



2019 Laser Gorge Blowout

July 26, 2019

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 will be changed as follows: Competitors shall wear personal flotation devices, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices (code 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 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. Boats of the RS Aero class are invited to enter and sail, but are ineligible for the Laser Gorge Blowout Perpetual Trophy.
- 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.
- 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.
- 2.5. The number of entries will be limited to the first 30 registered and paid.
- 2.6. No entries will be accepted after 10:30 am on July 26, 2019.

3. FEES

- 3.1. The entry fee is \$40 for entries completed with payment on or before July 12, 2019.
- 3.2. The entry fee is \$50 will be charged for entries completed or paid after July 12, 2019.
- 3.3. CGRA Members (Intermediate or Pro) receive a discount of \$5.00 (you can join CGRA [here](#)).
- 3.4. In the event that the Blowout is cancelled, all entrants will be eligible for a full refund of fees.
- 3.5. All other requests for refunds will be processed according to the [CGRA Refund Policy](#).

4. SCHEDULE

Friday, July 26	8:30-10:30 am	Check-in, Registration, & car shuttle
	10:30 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 26, 2019.

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).

7. THE COURSE

- 7.1. The race is divided into 2 legs with a mid-race rest stop at Viento Park (see Attachment A.). Boats must sail through the mid-race finish line off the beach at Viento to be scored.
- 7.2. The first leg finish line will be the second leg start line. The second leg will finish line will be the Hood River Bridge. Competitors must sail through the bridge to be scored.
- 7.3. The Race Committee may, at its discretion, shorten or alter the course at any time before or during the race.

8. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 8.1. The following *US Sailing Prescription* will apply: [Appendix V1](#) (two-turn penalty replaced with a one-turn penalty except in the zone around turning marks).

9. SCORING

- 9.1. 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.

10. SUPPORT BOATS

- 10.1. All support boats shall register at the Race Office during the check-in period.
- 10.2. 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.

11. PRIZES

- 11.1. The first Laser sailor to finish (shortest combined elapsed time) shall have his or her name engraved on the coveted Laser Gorge Blowout Perpetual Trophy.
- 11.2. Take-home prizes will be given to the top 3 finishers.
- 11.3. Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the organizing authority.

12. SAFETY

- 12.1. Boats shall not impede the passage of commercial vessels and shall comply with [USCG Navigation Rules and Regulations](#). 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.
- 12.2. If the Race Committee determines that weather conditions are not conducive to safe and/or successful completion of the race (generally, but not limited to, winds higher than 35 mph or lower than 5 mph anywhere on the course), it may at its discretion cancel the event.

13. RISK, DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY, & PERSONAL CONDUCT

- 13.1. 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.
- 13.2. 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.

14. RIGHT TO USE NAME & LIKENESS

- 14.1. 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.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 15.1. Additional useful information on lodging, travel, and tourism is available online at www.cgra.org.
- 15.2. For information on boat charters, contact Chris Brown at sales@westcoastsailing.net.
- 15.3. For more information, please contact Regatta Chairman Bill Symes at bill@cgra.org.

Attachment A: Course Diagram



Race Description

by Kerry Poe, Laser Blowout Founding Father

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 back to CGRA for some well-deserved refreshments.

About the Shuttle

All competitors are responsible for securing return transportation for themselves and their boats from Hood River. Take out is at the launch ramp at the east side of Hood River Marina, adjacent to the entrance to the Hood River-White Salmon Bridge. The usual drill is to shuttle cars, trailers, and dollies (don't forget dry clothes, blade bags, etc.) to the marina parking lot prior to the start of the race. Alternatively, you can arrange for pick-up by another driver at the end of the race (usually around 3 pm). It's a good idea to arrive early on race day so you can coordinate shuttle logistics with fellow sailors and get the job done in time to be back at CGRA for the competitors' meeting at 10:30 am.