

## Modified SYSCO Summer Evening Series

(Quoted from SYSCO Commodore, Anna Campagna's notice to SYSCO membership)

The general idea is to have a "soft opening" for the Summer Series, beginning June 2, following specific Guidelines that are currently under development. We are currently consulting with the health authorities and the Governor's office, and will have final guidelines before racing starts. Certainly, they will be subject to change during this ever-evolving situation. The SYSCO Board and its members will decide what needs to be changed for a more regular season, if possible, for the remainder of the season (Summer Twilight Series). We have not yet considered whether Beer Can Races, starting in June on Saturdays, and the Grow the Sport Beer Can race on July 11, will take place.

It is up to individual skippers to determine if they can safely race while maintaining separation and other best practices under current state and federal guidelines. This is consistent with the Racing Rules of Sailing "4: DECISION TO RACE – The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone." The current guidelines can be found here: <https://govstatus.egov.com/or-covid-19>

Stay home if you are sick or have been exposed to someone suspected to be infected with COVID 19.

The SYSCO Board has decided NOT to award trophies for this series to encourage boats to follow safety guidelines, which will likely involve sailing with fewer crew than optimal. Because of this cost savings, we have reduced the non-member fee for this race series to \$30. As always, there is no charge for SYSCO members to enter this series. We are asking skippers that intend to race to register early so we can work out starts and RC assignments. We have also eliminated the late fee for SYSCO membership and encourage you to support your club by becoming a full member (all SYSCO races are free to members).

SYSCO will score the races; but the scoring is intended to be for fun — just bragging rights.

SYSCO is currently consulting with the Governor's Office to develop guidelines to safely begin racing. These are currently in draft form but include the following points:

- Groups should not congregate in parking lots or on docks before or after races. Once sailing is done, pack up your boat and go home.
- Practice physical distancing of at least six (6) feet between you and others not in your household.
- Use cloth face coverings in public areas including docks, bathrooms and parking lots.

- Smaller boats should sail/race with their own household members rather than with those in their extended social circles, unless they wear face masks or can keep a safe social distance while sailing.
- Larger boats may sail with 2-10 individuals as long as there is a physical distance of 6 feet that can be maintained or crew wear face masks.
- Have hand sanitizer onboard your vessel and use when appropriate.
- Cover coughs/sneezes, avoid touching your face, mouth and eyes.
- Use your own personal equipment such as life jackets, do not share equipment, water, food, etc.
- Sanitize and disinfect commonly touched surfaces or tools (winch handle, tillers, etc.) on boats after the race.

It is critical that all SYSCO sailors follow these Guidelines to create a sailing environment that is safe and comfortable for all. The Race Committee will have their own set of Guidelines that will be followed to maintain a safe environment on the RC boat and the mark-boat Pancho.

We encourage fleets to discuss how each skipper might approach sailing under the Governor's restrictions and consider whether the fleet should adopt a set of guidelines such as no spinnakers and/or a maximum crew size to encourage safe and competitive sailing.

The greatest challenge will be ensuring the safety of race committee volunteers. To help maintain isolation there will be limited RC staffing. Boats that sign up to race will be asked to provide crew to run races on the opposite race days. The idea is, if skippers feel they can safely race through separation or are already cohabitating, they can also do RC duty. We will likely ask one boat from a fleet to be the RC platform and have a separate boat crew run Pancho—and keep them apart. Hence, the current fleet-based RC schedule for the Summer Series may be updated with a boat-based schedule for the Summer Series. The assignments will be updated prior to the races.

Fleets should communicate safely to discuss desired fleet race conditions, such as deciding not to fly spinnakers, asking for shorter/longer single courses, and helping with RC duties.

Because of the limited RC staffing we may not be able to provide the same level of racing SYSCO members have come to expect. Depending on the boats registered and RC staffing, we may:

- Group fleets differently to reduce the number of starts
- Communicate course and start information by radio (no course board)

- Use radio and sound signals only for start sequences (no flags)
- Set simple courses using existing navigation buoys
- Combine start/finish lines
- Only hold one race per fleet per evening (no second/third races).

Modified Sailing Instructions will be posted to the Notice Board and provided to RC volunteers prior to the first race.

Regrettably, there will be no end of summer series Barbeques this year. Also, we are strongly recommending that sailors do not congregate at the docks before and after races, to minimize exposures.

We are feeling our way back to a new normal for racing and appreciate your patience and support. SYSCO is relying on skippers' judgement to decide whether they and their crew can race safely. This includes general boat safety as well as avoiding spread of the COVID 19 virus. We will be regularly disinfecting Pancho and her race equipment and keeping up on COVID safety issues. We welcome your comments and suggestions. Contact Gregg Bryden at [Race\\_Captain@SYSCO.ORG](mailto:Race_Captain@SYSCO.ORG) with your ideas on how we can race safely.

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Race Committee Instructions:

- Any RC volunteer who has COVID symptoms (fever, cough, etc.), or has been exposed to someone with COVID should stay home and notify RC ASAP that they will be absent.
  - One boat crew will be assigned RC platform duties, two people from another boat crew will operate Pancho.
2. RC may choose to operate from shore, such as siting from the Rose City docks to buoy 14.
  3. RC Skippers are to set COVID and other safety requirements for the boat, such as distancing, and wearing PPE (masks and gloves). Skippers should provide hand sanitizer on the boat.
  4. There will be disposable gloves, hand sanitizer, and disinfectant spray on Pancho.
  5. Pancho will be wiped down and sprayed with disinfectant before and after each race.
  6. Wear gloves when handing equipment onto and back off the RC platform.

7. Clipboards and pens will be wiped down at the end of each race. Finish sheets will be left on board.

8. The RC platform skipper or designated RC PRO shall decide whether to use flags and course board or radio and sound only to communicate courses and start sequences. All radio communications shall be on Channel 72.

9. The RC is encouraged to set simple courses with minimal mark setting to reduce RC workload. Keep in mind that some fleets may opt to not fly spinnakers because of reduced crew availability.

10. The RC may group multiple fleets in single starts to reduce the overall number of starts.

11. The RC shall record finish times and sail numbers, and other race information on standard forms and leave the results on Pancho. Use of digital information (e.g. iPhone pictures) on results page is encouraged.

12. The RC should avoid congregation at the dock or other activities that are not consistent with current COVID guidelines.

We need to remember that these Guidelines need to be followed during the Phase 1 opening. Cooperation among all sailors in following these Guidelines will help insure a safe and healthy return to sailing on the Columbia river.