

NESSA By-Laws & Procedural Rules
(Last revised November 6, 2016)

Section I: By-Laws

Article A: Name

The name of the organization shall be the New England Schools Sailing Association.

Article B: Objective

The objective of the Association shall be to further the sport of sailing in New England secondary schools and to organize those schools competing by standardizing rules and procedures and by aiding with scheduling.

Article C: Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be divided into two classes as follows:

- a. New Members: Schools who wish to initiate a sailing program or schools that have a sailing program but have not been NESSA Regular Members or schools that have been NESSA Regular Members but have been inactive. After one full year from payment of dues, any New Member may apply for Regular Member status by attending an Annual Meeting and by presenting a formal written request for the change from a school administrator (principal, headmaster, athletic director, or student activities head) on school stationary to the NESSA Secretary/Treasurer.
- b. Regular Members: Schools who have been voted members of NESSA at the annual meeting and who continue to have active sailing programs. Schools, which have become inactive, must apply for New Membership.

Section 2. In order for NESSA to assist efficiently the development of diverse school sailing programs, and for the purposes of organizing regattas, all – New or Regular - will be classified as follows:

- a. Varsity Members: those schools recognizing sailing as a regular sport, major or minor, with or without letter awards.
- b. Club Member: those schools having a sailing organization recognized as a school club and having a faculty advisor, although not having sailing as an established sport at the school.

Section 3: To be a NESSA member, Regular or New, schools must complete an Annual Membership Form and pay school dues to be issued on a school check or a check (*or through the Association's PayPal account*) that is accompanied by a letter of authorization from the school by the Annual Meeting. Schools may registered after that date by following the above procedures, but thee schools may not appear in the annual official NESSA active Membership List and may not be eligible for all NESSA sponsored regattas.

Section 4. NESSA is a member of ISSA and US Sailing. NESSA strongly recommends that all sailors and coaches be individual members of US Sailing.

Section 5. A School which does not pay the annual NESSA dues will remain on the membership list with "inactive status" the subsequent year(s) and will need to re-apply as a New Member.

Article D: Executive Committee

Section 1. The organization shall be governed by an Executive Committee (ExComm).

- a. The ExComm shall be comprised of a representative from each of the seven sailing leagues within NESSA (Cape & Islands, Coastal Sailing Alliance, Fairfield County, Maine, Mass Bay, Connecticut, Rhode Island) as well as two (2) At-large members.
- b. The League representatives shall be appointed by their respective league and shall have a term of two years.
- c. The At-large members are elected by a vote of the membership, and shall have a term of two years.

Section 2. The ExComm shall appoint a President, Vice-President(s), Secretary/Treasurer, and NESSA Event Chairs from its membership.

- a. The President of NESSA has overall responsibility for the organization. They are a NESSA representative to the ISSA Board, run the NESSA annual meeting, and assist the other officers in the carrying out their duties.
- b. The Vice-President(s) of NESSA is/are in charge of Race Operations. They work with the various Event Chairs to make sure all NESSA Regattas are run properly. When the President is absent, a Vice-President fills that role.
- c. The Secretary/Treasurer is in charge of maintaining accurate and up-to-date membership records as well as maintaining and updating the website and other forms of communication with the membership. The person is also in charge of collecting dues and paying all organization bills.
- d. The Event Chairs are in charge of running the NESSA regattas within the guidelines of the ISSA PR and in coordination with the NESSA Vice-President(s).

Article E: Representation

Section 1. Each school shall be entitled to be represented at meetings by one or more delegates: faculty coach, adult advisor, or designated adult alternative. Regular Members shall be entitled to one vote for each school. No New Member may vote. Students are welcome to attend meetings with the adult but may not vote.

Section 2. All votes are to be decided by a majority of Regular Member schools represented at the meeting.

Article F: Meetings

The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held during the fall term. Other meetings may be held upon petition by at least five Regular Member schools to the NESSA President who will determine the time and place of the meeting. Notice of all NESSA meetings must be posted at least 10-day prior to the meeting.

Article G: Dues

Section 1. To be eligible for NESSA regattas, Regular and New Members shall pay annual dues, the sum to be voted at the annual meeting.

Section 2. Dues shall be paid by the Annual Meeting.

Article H; By-Law and Procedural Rules

The By-Laws and Procedural Rules may be amended by vote of the majority of Regular Members at the Annual Meeting.

Section II: Procedural Rules.

Article J: Sailing Rules

NESSA will follow the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), applicable to the year, unless modified by the ISSA Official Procedural Rules for Interscholastic Sailing Competition or by a specific NESSA sailing Instruction.

Article K: NESSA Regattas

Section 1. NESSA sponsors the following annual regattas:

- a. Fall funfest Invitational Regatta (The Wally Gleekman Trophy)
- b. NESSA Women's Championship Regatta (The Rebecca Herreshoff Trophy)
- c. NESSA Single-handed Championship (The Nancy Healy Trophy)
- d. NESSA Double-handed Championship (The George O'Day Trophy)
- e. NESSA Team Racing Championship (The Fritz Mark Trophy)
- f. NESSA Team Racing Tournament (Jim Terkelsen Trophy)
- g. NESSA Great Oaks Invitational Regatta Qualifier
- h. NESSA National Keelboat Invitational Qualifier

Section 2. Qualification. Schools shall be eligible for NESSA Championship regattas in the following way.

- a. All NESSA Dues must be paid.
- b. Schools may be active in either the Fall or Spring seasons, or both, and may use the same coaches in both seasons.
- c. **NESSA Single-handed Championship (Healy):** Each NESSA member is entitled to one entry. Extra slots may be filled by resume to be submitted to the NESSA Vice-President. Decisions will be made by NESSA Officers.
- d. **NESSA Double-handed Championships (O'Day and Herreshoff):** Schools, which are NESSA Members, are eligible. If more schools register than the number of available slots, qualifying regatta(s) may be sailed. Schools must sail at least three scheduled meets or regattas prior to the championship between two or more schools in the season that the championship is being held (fall or spring). Results of those meets must be presented at the championship. A meet is at least a best of three (3) team races with three more boats per school. A regatta is a fleet race with at least three races sailed in each division scheduled. For the purposes of qualification, the following meets count: A second meet with the same school provided it is a regular second meet planned for a different date than the first. Any regular scheduled NESSA event.
- e. **NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark) and the NESSA Team Racing Tournament (Terkelson Trophy):** Qualifications for the Mark Trophy are by schedule and record review. Race schedules from eligible school are due to the NESSA Vice President by a date established by the NESSA Officers and published in the NOR. Such a date shall not be later than ten days prior to the regatta. Decisions, regarding qualification, will be made by the NESSA Officers.

Schools must sail at least seven scheduled meets prior to the Championship. One of every 7 meets must be an inter-league meet. Leagues are defined on the NESSA website. Independent teams are considered in a league with their fellow independent schools as listed on the NESSA website.

A team may sail an opponent two or more times and count the first two meets towards their qualifying record. The third and any subsequent meets will not count towards either team's qualifying record. Two meets against a single opponent must be sailed on different days, unless the first is cancelled due to weather or extreme circumstances.

Section 3. Qualification. Schools shall be eligible for NESSA Invitational Regattas in the following way.

- a. All NESSA dues must be paid
- b. Each NESSA Member school is entitled to one entry on a first come, first served basis until the regatta is filled.
- c. Non-NESSA teams (conglomerate teams or out of district school teams) are entitled to sign up when the registration opens for a NESSA Invitational Regatta. Entry in the said regatta will be granted to a Non-NESSA team after 10 days from when registration opens, only if space is available, at a first come first serve basis.

Article L- Penalty for Failure to Compete.

Section 1. A school, which fails to attend a NESSA Regatta or an ISSA Regatta for which it has registered, fails to register for an ISSA Regatta for which it has qualified, attends with less than a full team, or departs before the conclusion of the regatta without the consent of the Event Chair, shall be placed on probation for 2 years, effective from the date of the incident. If a school fails to meet the above criteria while on probation, the school shall not be permitted to schedule or compete in any NESSA regattas for the next year.

Section 2.

- a. This penalty shall not be imposed for a NESSA Regatta if the NESSA Vice-president or the Event Chair is notified at least 48 hours prior to the report time of the regatta.
- b. This penalty shall not be imposed for an ISSA Regatta if the NESSA Vice-President and the Event Chair are notified at least 72 hours prior to the report time of the regatta

Section 3. This penalty may be modified or set aside for compelling reason. Request for penalty modification shall be fully documented and sent to the NESSA President, who shall send the documentation, with a recommendation for action to the NESSA Executive Committee, who shall make the final ruling.

Article M - Trophy Winner Responsibilities

Section 1. A school that wins a NESSA regatta for which there is a permanent trophy may hold that trophy until the regatta is sailed next. The winning school is responsible for engraving costs of the trophy, the trophy's safekeeping, and returning the trophy to the appropriate regatta when it is sailed next. Failure to return the trophy shall result in a DSQ for that school in the first race in each division for that regatta if the event is a fleet race. If the event is a team race, 1 loss will be added and 1 win will be subtracted from the school's total.

Section 2. In the case where more than one school is to share the trophy, each school shall have roughly equal time with the trophy. The school that holds the trophy first shall be responsible for getting it engraved properly (at a shared cost with the other school(s)). The school that holds the trophy last is responsible for returning it when the regatta is sailed next. Failure to return the trophy shall result in a DSQ for that school in the first race in each

division for that regatta if the event is a fleet race. If the event is a team race, 1 loss will be added and 1 win will be subtracted from the school's total.

Article N – ISSA Proxy votes

Section 1. For the purpose of the Annual Meeting of ISSA, the proxies of all members of NESSA shall be assigned to the NESSA President no more than one month prior to said meeting and shall expire after the final adjournment of said meeting.

Section 2. Any NESSA member may withdraw their proxy or a portion of their proxy by written or email notification to the NESSA President no later than 24 hours prior to the ISSA Annual Meeting.

Section 3. The NESSA President may assign the proxies of NESSA members to another ISSA Board member from NESSA by sending written notification to the NESSA e-mail list at least 72 hours prior to the ISSA Annual Meeting.

NESSA Team Racing Championship Format (two-tier structure):

(Voted in place 11-23-13 at NESSA Annual Meeting)

- Schools are ranked first thru last using 50% computer rankings, and 50% executive committee rankings. Rankings are posted on the NESSA Standings site.
- Schools ranked one through eight (1-8) receive automatic bids into the NESSA Team Racing Championship (Mark Trophy)
- Schools ranked ten through sixteen (9-16) receive automatic bids into the NESSA Silver division Team Racing Championship (Terk Trophy).
- **Formats for both Regatta:** A double-round robin (and any sail-offs necessary) between the school that qualify followed by a double gold round comprising the top four (# of possible races: $56 + 12 = 68$)
 - ✓ The top two teams at the Mark Trophy would advance to represent NESSA at the ISSA Team Racing Championship (Baker Trophy).
 - ✓ The schools ranked third and fourth at the Mark Trophy would advance to represent NESSA at the National Invitational Tournament (Founders Trophy)
 - ✓ The school that wins the Terk Trophy would advance to represent NESSA at the National Invitational Tournament (Founders Trophy).

Some Notes about the NESSA Team Racing Championship

- Both regattas are scheduled for two days (Saturday and Sunday) to ensure that racing will take place. If the format, and any sail-offs that are necessary, have been completed in one-day, then that regatta is over.
- If one round robin is completed, then the regatta is a valid regatta and the results would stand, if no other round robin(s) could be completed over two days.
- Only a complete round robin can count. If a round robin is not completed, then results go back to the results posted after the last completed round robin, except results from an incomplete round-robin may be used to break a tie in accordance with ISSA PR 12.1.
- If it is not possible to complete the format in the time allotted over the weekend, then the highest seed(s) would be declared the winner(s) and move on to the next level.