



Welcome to 420 Sailing at Sachems Head Yacht Club: FAQs

SHYC has updated fleet of 6 club420s. These boats are in excellent shape and are fitted with traps, spinnakers, racing gear, and Team-Racing sails!

Who should sail c420s?

These boats are best suited for kids ages 13+ who weigh 100lbs or more. 420s are double-handed boats, which means you sail with 2 people. If your sailor does not quite meet these age/weight requirements, we will ask that you sign the **Under Age/Weight Permission** form. Club 420s are perfect for our afternoon teenage sailors who are looking to build on their sailing skills, learn about spinnaker sailing, start using the trapeze, and enjoy double-handed sailing! Learn more about club 420s: <http://www.club420.org/>

Do I need to own my own 420?

No, you do not need to own your own 420, the club provides the boats. There is a 420 access-fee to use these boats for the summer (the amount is provided in the registration form). However, sailors who plan to do more 420 sailing and racing than the club supports should consider purchasing their own 420! Many sailors find it works best to keep their privately owned c420 at home, un-rigged and ready for transport to regattas, and use the club owned 420s during lessons and practice.

How do we get into racing 420s?

If your sailor is interested in learning about racing a 420, they should sign up for one of our 420 programs at SHYC. No racing experience is needed.

What exactly is “420 Team-Racing” and is my sailor ready for it?

Team-racing is fun, social, strategic, and exciting. Kids love it! It is a great way to get to race with your friends and also meet kids from other clubs. Team-Racing is also a big part of high-school and college sailing. The SHYC Team-Racing Team will be a fun team, focused on learning and teamwork! We will be taking part in the ECSA (Eastern CT Sailing Association) Team-Racing Circuit. *The format of a “Team-Race” is six 420s race around a course, 3 from SHYC and 3 from another club. The results of each team are combined and the club with the lowest score wins.* SHYC sailors will learn to work together to help our “team” get the lowest combined score. Team-Racing works best with 6 even boats, which was part of the driving force to purchase the 6 new 420s for our club. In Team-Racing, sailors do not use the trapeze or spinnakers. One of the other great things about Team-Racing, is that you do not need to own your boat, and we do not need to transport our boat anywhere. The “host” club supplies the boats, for both the home and away teams.

How do we learn to “Team-Race” and when do we do these races?

Team-Racing in ECSA has typically been on Monday afternoons. In the beginning of the summer this group will spend their time learning to team-race. The sailors in this class will travel to several Team-Racing Clinics being hosted by JR ECSA (Eastern CT Sailing Association), along with racing against other clubs. These clinics will be fun; our sailors will learn a lot and get to meet kids from other clubs too! Later in the summer the sailors will have races against other clubs, on Monday afternoons, then our local qualifiers, followed by the ECSA team-race champs which will be held at the Yale sailing center (YCYC) in August. The SHYC Team-Race Coach will travel with these sailors to the all the clinics, meets/races, and qualifiers. Parents will need to help with carpooling. **In team-racing, boats are always supplied by the host club, we will not need to transport 420s. SHYC coaches can NOT transport children.**

Is 420 Fleet-Racing Different?

Yes, in a couple ways. Fleet racing is the racing your sailors have been doing in the past (in Opti and BIC), when all the boats race at the same time and compete against in each other. In fleet racing, sailors can use the

trapeze and the spinnakers (which is not allowed in Team-Racing). Fleet racing is what our club does in the Saturday morning club races and it is also the type of races kids will sail at the local 420 regattas.

What about fleet-racing 420s and 420 Regattas?

SHYC sailors wishing to fleet-race using the club's 420s should sign up for our 420 Race Program. Through these classes and racing sessions, sailors will learn all they need to know to safely and confidently race a 420, including using the traps and spinnakers. We encourage these sailors to also race in **SHYC's Saturday morning racing series (9-11:30am)**, as this is a terrific way to get racing practice in a fun, supportive environment, with no added logistics related to boat transport! As often as possible, a SHYC instructor will be on hand to help the kids rig and provide coaching on Saturday mornings. The SHYC 420 Race Coach will also be traveling with these sailors to **two local 420 regattas – Pine Orchard Regatta and Madison Beach Club Regatta**. Sailors on our 420 Race-Team will be allowed to take the club's new 420s to these two regattas (tow by water). Sailors and parents will need to help transport the boats, by water, to these regattas. Parents will need to help tow the boats and a sailor will be required to be in each 420 during the tow. We will also require sailors/parents to sign the **420 Regatta Equipment Usage/Borrow Form**, which has a \$250 damage deposit.

What if my sailor isn't on a SHYC 420 Race/Team-Racing Team and wants to race a 420 at the Pine Orchard Regatta or the Madison Beach Club Regatta?

If your sailor is interested in sailing in one of these regattas using the SHYC's 420s and the support of our coaching staff, they will need to sign-up for the 420 Race Team. At this time, we are not able to allow the club's 420s to be taken off site by sailors not on the 420 Race Team. Of course if you own your own 420 you are more than welcome to sail in any 420 regattas, however you most likely will need to bring along a coach and/or safety motorboat.

What if my sailor wants to race a 420 in other regattas, beyond PO, MBC, and SHYC?

At this time, the club's 420s cannot be taken to other regattas beyond Pine Orchard or MBC. If your sailor would like to do other regattas, they will need to look into chartering a 420 and/or purchasing their own 420.

What if my sailor wants to sail and race both 420s and BICs (or Opti)?

That is terrific! We encourage our sailors to sail multiple types of boats! Kids in the **420 Cruisers** class that want to sail or practice their BIC (or Opti), can join the other afternoon sailors/classes sailing other boats anytime that fleet is practicing. Additionally, if the kids on the 420 Race Team want to go to a designated coached BIC regatta, we are more than happy to support this interest. 420 sailors can freely move between these fleets in class and regattas. Sailors can also choose to race different types of boats in the Saturday Morning SHYC races as well.

Can my sailor use the club's 420s after class and on the weekends?

Yes, we encourage SHYC junior sailors to enjoy as much time on the water as possible! Outside of class hours, the 420s can be signed-out from the launch staff. There will be a sign-out and sign-in process/form. Sailors will be responsible for a \$250 damage deposit when using the boats outside of class hours. Sailors not in a 420 Class or on a 420 Race Team will need to get "420 Usage Approval," for the Head Instructor or Flag Officer (more details coming).