

Regatta checklist

Sailor

- Life jacket
- Extra set dry clothes
- Foul weather gear
- Footwear
- Sailing gloves
- Sunglasses/hat
- Sunscreen
- Insect bite stick
- Band-aids/tape/analgesic
- Towel
- Water bottle
- Food
- Deck of cards
- Rulebook

Car/Tools

- Hitch with correct size ball
- Extra line
- Electrical tape for lights
- Extra fuses for trailer in water
- Screwdrivers

Parents

- Lifejackets for spectator boats
- Weather/communication radio
- Camera for trophy presentation
- Snacks for kids between races
- Cooler with drinks/ snacks
- Sunglasses and hat for protection

Optimist

- Extra sail ties
- Bailers - 2 are recommended; one is required
- Water bottle
- Blades
- Sail
- Legal painter - ' in length and floatable
- Remember the mainsheet!!! And extra sail ties

X boat

- Sails - extra set, if available
- Trailer with name on it (someone else can locate your trailer to pull out)
- Check lights
- Duct tape, duct tape, duct tape
- Electrical tape
- Lifting bridle
- Drawer with pliers, screwdrivers, wrenches, medical supplies, sunscreen
- Extra parts - shackles, pulleys, clevis pins, extra line, stem covers if you have rescue ports
- Throwable - required by law and also serves to protect boat from mast when towing
- Water
- Mooring - a heavy weight, rope with a floatable marker to moor boat at night. Length of rope is usually designated on regatta notice of race.

Regatta information

Regattas are contests on other lakes usually consisting of one or two days of sailing. The events can be sponsored by member clubs, organizing bodies (Wisconsin Yachting Association, called WYA, or Inland Lakes Yachting Association, called ILYA) or by the national authority, US Sailing or USODA. Some are by invitation (only certain lakes are invited), some are open (all comers welcome) or some are by qualification (X Blue Chip which is determined by winning a select few regattas or by finishing in the top 5 in the Junior Inland or top 15 in the Senior Inland.)

Registration forms The regatta season starts in June (too soon for some, namely parents). Registration forms are distributed to skippers at the Sailing School Registration. If you did not receive your packet, contact a sailing school instructor. In particular, look at the dates. Most regattas carry a late registration penalty.

Towing an X boat Travel to the site is the responsibility of the parents. The skipper is responsible for arrangements for his/her crew. To tow an X boat, the car must have a hitch with a ball matching the diameter of the female joint on the tongue of the trailer. If you need to buy and change the ball, do this prior to the morning of the regatta. Over the winter, hitch balls often get permanently affixed with rust. Interchangeable balls are available at Walmart or any auto supply company. Trailer bearings need to be checked and perhaps repacked every season or two. Light harnesses need to be checked each season. The launching of trailers into the water often shorts fuses, so carry a few extra. Towing the boat straight is easy but the backing of trailers often requires a little practice. At any site, there are people or instructors who will back your boat into the water if you ask. Many dads will offer to assist if moms are uncomfortable with the launch procedure. Lake Beulah sends instructors who can assist but are not required by contract. Brian, Kelly and Augie are all capable of backing trailers if you are in trouble.

Towing an Optimist

Easy! Throw the boat on top of the car, in the back of a van or on a trailer. Tie down required lots of rope. Do not use the mainsheet. The boat weighs 74# so two can easily lift it anywhere. Many boat owners have purchased or made dollies that make transport to the car or to the launch site easier.

Trailing an X

The boat on the trailer should be tied at three sites:

- 1)The boat should be tied to the trailer at the tongue area. This is accomplished by the use of the painter
- 2)The mast should be affixed to the boat. The throwable or a piece of foam should be used under the mast at about the mast step area. The jib leads are used to affix the mast to the boat. Another piece of protection is used for the

mast at the rear of the boat. You may see trailers with mast supports affixed. A piece of rope can be used to tie the mast to the boat through the handles at the rear of the boat. The boom travels in the boat. All equipment (soda cans, paper) should be removed prior to trailing.

- 3) The boat is affixed to the trailer at the rear or midsection. Straps or bolsters are used to secure the boat. The straps most often have ratcheting devices that tighten down. Bolsters are wooden arms that are affixed to the trailer with long bolts with handles.

If you are licensed in Illinois, you will need a license plate on your trailer.

Trailers

Trailers are stored at off site areas at most regattas. You will be directed to the Storage area. You will be separated from your child while you store the trailer. The site may be a mile or so away.

Motor/spectator boats

Motor boats may be taken to regattas. Separate launches are used to expedite the launching of motor and sailboats. Check with the local regatta committee to determine where the launch site will be. It is usually a distance from the regatta site. Spectator boats are provided at sites so you may opt to use this convenience. You may be required to moor the motor boat some distance away or to use a boat dealer's area. Be sure and locate gas for the lake.

Responsibilities of sailing school instructors Role of sailing school instructors: the instructors are hired to assist at regattas but their role is primarily coaching. They are never to be considered babysitters and may not tow boats other than sailing school boats due to insurance concerns. They **will** be onsite during registration but they are trying to launch the sailing school motorboats as you are launching the X boat. The instructors carry tools and some safety equipment. They are in contact with each other on the water by the use of radios. They carry the medical and emergency information, although it may be in a car. Any problem on the water will usually result in the sailing school instructor being notified first. The race committee usually readily identifies the instructors by club and may request that the instructor handle the child or locate the parent. Obviously, this need is RARE! The instructors will assist with towing to the start and pulling moorings at the conclusion of the event. None of these services is required but offered as assistance.

Coaching

Once the boat is in - relax! The regatta is over for you until pull-out. Your child may Not be coached at any time while racing or spoken to during the time between the 5-Minute gun and the start. Equipment breakdown during a race results in a DNF (did not finish) if the child cannot fix it while underway. You may speak and approach your child between races. Carry water or snacks to refresh them during back to back races.

Protests

Protests are handled by scheduling of the race committee. The protests may occur anytime after the race is completed but the time restrictions are printed in sailing instructions handed out at registration.

Lunches/Finances

Lunches may or may not be included in the registration. Be sure to check the registration form. T-shirts are the same. The skipper's family usually purchases the shirts, lunches or social tickets for the crews. That is an individual arrangement between skipper and crew.

Emergencies

If you are responsible for a crew, take along medical info. The hospital will request social security number of child as well as pertinent medical and insurance info. If you are sending your child along, write a permission slip to treat and send with the skipper's parents.