

JUNIOR SAILING PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

The Junior Sailing Committee (hereafter "Task Force") was appointed by the OYC Board of Trustees at the May, 2017 Board meeting. Board Trustee Bill Wilmovsky was appointed chair of the Task Force. An invitation was sent to the Club membership to join the committee and ten club members accepted and served.

The Task Force was charged with answering eight specific questions which are listed below.

In answering these questions, the task force noted the following Club principals.

Article 2: Bylaws of OYC state as follows:

"The purpose of the Olympia Yacht Club is to encourage and promote yachting, the science of seamanship and navigation, and to provide and maintain suitable facilities for the use and recreation of its members."

The task force felt it was its duty per the Boards expectations to determine if the Junior Sailing Program as it exists met such duties or if either duty infringed on the other.

The Task Force felt these duties outlined a need for the Club and its Junior program to both teach and promote the science of seamanship generally as well as to provide suitable facilities for the club members. Although the providing of suitable facilities was a duty to only club members the majority of the Task Force felt the teaching of the science of seamanship and navigation as well as a duty to promote yachting could be and was being extended to nonmembers as well as members.

It should be stated that the members of the Task Force were aware of a growing feeling by some members of the club that the Sailing Education Program as presently in effect was growing too large and using too much of the physical resources of the Club. Two letters from club members outlined these concerns as well as concerns regarding the income of the Junior Program. Both of these concerns were also brought to the Task Force by committee members and were discussed. The Committee was also made aware of the Junior programs desire to

further expand with a further outreach to the community. Finally, the Task Force was advised the present Bylaws did not appear to authorize the program.

The committee met five times, researched some questions, had input from the manager of the programs and discussed all. A very comfortable majority of the committee reached the opinions set forth herein. It is hoped this report gives the Board of Trustees our conclusions as to what, where and how big the Junior Programs Sailing Education Program should be at this time and in the future.

Some of the answers to the eight questions posed by the Board have been grouped in one response as stated.

Question 1: What is the role of OYC in supporting a sailing education and racing program?

Question 2: Should the Club support these programs?

Question 3: Not answered in this section and restated further on.

Question 4: How are the Sailing and Education programs financed? How are they financially supported by the OYC membership? How should they be financed?

The Sailing Education Program (hereafter "SEP") conducted by Junior Sailing, is arguably our biggest and most notable outreach to the community. This consists of our educational programs for children and our High School OYC racing program. The attitude in the community persists that the "Yacht Club" is only for the wealthy and the few. It is important for our club that our actions and programs attempt to change this perception. This Committee feels the outreach we present to the community will either add or detract from the goodwill which the club achieves in these programs.

The Junior Sailing program currently teaches about four hundred youth each summer. If one considers the average household in Thurston County contains three-point five people, we are reaching over fourteen hundred people per year just in these sailing lesson summer programs.

We currently receive positive public relations from this SEP. In addition, we also teach families with our "Learn to Sail" program, the High School racing program and our Adult Learn to Sail programs. We only have to look at programs like scouting, youth sports or other activities to understand how these programs can change the perception for the positive or the negative of the sponsoring bodies. The Committee believes, it is critical to support our program. The support these programs get from parents and families is large.

The role of OYC is to provide a platform for these education programs to exist. We provide the space, boats and trainers and we believe we are allowed by the quoted language from our Bylaws to do so. One member of the Task Force felt that such programs should be available only to OYC members and not members of the public. The majority of the Committee disagreed and felt such programs can be offered to nonmembers on terms acceptable to the club. The management of all of the activities of Junior Sailing and the SEP are conducted by OYC members and all of the activities of the group fall directly under the Board of Trustees. Employees of the program also fall within BOT control. With exception of the payroll taxes the SEP/Junior program funds itself, including salaries of employees, directly.

The financial support of the SEP program is provided by fees set and charged to most participants. The High School Racing program is also supported by some of the parents of participants. OYC insurance provides protection from liability from these participants. The SEC racing program raised approximately \$40,000.00 from OYC members, parents of racing students and the public for boats and sails. This alone indicates the tremendous support the program receives from the public and the club. You simply cannot argue that the program is not popular.

This "user fee" system is similar to the fees set and charged to OYC members for dinner meetings, cruises and other social activities conducted by the club. Included as an exhibit to this report is an accounting showing the cost and revenue of the SEC to date as well as a financial projection for the remainder of the year.

OYC does, however, contribute to the SEP from our general fund. We pay from that fund the insurance for the program. The insurance cost is \$1,950.00 per year. We also pay for the Payroll taxes of the employee trainers and manager of

SEP. Total payroll taxes paid through September of 2017 was \$4,828.44. That projects to about \$6,000.00 of total payroll taxes for the year. The SEP has a projected income revenue of \$96,000.00 for 2017 with an expected cost of \$101,000.00. This difference has been always been made up with SEP's own reserves without further contribution from the Club. (Please note these SEP funds, income and reserves are OYC monies which are disbursed by the OYC treasurer).

As stated above, this program, like others that charge participants, is partially funded by the general accounts of OYC. Our other activities, social included, try to recover 70% of the cost of the program by charging participants. The SEP does considerable better than 70%. The unrecovered cost is less than \$8000.00 per year on a budget of \$101,000.00. That calculates to a recovery of slightly more than 92%.

SEPs funding comes largely from its participants and donations from parents and club members. The Committee feels there is little reason to change this. The SEP from a financial perspective is a great buy for OYC and they clearly outperform most of OYC's "pay to participate" programs.

In conclusion, the SEP program is likely the single most effective community service program which the club provides. If we are in agreement that this is an important outcome, and considering the financial responsibility of the SEP, it is clear the club should continue to support it.

QUESTION 3: Should an additional classification of membership be created for the racing team members in the OYC bylaws?

QUESTION 5: What revisions to the OYC Bylaws and rules should be considered to provide for and continue support for the SEP program?

These questions will be answered together.

The OYC bylaws need to be revised to clearly allow SEP activities. Section 2 of the Bylaws, Classes of Membership, Sub. C, (page 147 annual 2016-17) outlines and

authorizes a Junior Membership designation for OYC. It also outlines the duties of the OYC Junior committee.

The task force committee recommends that the sentence in that section stating, "This program includes, at a minimum, the Junior Sailing Program, boating and safety education classes, OYC service programs, and various social functions." be removed. This removal takes the responsibility for these programs away from the Junior membership definition but maintains Junior membership as an individual membership option at OYC. This is not a change in our method of operation. The junior membership has not been handling these membership functions for some time.

When this sentence is removed, there remains no organizational base for the SEP and Boating Safety and Education programs in our bylaws. The task force has concluded that the Bylaws do need to be amended to add two new committees: the first to be called the OYC Sail Training Committee. This committee would be the successor to the Junior Sailors Committee and their duties would be similar to the current committee but would allow SEP programs. The second committee recommended is an OYC Education Committee. This Education committee would supervise the Continuing Education Classes of OYC. The outline and function of these proposed committees can be seen on attached Addendum B.

These suggested bylaw changes to the existing description of Junior Membership and adding these two new committees to the presently existing 12 committees will bring the SEP and the Educational programs in line with what and the way they presently do and should function. These changes will bring these operations within the rules in our bylaws. By making these changes, the task force does not believe any new membership classifications need to be created.

Membership in OYC for High School Junior Racers should, however, be encouraged. We feel membership would give them a greater insight and ownership of the program.

QUESTION 6: Can members of the OYC use the program's sailing boats? Which ones? With training?

The task force recommends no usage of program boats by OYC members at this time. This usage would create a difficulty with scheduling of program events. There has also been reports of damage to the boats used when loaned to members. The task force realizes this decision belongs to the Board. However, it is our opinion that, at this time, use of program boats by membership is not a viable option.

QUESTION 7: How might the program structurally fit within the OYC marina infrastructure?

This “fit” issue was important to one of the letters written to the committee by an OYC member and one of the Task Force members. It was recognized that the Junior Program physically fills up the spaces designated for them and some inconvenience is experienced by OYC members who have boats and boat houses adjacent to the program.

The Task Force conclusion is that the SEP program has reached its current maximum footprint within the OYC basin. The task force is aware that the increased usage of the basin by the SEP has caused some disruption to some members occupancy of the facility. This is a legitimate concern and the SEP and the task force are sensitive to that. However, the task force does not feel these merit changes to the program other than capping it at its present level.

Regarding new storage docks built by OYCs Junior Program to be used by these programs the committee informally sought information from DNR re these structures and our DNR lease. We found no evidence that the structures as built are a concern to DNR. DNR was contacted prior to the docks construction and offered no response. Should the Board wish to go further on this issue a formal opinion from DNR can be requested in writing although the committee does not recommend that action. There is authority that since the storage platforms are not permanently connected to our existing docks they do not fall within DNRs issues. It should be noted this same objection, if it has merit, applies to the club’s dinghy dock.

In the past ten years the SEP has grown considerably. Included in this report as Appendix C is a short history of the OYC sailing program. The task force has

concluded that because of the maximum space and facilities in our basin the SEP should be limited in size. Our recommendation is that we continue to offer the same number of sailing classes in the future that we do at present. This has a limiting effect on the set number of students allowed in those classes and therefore, on the program. This will limit the individual participants. These participants will continue to be taught in the same physical space as the Junior Program now occupies. The OYC/High School racing program should also continue at its present levels.

QUESTION 8: How do we optimally create a vibrant program which is recognized as a valuable asset within the racing community, and, importantly, within the OYC membership.

The task force is convinced that the current High School/OYC program is vibrant and is recognized as an asset within the racing and sailing education communities. With our partnership with Thurston County Parks re enrollment of students, we are currently providing “Learn to Sail” classes in the summer for 400 children. These students, because of the participation of Parks and Recreation, come from all over Thurston County.

Our High School Racing program is quickly becoming a factor in both local and national racing scenes. We are currently much more competitive with the traditional youth racing programs in Seattle and Victoria. We now sponsor our own regatta and we currently have three members of the OYC High School team that have qualified for national championships. Parental support for these programs is enthusiastic. Our racing program has been noticed and we are considered an “Up and Coming” force in all yacht clubs who participate.

The Sailing Education Committee should maximize its efforts to expand our clubs racing achievements keeping in mind both the need to be financially self-supporting and not to increase its footprint physically.

In summary and in reaching all of these conclusions and recommendations the views of task force members who had differing opinions on issues were considered. We did discuss, but did not take any action, on suggestions to

disband some or all of the program. There was insufficient support in the committee for that and we felt that was outside of our consideration.

The task force would like to thank the Board for this opportunity to review the SEP program, provide recommendations to establish validity for the programs in our bylaws and make recommendations on the issues that do exist such as use of facilities. In doing so the committee has concluded that the SEP is an effective outreach to the community. The program continues to be cost effective and through the efforts of our racing program, is continuing to grow in prestige among other yacht clubs and members of the Grand 14 that sponsor similar programs. Our club can be proud of this program.

The bylaw changes recommended do need to be made in order to bring the program fully within our system. This program requires sacrifices from OYC members as do most other programs. This program does in fact acknowledge these sacrifices and appreciates them.

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