



2017 Laser Gorge Blowout

July 28, 2017

Columbia Gorge Racing Association
Cascade Locks, Oregon

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1. The event will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. The following prescriptions of *US Sailing* will not apply: Rule 63.2 and Rule 63.4.
- 1.3. Racing Rule 40 is changed as follows: "Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. This rule applies at all times while afloat. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices. Flag Y need not be displayed."
- 1.4. Racing Rule 90.2(c) is changed as follows: Replace the last sentence of the Rule with, "Oral changes may be given only during the competitor meeting."

2. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 2.1. The regatta is open to boats of the Laser class, including Standard, Radial, and 4.7 rigs.
- 2.2. Due to safety considerations, entry is by application only and limited to 30 competitors.
- 2.3. Eligible competitors may enter by completing the online registration form and fee payment found on the Columbia Gorge Racing Association website www.cgra.org by July 28, 2016.
- 2.4. Competitors will be required to agree to a waiver of liability as a condition of eligibility. This waiver may be completed either during online registration or at the event check-in.

3. FEES

- 3.1. The entry fee is \$45 for entries completed with payment on or before July 15, 2017.
- 3.2. An entry fee of \$60 will be charged for entries completed or paid after July 15, 2017.
- 3.3. Entries will not be accepted after 9 am on July 28, 2017.
- 3.4. CGRA Members (Intermediate or Pro) are eligible for a discount of \$5.00.

4. SCHEDULE

Friday, July 28	8:00-10:00 am	Check-in, Registration, & car shuttle
	10:00 am	Competitors Meeting
	11:00 am	Race Warning
	5:00 pm	Refreshments & Awards in Cascade Locks

5. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 5.1. The Sailing Instructions will be available at check-in on July 28.

6. VENUE

- 6.1. The race will start off the beach at the Cascade Locks Marine Park and finish under the bridge in Hood River, 18 miles up the Columbia River (see Attachment A, Course Diagram).

7. THE COURSE

- 7.1. The race is divided into 2 legs with a mid-race rest stop at Viento Park (approx. 20 min.). Boats must sail through the mid-race finish line off the beach at Viento to be scored.
- 7.2. The first leg finish line shall be the second leg start line.

8. SCORING

- 8.1. The scoring system is as follows: Elapsed times for each competitor will be recorded at the end of each leg and added together. Competitors shall be ranked in order of their combined elapsed time.

9. SUPPORT BOATS

- 9.1. All support boats shall register at the Race Office during the check-in period.
- 9.2. During racing, support boats shall monitor the race committee VHF channel and remain more than 50 yards from the course area, except when asked to assist by the race committee.

10. PRIZES

- 10.1. The winner shall have his or her name engraved on the coveted Laser Gorge Blowout Perpetual Trophy. Take-home prizes will be given to the top 3 finishers.
- 10.2. Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the organizing authority.

11. SAFETY

- 11.1. Boats shall not impede the passage of a stand-on vessel and shall comply with the [U.S. Inland Navigation Rules Act of 1980](#). Boats that fail to comply promptly with signals from a committee boat to alter course, or that receive a 5-blast warning (5 short sounds) from a stand-on vessel, will be subject to protest and possible disqualification.

12. RISK, DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY, & PERSONAL CONDUCT

- 12.1. Competitors participate in the regatta at their own risk. See Rule 4 (Decision to Race). The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.
- 12.2. Competitors will accept full responsibility for all their actions during any activity related to this event. This includes on-shore activities before, during, and after the regatta.

13. RIGHT TO USE NAME & LIKENESS

- 13.1. By participating in this event, all competitors automatically grant the organizers and sponsors the right to make, use and show, at any time and at their discretion, any photographs or videos of him or her produced during the period of the event without compensation.

14. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 14.1. Additional useful information regarding accommodations, travel, boat charters and area recreation is available online at www.cgra.org.
- 14.2. For more information, please contact Laser Blowout Chairman Bill Symes at bill@cgra.org.

Attachment A: Course Diagram



Race Description

by Kerry Poe, Laser Blowout Founder

The Laser Gorge Blowout is 20 miles of downwind white knuckle sailing through the Columbia Gorge National Scenic Area. The race starts at Cascade Locks and finishes at Hood River. Swimming ability is mandatory! The race is a downwind start and will typically have 14-20 knot winds and flat water. The waves and wind begin to increase over the next 7 miles as you approach Wind Mountain. At Wind Mountain the river narrows and turns, creating some nice rollers to create havoc on Laser sailors. Between Wind Mountain and Viento State Park the river is surrounded by 2,000-foot high cliffs. The finish of the first leg of the race is at Viento State Park, a popular boardsailing and kite-boarding venue. The park has a beach protected from the wind where the sailors can load up on energy food and check their sanity before starting the most demanding part of the race. The sane Laser sailors will have the opportunity to pull out of the race at this point.

In the second half of the race, sailors will see the wind increasing and the waves growing larger as they approach the most demanding part of the river, SWELL CITY! Yes, there is a reason that it is called Swell City. The Laser sailor won't only be worrying about how to keep the bow from crashing into the back of the next swell, but will also have to try and avoid approximately 200 windsurfers wave jumping over him. Wind speeds can range from 25-40 knots, and I won't attempt to judge the wave heights. A short distance past Swell City is another popular board site called the Fish Hatchery for the board sailors not as inclined to take on the big swells. Next comes the welcome relief of dying wind (20-30 knots) as the survivors sail past the Hood River event site to finish under the Hood River Bridge. After the race, sailors can limp to one of the many local brewpubs for some well deserved refreshments.