the sailing instructions.

What's with the membership surcharge if I'm racing in YRA? Is that my YRA membership?

No, you pay YRA for your YRA membership and entries. But YRA requires that you be a member of a yacht club. At the end of the season YRA bills each club \$25 for every member that raced in YRA. While this expense would be "down in the noise" for most brick-and-mortar clubs, for SSS it's a substantial portion of your dues. It's only fair to pass the \$25 cost through to the members who incur it rather than defraying it among all our members.

SSS sounds like a cheap way to get my yacht club affiliation for YRA, even if I'm not interested in shorthanded racing.

We exist to promote shorthanded racing, and we don't want to undercut traditional yacht clubs. If you race YRA as an SSS member but don't participate in any SSS events, don't be surprised if we reject your membership application next year.

Just one page of sailing instructions for each race?

No way! Each of our races has a unique course and other rules, so it has its own Additional Sailing Instructions. But you also need to familiarize yourself with the 4-page Notice of Race and Standing Sailing Instructions. In general, our races operate a little differently from what you may be used to, and most of those differences are spelled out in the NOR/SSI.

Do I need a PHRF certificate?

Short answer: probably. But we don't require PHRF certificates from bona fide one-designs, as long as the class has a rating in the Northern California PHRF database. Other monohulls without certificates can enter one race, but you'll be taking your chances with our rating roulette wheel. If you don't like the rating we give you, or if you want to race with us again in the same year, you'll need to apply for a rating and upload your certificate with your entry.

Note that the above applies only to monohulls. Nobody on the current SSS board is familiar enough with multihulls to rate them, so they all must submit a cert.

To get a certificate for a monohull, see http://www.yra.org/PHRF/get_a_ncphrf_certificate.html
For a multihull, go to <http://www.sfbama.org/racing/ratings.html>

My emergency contact is my mother, and she lives in Costa Rica. That's cool, right?

Give us a break! We aren't asking whom we should send flowers to if you drown. We want someone who can help us track you down. That means somebody who lives with you ... who has access to your marina ... who knows your favorite hangouts ... who has phone numbers of most of your friends ... or as much of the above as possible.

What's this I see? I can score Doublehanded season points even when I'm racing singlehanded?

Yes! This is the **Singlehanded** Sailing Society after all, and we want even dedicated doublehanders to try going solo. To that end, if you enter the Singlehanded division in one of our three "easy" races where there's the option of going either single or double (assuming you stick it out and finish the race), you will score zero points in the Doublehanded division for that race. That's like winning, Einstein! You'd have to be crazy not to give it a shot.

I'm chasing Doublehanded season points. I've entered the upcoming race, but my crew got sick / broke up with me / is in jail. And I've already scored that bonus zero by doing a race singlehanded. Can I sail by myself and still be scored as Doublehanded?

Yes, but just once per season. We've always allowed our dedicated loners to sail solo in the Vallejo 2; now you can play that chip in some other race. But in that case you'd better find someone to sail back from Vallejo with you!

I'd like to help on race committee / organize a cruise-in / give a presentation at a meeting. Whom should I talk to?

Why, bless your heart! For race committee, contact the Race Chair. For anything else, the Commodore is probably your best bet. Really, any member of the Board will steer you in the right direction. See the Contact page on the SSS website.