



6 August 2021

Hello Sabre sailors

The Sabre Sailing Association of NSW Inc invites you to the 43rd Sabre National Championship to be held on Lake Burley Griffin, hosted by the Canberra Yacht Club.

The link to the Notice of Race and general information is here -

<https://canberrayc.com/specevents.php>

These championships are unusual with the possibility of Covid restrictions threatening to upset the event. We are still more than 5 months away from the regatta date and are committed to running the championships. Who would have thought a month or so ago that that half the country would be back in lockdown? Yes, there will be more people vaccinated by early next year and most restrictions should be lifted, but we need to consider the possibility of some limitations remaining.

The organising committee have taken this into account and here are some of their considerations regarding the running of a National Championship during a pandemic.

- At this stage, the regatta will go ahead as planned. There may be restrictions placed on activities such as this regatta by the ACT or Federal Government closer to the time, and we will have to comply with those directives.
- Whilst the regatta is mainly about sailing, competitors always enjoy the social side of the event. Many of you will have sailed in club races during the past 18 months where the social side of sailing was non-existent. The Canberra Yacht Club and the ACT Government worked together last year to enable club racing to proceed, even though the community restrictions in place would appear to have made that impossible. The CYC asked crews to arrive at the club dressed ready to race, maintain social distancing whilst rigging, sail the race, maintain social distancing whilst unrigging and then go home in their sailing gear. Online results and presentation were available later in the day. We may end up in this position. If these restrictions were required, we would still conduct the championships.
- Traditionally the entry fee covers several extras, besides the cost of running the regatta. T shirts, meals, drinks etc are all part of the regatta and may be included in the entry fee. The organising committee is being cautious about committing to non-refundable expenditure. For example, restaurant deposits and T shirt orders may not be considered until much closer to the event, if at all.

- The CYC requires a minimum of 15 entries to run the championships. From current indications we should reach that number. Regarding whether the championship will be held because of any Covid restrictions, this decision will be made as late as possible. Of course, it may be that all is going well, and a government directive could cause its cancellation the day before or during the championship.
- The organising committee want the championship to go ahead, but all potential entrants need to be aware of the limitations of running a National Championships during a pandemic.
- The Sharpies have their National Championships in Canberra at the YMCASC. Their series runs from 27th December, 2021 to 3rd January, 2022. Both organising committees have been in discussions to share ideas during this difficult time.
- The Sabre entry procedure allows for entries to be made now, but payment can be made closer to the championship date, probably around early November.
- For those who want to commit to accommodation and travel, it would be advisable to try and pay a minimum deposit and take out travel insurance, if possible.
- At this stage, if the Championships are cancelled, there are no other arrangements made to hold them at an alternative location.

For further information, please contact the Canberra Yacht Club on 6273 7177 or admin@canberrayc.com.

or

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SSANSW National Championships organising committee.