

The San Francisco Yacht Club

Race Committee Volunteer Handbook

2023

I. Introduction

Greeting Race Volunteers!

Thank you for taking the first step towards becoming a race volunteer at The San Francisco Yacht Club. Volunteering for the Race Committee is a great way to give back to the Club, meet new people, learn more about racing and get acquainted with the Club if you're hoping to apply for membership.

The 2023 racing season at SFYC includes 31 regattas that attract sailors from across the Bay Area and beyond. This year we are hosting several National Championships and Pacific Coast Championships in addition to our annual Club Series races, Youth regattas and One Design races.

As a race committee volunteer at SFYC you will earn many hours of on the water action. You will work with sailing professionals and other volunteers as we put on exceptional regattas. Our main goal in the race program at SFYC: Host regattas that are best for the sailors out on the course. Come help us achieve this goal in 2023!

Expectations

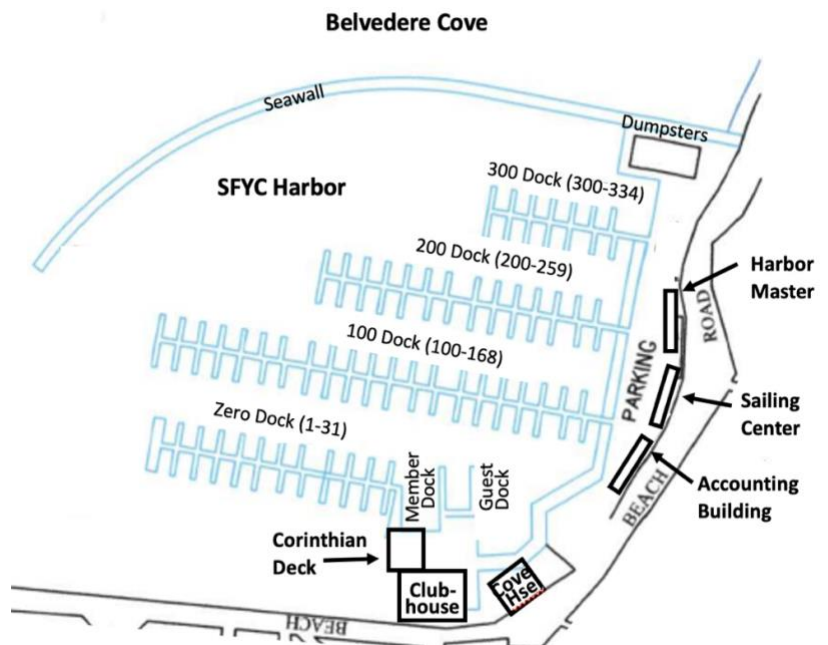
SFYC's internationally renowned racing program hinges on the dedicated support of Member and non-member volunteers from the broader sailing community.

By signing up to volunteer with the race committee you are making a commitment to help sailors have a successful regatta.

If you are unable to attend your committed volunteer shift, please try to liaise with other volunteers to swap before emailing the race office to cancel.

SFYC Map

- Race committee meetings will happen on the Corinthian deck.
- After racing awards usually happen in the Cove House.
- Bathrooms are located in the Club house, and by the Sailing Center.
- The parking lot is open to volunteers on race days. Please pick up a parking pass from the Race Office on the day of your shift.



II. On The Water Roles

Principal Race Officer

- The PRO is a certified official who volunteers their time to manage all on the water conduct and course set-up during a regatta. The PRO also conducts skippers' meetings and says a few words to recap the event and thank volunteers at the awards ceremony.
- The PRO is responsible for communicating with their on the water team at six, two and one week prior to the first day of racing.
 - The six week check-in is to confirm volunteer availability and see if there are any spaces to fill.
 - The two week check-in is to solicit lunch orders.
 - The one week check-in is to give final reminders and day-of instructions.

Victory

- Our committee boat is typically one end of the start/finish line and will be anchored in the center of the racecourse. As a committee boat, those aboard Victory control the on-the-water racing and as such the quality of each race. On Victory, you will find the PRO as well as the following volunteer roles:
 - Flags
 - Recorders
 - Timer



Safety/Markset

- Our two markset RIBs, Golden Retriever and Martin, maintain close contact with the PRO, physically placing marks in the water to create the most ideal racecourse configuration. Successful races depend on the hard work and clear communication between markset crews and Victory. On a markset boat you will find these volunteer roles:
 - Driver
 - Crew

**Markset roles are reserved for experienced crews due to the precise and manual nature of the role, and to maintain a high level of safety for those on board. If you have markset experience, but have not previously volunteered with SFYC, you can send us a resume. We will likely start you as crew in order to gauge your experience.

***We will host a Markset Training day on June 25, 2023. Email race@sfyc.org to get on the sign-up list.



III. General Practices

PRO Communications

- The PRO for your volunteer weekend will reach out to you about 6 weeks in advance to confirm your availability. He/she will then reach out to you at 1 and 2 weeks before with day-of instructions and to solicit lunch orders.



Race Committee Shirts

- Stop by the Race Office on the first day of your first shift to pick one up.

Lunch

- Every day of volunteering SFYC will provide each volunteer with a sandwich or salad from Woodlands Market Deli. Volunteers are responsible for letting the PRO for their regatta know what kind of sandwich they will want.
- When ordering your sandwich be specific about what you want on it, including bread type as though you are ordering from a deli counter.
- There are pre-made options available. No add-ons or substitutions are possible with pre-ordered salads!
- Please visit the Woodlands Market Deli website if you would like to see what they offer for salads and pre-made sandwiches.
- Also provided for lunch:
 - Fruit
 - Chips
 - Cookie
 - Sodas
 - Water (While the race office will always have ample water on hand as a back-up, we ask you to please bring a reusable water bottle to help us mitigate our consumption of single-use plastic!)

Back on Shore

- Volunteers are invited to join in the awards celebration following the last day of racing. Light refreshments, beer and wine, and snacks are provided.
- New for 2023, we have race committee bar drink tokens! They are SFYC poker chips, which each entitle you to a drink from the bar after racing, and you will each get one at the morning meeting. You can keep them and use them on any race day if you don't want to use them the day you receive them. They are good for any beer, house wine, or well cocktail of your choice, just present them to the bartender when ordering and enjoy a small 'thank you' for your day on the water. The regatta beer and wine and snacks are of course still available for you to enjoy as well.