



O'Pen BIC North American Champs 2017 And Qualifier for America's Cup Finals in Bermuda 2017

**SARASOTA SAILING SQUADRON, MARCH 17,18,19 2017
SARASOTA, FLORIDA USA**

NOTICE OF RACE

DATE, VENUE, ORGANIZING AUTHORITY, and O'PEN BIC ATTITUDE

The 2017 O'Pen BIC North American Championships will be held in Sarasota, Florida hosted by the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, March 17-19 2017. This event will also be an important qualifier for limited North American invitations to the America's Cup Endeavour O'Pen held in conjunction with the America's Cup Finals in Bermuda, June 15-18 2017. The Organising Authority for this regatta is Sarasota Youth Sailing in association with the North American O'Pen BIC Class.

Important Event Introduction: The purpose of this event is to run a fun event for youth sailors in a more loosely competitive style in dynamic junior boats. Results are not nearly as important as everyone having a good time sailing. It is our goal that the sailors improve their skills, make new friends, and have a ton of fun. This event will be a combination of "conventional" style race formats with unorthodox "Un-Regatta" style courses and events. Don't expect conventional round the buoys racing or upwind starts for all races. Capsizes, freestyle, speed and fun will be required. If you are a hard-core racer with rule book in hand, this event may not be for you. If you want to have fun, challenge your limits, and pioneer a new chapter in Youth Sailing, we invite you to come join the fun.

ELEGIBILITY

The fleet is comprised of two Divisions. This modifies Class Rule C.2.3

- U13 Division: Competitors born after Dec 31st, 2004
- Open Division (all ages welcome)

SCHEDULE – March 15th – 19th

Wednesday 15th – Thursday 16th	Charter boats available	
Friday, March 17th	Skipper's meeting	9:30 am
	First race	11:00 am
	Welcome Party	5:00pm
	Social Night	6:00 pm
Saturday, March 18th	Skipper's meeting	9:30 am
Sunday, March 19th	Skipper's meeting	9:00 am
	Last possible warning signal	2:00 pm
	Awards Party	3:00 pm

The number of races each day will be determined by the Race Committee.

Any changes to the start time will be posted on the SYS Notice Board by 7:00 pm of the preceding day. No warning signal will be given after 5:45 pm on Friday March 17th or Saturday March 18th and 2:00 pm on Sunday March 19th.

RULES

The regatta rules will be outlined in the Sailing Instructions. In true "Un-Regatta" spirit, this event is not run under standard Racing Rules of Sailing for 2017-2020. OBCA's Class Rules may also be altered where applicable.

Boats may be required to display advertising chosen and supplied by the Organizing Authority.

HELMETS

Protective helmets are required.

Here is excellent source for sailing helmets from Forward WIP with regatta discount. These helmets come highly recommended. Use discount code BIC17 or contact Murrays directly.

<http://www.murrays.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=TKSL&Code=bicna>

ENTRY

Go to <http://www.sarasotayouthsailing.org/2017-open-bic-north-americans/> for registration.

ENTRY FEES

The entry fee is \$125 per sailor, and includes regatta shirt, Friday welcome party, lunches, Saturday night party, and Awards Pizza party. **Entry Fee will increase to \$175 on March 3rd 2017.**

CHARTER BOATS

A limited number of Charter boats are available from O'Pen BIC North America on first come/first serve basis. Please contact Nevin Sayre at nsayre@aol.com as soon as possible if you think you may need a charter boat and we'll get you on the list. The charter boat fee is \$190 plus damage deposit. **Charter boat deadline is Feb 17th, 2017 but we will likely run out well before then. However, sometimes there are late cancellations.** All Charter boats come complete ready to sail and have fun.

MEASUREMENTS AND CHECKS

Boats and sails must be in conformity with the O'Pen BIC Class Rules.

The Race Committee may check boats and crews before, during and after the races.

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Sailing Instructions will be available at <http://www.sarasotayouthsailing.org/2017-open-bic-north-americans/> prior to the event.

RACING FORMAT

The number of races for all the Divisions will be at the discretion of the Race Committee.

Three valid races are required to constitute the championship.

There will be separate rankings for each age group division. At the discretion of the Race Committee, age groups may or may not be raced together as one fleet.

SCORING SYSTEM

The Low Point scoring system will apply.

There will be a discard race for every 4 races completed, i.e. one discard for 4 races, two discards for 8, 3 discards for 12, etc.

JURY

On the water referees will be appointed by the regatta organizers. Their decisions will be final.

ADVERTISING

Advertising is permitted as per O'Pen BIC Class Rules.

PRIZES

Prizes will be awarded to the first 3 boats per division, and the top female in U13 & Open divisions.

ACCOMMODATIONS

A list of accommodation recommendations is available. This is high "Spring Break" season so please book very early.

LIABILITIES

It is the competitor's decision to enter the regatta or to start and continue in any race. The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or continue racing is hers alone. Competitors shall accept that their participation is at their exclusive risk in every respect.

The Organising Authority, the respective Host Sailing Club, their officers, members, servants and agents, BIC Sport and the Race Management team accept no responsibility with respect to loss of life, personal injury or loss or damage to property which may be sustained by reason of their participation or intended participation in the regatta or arising in connection with the regatta.

QUALIFICATION FOR AMERICA'S CUP ENDEAVOUR O'PEN, JUNE 15-18 2017 (updated November 1, 2016)

A once-in-a-lifetime experience awaits 32 fortunate international O'Pen BIC sailors. The America's Cup Finals will be held in Bermuda June 17-27, 2017. As part of this premier sailing event, O'Pen BIC and the America's Cup Event Authority will be hosting an Un-Regatta staged at the America's Cup Village in Bermuda, June 15-18. In addition, O'Pen BICs will be **the Half Time Show** between America's Cup Finals Race #1 and Race #2 on Saturday June 17, with world wide television coverage. Entry fee, boat charter, group semi-camping accommodations (rustic), and several meals will be provided by BIC Sport and the America's Cup Event Authority for sailors plus one parent/guardian for each sailor. Travel and some meals are the responsibility of the sailor plus parent/guardian. Other parents/family/friends/coaches are certainly welcome but will need their own accommodation.

Nine O'Pen BIC sailors who meet the minimum requirements will be selected from the 2017 Sarasota O'Pen BIC North Americans as follows :

- The top six finishers overall (male or female) who are able to attend the AC Endeavour O'pen.
- The top two female finishers overall who are not otherwise in the top six overall and who are able to attend the AC Endeavour O'pen.
- The ninth North American representative (male or female) will be randomly drawn from the top 30 overall who are not otherwise qualified above. Alternates for the ninth spot will also be randomly drawn from the top 30 overall.
- Please note that Bermuda residents are not eligible for these nine spots as Bermuda has their own independent selection at the Bermuda O'pen BIC National Championships.

Minimum requirements:

- Must be no more than 15 years old as of December 31, 2017. (Year of birth must be 2002 or later.)
- Must have a valid USA, Canadian, or Mexican passport.
- Must have competed in at least one O'Pen BIC event other than 2017 North Americans prior to April 15, 2017 (There are an increasing number of O'Pen BIC events including upcoming events in Florida: Oct 15-16 Edison River Romp Ft. Myers; Dec 3-4 USSCMC Junior Olympics Jensen Beach; Dec 10 Miami Yacht Club Fall Harvest; and 2017 April 8-9 Sarasota Youth SailFest Junior Olympics.)
- Must have booked air travel to Bermuda for June 12 (or June 13, if necessary) and return June 19 by April 1, 2017.

-Must exhibit sportsmanship and have the positive friendly O'Pen BIC attitude that is worthy of representing North America and the O'Pen BIC Class at this very special event.

More information can be found at <http://ac35endeavouropen.com>

CONTACTS

O'Pen BIC North Americans Regatta Organizer:

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O'Pen BIC North America Class Representative who is in charge of O'Pen BIC charters, is the North Americans event maestro, and is responsible for the America's Cup Endeavour O'Pen:

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