

**APPROVED 03/13/2025**

# North Flathead Yacht Club

## Policies and Procedures

### ARTICLE I: Membership

1. There shall be six classes of membership, Charter, Regular, Junior, Honorary , Associate, and Legend.
2. Membership cards will be issued to each member each year. (8/7/2006)
3. Complete applications for new members are due by April 15th each year, and will be considered at a Board of Directors meeting in May, annually (10/13/2022).A copy of the club Statement of Purpose will be given to each new member. (02/07/2006)
4. A printed copy of the bylaws and club rules will be given to each new member (02/07/2006)
5. Honorary Members:
  - Doug and Maurine Averill (1986 membership list)
  - Cy Mendelsohn (1976)
  - Glen Kartheiser (1976)
  - Cliff Schellinger (1976)
  - Chuck and Carla Underwood (1997)
  - Gene Jellison (1997)
  - Steve Nichols
  - Gunther Vople (2006)
  - Kathy Mercord (2007)
  - Tom and Sue Harding (4/2008)
  - Gary and Erin Harding (4/2008)
  - Jim Lekander (5/2008)
  - Al Johnson (2017)
  - Nancy Gilliland (2020)
  - Pat and Jeanne Sherlock (4/2024)
6. Child of a Member
  - a. A child of a Member in good standing, in order to retain membership in the club, shall file an application by July 1st of the year following their marriage or 25th birthday, whichever comes first. The club is not required to notify the young adult of the deadline. (4/4/2006)
  - b. If there are more applicants than openings and all else considered equal, the child of a present Member shall have priority in filling a membership opening. He or she will not pay dues or fees until a membership slot is available but must reapply each year. (4/8/2021). The board has discretion in offering Associate or Regular membership, whichever is most appropriate.
7. Junior Membership
  - a. Junior membership dues will be \$300.00. All monies collected from Junior Membership dues will be earmarked for exclusive use of the sailing education program. (12/8/2022)

- b. Junior members under the age of 16 must have a parent or guardian in attendance at all times while at the club. Junior members age 16-17 shall have an adult member or parent/guardian present and directly responsible for them while at the club. Guests of junior members shall be limited to immediate family members only.
  - c. The Junior Program participant's guardian must sign a waiver. An adult member must be present. Members and guests may participate in Junior Sailing. (5/15/04)
  - d. Membership year shall run April 1st through March 30th
8. Provisional Member (Payment Plan Option) (7/6/2011)
- a. Members can be accepted and choose to pay in installments as follows:
    - i. Year 1
      - 1. Payment 1: \$1000
      - 2. Payment 2: \$500
    - ii. Year 2
      - 1. Payment 1: \$500
      - 2. Payment 2: \$750
  - b. All payments are due 30 days after the member is accepted to the Club. (update 5/14/2020)
  - c. There is a 10% surcharge for making payments.
  - d. If a payment is 30 days past due, then subject to bylaws, the Provisional Member is dropped from the club.
  - e. The Provisional Member does not receive a membership number until they have paid in full.
  - f. Provisional Members are allowed to have slips and must make all payments as required (by May 1st).
  - g. Provisional Members are allowed mast up parking.
9. Dues for annual membership is from April 1 to March 31 of each year. (11/8/2018)
10. Resignation: Members who resign within a membership year will be allowed to store boats until May 1st. (11/08/2018) (update 5/14/2020)
11. Exception to membership limit:
- a. Divorced members may each continue their membership if they choose. They will decide between them which one will retain the current member seniority number, for example, #9 and #10. Splitting a current member seniority number is a privilege provided by the club, this number can only be split once. In the event of any future divorce, divorced members may each continue their membership if they choose. They will decide between them which one will retain the current member seniority number; the other will receive the next available open member number, for example, #9 and #138. (2/8/2018)
  - b. If a Legend Member wishes to transition back to being a Regular Member, they will resume their previous Regular Membership number, which could increase the membership by 1.
12. Associate Membership

- a. To be in good standing, an Associate Member must show active participation in Club activities and or events, or in some other way contribute to the Club. Possible participation activities shall include:
  - Volunteering for a committee such as Race Committee, Social Committee, or Publicity Committee
  - Volunteering for the Junior Sailing Program
  - Actively crewing on a yacht at NFYC during the summer series (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, Long Distance, etc)
  - Volunteering for social events and activities such as Montana Cup, Banquet, or others

These members will be asked to document their participation in club racing and activities each year for possible review by the Board of Directors. A brief written report is due each year to the Vice Commodore by December 31st, describing Associate Member participation. Failure to submit a report may result in the member not being in good standing and loss of membership.

- b. After Legends and children of Regular Members, an Associate Member shall have priority in being accepted as a Regular Member.
- c. An Associate Member will pay 50% of the applicable initiation fee. The balance of the initiation fee will be due upon becoming a Regular Member at the current rate. An Associate Member will pay the same annual dues as a Regular Member
- d. An Associate Member may be a co-owner of a yacht as long as at least one of the co-owners is a Regular Member in good standing.

#### 14. Legend Membership

- a. A Legend Member will no longer be expected to reach a level of participation in volunteer activities or be charged a fee in lieu of volunteering.
- b. A Legend Member will pay 75% of the Regular Member dues.
- c. If a Legend Member wishes to transition back to Regular membership he or she will have first priority over other applicants, based on seniority. When transitioning back to Regular Membership, a Legend will assume their previous Regular Member number.

## **ARTICLE II: Meetings**

## **ARTICLE III: Order of Business**

## **ARTICLE IV: Officers and Directors**

## **ARTICLE V: Elections**

## **ARTICLE VI: Meetings of Directors**

## **ARTICLE VII: Duties of Officers**

1. On or about 12/1, the building will be winterized. On or about 4/1, the water will be turned back on. (12/11/1990) (April 2016)
2. The club treasurer shall maintain the books of the club. An informal audit shall be performed each time the club treasurer changes audit to be performed by 3 club members, appointed by the commodore, who are not members of the board. (12/05/2005)

## ARTICLE VIII: Committees

1. Race Committee: Race Committee is responsible for trophies (9/6/78).
2. Judges: Fleet Captains will act as Judges for Club Series races. Judges will be appointed in the NOR for regattas and other special races. (12/12/2019)
3. The Club Historian is established as a permanent position (1976).

## ARTICLE IX: Privileges

1. Pet Policy (3-18-2009):
  - a. Pets must be supervised and on leashes while on club property.
  - b. Owners are to pick up after their pets. Special concerns are:
    - i. \*During busy times such as Regattas dogs are discouraged
    - ii. \*Barking or aggressive dogs are not welcome.
    - iii. \*Dogs may not be left unattended for extended periods.
  - c. Dogs may be temporarily off leash for swimming IF under voice control. Members are responsible for their own pets and those of their guests. Infractions will result in a \$25 fine. A third offense will result in banishment of the pet. Complaints may be submitted to committee members using "pet complaint form".
2. One campfire area only (1976).
3. Members may live on their boats provided they are exceptionally neat (4/1980).
4. No camping allowed on club property unless they are here as participants in a club sanctioned event. (8/15/2005)
5. Trailers must be moved to the storage area as soon as possible (8/15/2005).
6. Members in good standing may park a trailer for a boat which is moored at NFYC on the trailer lot at 282 School Addition Road in Somers. No sailboat hardware or accessories (e.g. jack stands, anchors, sails, or masts) may be stored on the grounds unless attached to the trailer thereof, unless approved by the Board of Directors. Any sailboat hardware or member's personal items left on the grounds more than 30 days may be disposed of at the discretion of the Board (4/11/2019)
7. Members may only install new dock boxes approved by the club. (03/13/2025)
8. Triangular dock boxes that have previously been installed may be reinstalled provided they are in good repair. (07/06/2006) Dock boxes not in good repair, as determined by the board, must be removed immediately. (3/13/2025)
9. Special Events: To be followed for non-club related use of the club's facilities; such as parties, weddings, meetings, etc. Club activities such as races, regattas take priority over all requests for extracurricular activities.
  - a. Application must be submitted to the board. Member must sign the application and be present during the function.
  - b. Applicant must sign the hold-harmless agreement.
  - c. If alcohol is present during the event, special event insurance covering alcohol and listing NFYC as an additionally insured is required. If alcohol is professionally served or sold, it must be by a licensed caterer.
  - d. For member events, a deposit is required. \$50 for up to 25 people, \$100 for more than 25 people.

- e. For non-member events, a Use Fee is required: \$50 for up to 25 people; \$100 for 26-75 people. This fee is to help defray the cost of utilities, propane used, clean up, etc. Application must be submitted to the board. Member must sign the application and be present during the function.
  - f. Reciprocal privileges are granted to members of South Flathead Sailing Association or slip holders at Dayton Yacht Harbor. (8/7/2006)
10. North Flathead Yacht Club welcomes any sailor, who sails their sailboat to our club, to use our facilities for not more than three (3) consecutive days within a given month. They must notify a board member or the race steward of their presence at the time of arrival. Sailors who wish to stay longer (up to a maximum of two weeks) must obtain written permission from the board of directors prior to arrival. This policy does not apply to any entrant of a club sponsored Regatta. (4/13/2017). In reference to the By-Laws, section 10, this policy does not extend to powerboats. (12/8/2022)
11. Yacht club facilities will be available to the Sea Scouts Program (2/4/82).
- a. In exchange, the Sea Scouts will help the club with clean-up projects (2/26/82).
12. Assignment of Facilities:
- a. First slip on C dock and the first slip on the south side of B dock will be reserved for the committee boats. (07/06/2006)
  - b. Subletting slips will be controlled on a seniority basis (5/16/1985).
13. Dinghies & Dinghy Racks.
- a. Numbered dinghy racks are available for rent on an annual basis by members in good standing, one per membership.
  - b. The annual fee for renting a dinghy rack will be established by the board at the budget meeting and spaces will be auctioned immediately following the slip auction during Spring Work Party. Selection of dinghy rack space will be given first to dinghy sailboats then will be determined by lowest membership number. If dinghy rack spaces are still available after Spring Work Party, they will be assigned on a first-come, first-serve basis by contacting the Port Captain. (December 2020)
  - c. Members can rent one dinghy rack spot and store more than one kayak, dinghy, SUP, canoe, etc. within that space, as long as they reasonably fit within that space. (October 2016)''
14. NFYC club members may not attach or mount a security or wireless enabled camera to NFYC property for personal or shared use. Cameras mounted on an individual boat shall limit viewing angles to monitor said boat. The NFYC Board reserves the right to attach or mount security cameras around the property.

## **ARTICLE X: Yachts**

1. Winter parking begins September 1st. Boats being pulled for the season prior to 9/1 must contact the Port Captain for a parking assignment. (2/6/2020). Trailers shall not be returned to the Club parking lot more than 48 hours prior to pulling the boat (10/14/21).
2. If a boat is multi-owned, all owners must be members (6/7/76)
3. Yacht requirements:
  - a. All boats must have appropriately sized dock lines for the size and weight of their boat which must be replaced regularly to ensure proper performance (4/11/2024). Dock lines must be nylon; snubbers or springs are required. (8/15/2005)

- b. Use of the committee boat is limited to the steward, club officers and persons acting with their permission (2/17/83).
- c. Any boat left at the yacht club that has not paid a slip fee will be billed for mast up parking summer and winter. A 30-day grace period will be extended to members selling their boats. These fees will be billed with next year's membership fees. (9/15/1994, modified 8/15/2005)
- d. "For Sale" signs on boats will be allowed, no larger than 8.5" by 11", limit 2 on a boat. No member may have more than 1 boat for sale on club property. (8/15/2005)
- e. A sponsorship policy for races will be developed in writing by the race committee (4/13/04)
- f. The board will purchase 10 red dock lines and snubbers to be used to secure boats without snubbers, and the boat owners will be assessed a \$100 fee if they are used. (9/15/04)
- g. Yachts or attached equipment may not extend into the main walkway (2/7/2006)
- h. Power Boats (non-sail boats) (3/13/25) are not allowed to be launched, stored or retrieved at the club's boat launches. Violation of said rule is a fine of \$100. (7/7/2008)
- i. Powerboats: At the Board's discretion, members may apply to keep a powerboat in a slip at the club if they also have a sailboat in a slip at the club. Sailboats will have slip assignment priority over powerboats. Powerboats are not to be launched, retrieved or stored on Club grounds and will not retain slip assignments from year to year. ?
- j. All vessels are required to comply with current Montana State Regulations pertaining to Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Vessels transported from outside the Flathead River Basin shall document AIS inspection clearance prior to use of NFYC ramp and dock facilities and/or participating in NFYC sponsored races and events. Notice of this shall be clearly stated on the club website, bulletin board, and race documents. (5/11/2017)
- k. Maximum boat length in any slip has to be at least 2 feet less than the dock, subject to Article 9 section 6 of the bylaws. Policy may be waived by board approval. (4/12/2018)
- l. Any boat over 8000# displacement must have at least one spring line with a proper snubber to compensate for wave motion from the south. (4/12/2018)

## **ARTICLE XI: Flag**

1. The club will purchase flags for each club officer and Fleet Captain. Each club officer and Fleet Captain will pass his/her flag on to his/her successor, except for the Past Commodore, who will be allowed to keep the flag permanently. Flags should be transferred at the annual meeting. (2/7/2006)

## **ARTICLE XII: Financial and Membership Commitments**

1. Dues will not be accepted without proof of insurance. (10/5/2004)
2. To remain in good standing with the Club, members with boats must submit proof of Liability insurance of at least \$100,000 with their dues (1/20/2004)
3. Checks exceeding \$1,000 will require the signature of 2 officers. (08/15/2005)
4. Initiation fees must be included with a new member application. The treasurer will bill for dues and fees after the member is accepted. (8/15/2005)
5. A \$200 donation will be billed with dues. This voluntary donation is asked in lieu of participation at the work parties or other volunteer opportunities, in the amount of 8 hours. (12/8/2022)
6. The fee for Mast-Up parking shall be \$200 for boats longer than 20 feet. (January 2016)

7. The fee for slips on the north side of A dock shall be \$900 per season (January 2016)
8. New members who take a small slip (26' slip) the first year of their membership shall receive a \$150 reduction in dock fee for that year only (January 2016)
9. If a member keeps a dingy (or other small boat) within the space of their paid boat slip and does not store it anywhere on the hard or the dock, then there is no charge for that dingy (or other small boat). If a member puts it in a rack or anywhere else on the grounds, then the member must pay for it (summer or winter). (October 2016)
10. Members cannot store dinghies, kayaks, SUPs, canoes, etc. in a slip unless they have paid for that slip. (October 2016)
11. NON-USE: (3/13/2025)
  - a. Non-use is defined as a boat that is not "actively used" for one sailing season (April 1st - March 31st). "Actively used" is defined as a mast-up boat that is sailed during the season (By Laws, Article XII). Following one sailing season of non-use the member must either:
    - i. Remove the boat from club property by July 1,
    - ii. Or pay the slip fee by May 1 and launch the boat by July 1.
  - b. If neither option is fulfilled, the member becomes a member not in good standing and the board may exercise Article 1 Section 3 of the Bylaws. They will also be assessed a non-use fee. Fees for non-use will be \$50/foot of boat length and due on August 1 (3/13/2025)
  - c. If the non-use fee is paid, the member must petition the board by August 1st for reinstatement of membership status or risk losing membership.

### **ARTICLE XIII: Sailing Rules and Regulations**

1. Women's races will be all-women crews. No exceptions! (5/14/80)
2. All NFYC races will be conducted following the current US Sailing Rules of Racing (12/8/2022)

### **ARTICLE XIV: Cash Reserve Funds**

1. General maintenance of the parking lot is to be done as opposed to paving (vote taken 11/16/11).

### **ARTICLE XV: Amendment of the By-Laws**

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Approved & Updated: December 8, 2022