

2018 Laser Gorge Blowout

Cascade Locks, Oregon, USA
August 2, 2018
Columbia Gorge Racing Association

NOTICE OF RACE

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the Notice of Race means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta 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: Replace the entire Rule with, "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." [DP]
- 1.4. Racing Rule 90.2(c) will be changed as follows: Replace the last sentence of the Rule with, "Oral changes may be given only during the competitor meeting."

2. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 2.1. The regatta is open to boats of the Laser (Standard, Radial & 4.7) and RS Aero (5, 7 & 9) classes that apply to participate.
- 2.2. Eligible boats may enter by completing the online registration form and fee payment system found on the Columbia Gorge Racing Association [website](#).
- 2.3. Each competitor, or the Parent/Guardian if under age 18, will be required to agree to a Waiver of Liability as a condition of eligibility.
- 2.4. For each competitor under the age of 18 at the start of the regatta, a [Parent/Guardian Consent Form](#) will be required and it shall name a *Support Person* over the age of 18 who will accompany the competitor for the duration of the regatta. [DP]
- 2.5. Entries will not be accepted after 1000 on Thursday, August 2, 2018.
- 2.6. The following restrictions on the number of boats apply: Entry is limited to 30 boats.

3. FEES

3.1. Entry fees are as follows:

Prior to Saturday, July 28, 2018	Laser (Standard, Radial & 4.7)	\$35
	RS Aero (5, 7 & 9)	\$35
On or after Saturday, July 28, 2018	Laser (Standard, Radial & 4.7)	\$45
	RS Aero (5, 7 & 9)	\$45

3.2. The entry fee includes complimentary boat storage for the duration of the event & post-racing refreshments.

3.3. Other fees or discounts:

Trailers Parking (Daily)	\$ 5
CGRA Members (Intermediate or Pro)	-\$ 5

4. SCHEDULE

4.1. Registration and date of racing for Laser class and RS Aero class:

Thursday, August 2	Registration at CGRA Race Office	0830 – 1000
	Competitor Meeting	1000
	Scheduled time of the warning signal for the race is	1100
	Refreshments & Awards in Cascade Locks	1700

4.2. The number of races scheduled is one (1).

5. MEASUREMENT

5.1. A boat shall comply with RRS 78.1 at registration and thereafter.

5.2. The Technical Committee may perform spot checks on any boat, at any time, during the regatta.

6. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

6.1. The Sailing Instructions will be available after 0830 on Thursday, August 2 at the CGRA [website](#) and the CGRA Race Office.

6.2. The Sailing Instructions may be available prior to registration at the CGRA [website](#).

7. VENUE

7.1. Attachment A shows the location of the racing area on the Columbia River.

7.2. [Attachment C](#) shows the location of facilities within the Cascade Locks Marine Park.

8. THE COURSE

8.1. The diagram in Attachment A shows the course. The approximate course length will be 20NM.

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 combined. Competitors shall be scored, within their class, in the order of their combined elapsed time.

10. SUPPORT BOATS

10.1. All support boats shall register at the Race Office during the registration period and a responsible *Support Person* shall be identified. [DP]

10.1.1. Support boats shall be marked with an identifying flag provided by CGRA, which shall be conspicuously displayed at all times during the event, and comply with any instructions from race officials. [DP]

10.1.2. A refundable \$20 deposit will be required at registration for each support boat.

10.2. While boats are *racing*, support boats shall not cause significant wake in the racing area and shall remain more than 50 yards from competitors, except when asked to assist by a race official. [DP]

10.3. All support boats shall have a working VHF radio on board, shall monitor the race committee VHF channel at all times while afloat and shall provide assistance to competitors if so directed by a race official. [DP]

11. BERTHING

- 11.1. Boats (competing and support) shall be kept in their assigned places while they are in the Cascade Locks Marine Park. [DP]
- 11.2. Competitors wishing to arrange storage outside of the period of the event should contact the [CGRA Race Office](#) at susan@cgra.org.

12. PRIZES

- 12.1. The Laser class skipper with the lowest elapsed time will have his/her name engraved on the coveted Laser Gorge Blowout Perpetual Trophy.
- 12.2. Prizes will be given to the top finisher in each class.
- 12.3. Additional prizes may be awarded at the discretion of the Organizing Authority.

13. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY & PERSONAL CONDUCT

- 13.1. Competitors participate in the regatta at their own risk. See RRS 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 and any *Support Person* will accept full responsibility for all of their actions during any activity related to this event. This includes on-shore activities before, during, and after the regatta. [DP]
- 13.3. [Attachment C](#) contains the Marine Park & CGRA Guidelines which competitors and any *Support Person* are expected to abide by. [DP]

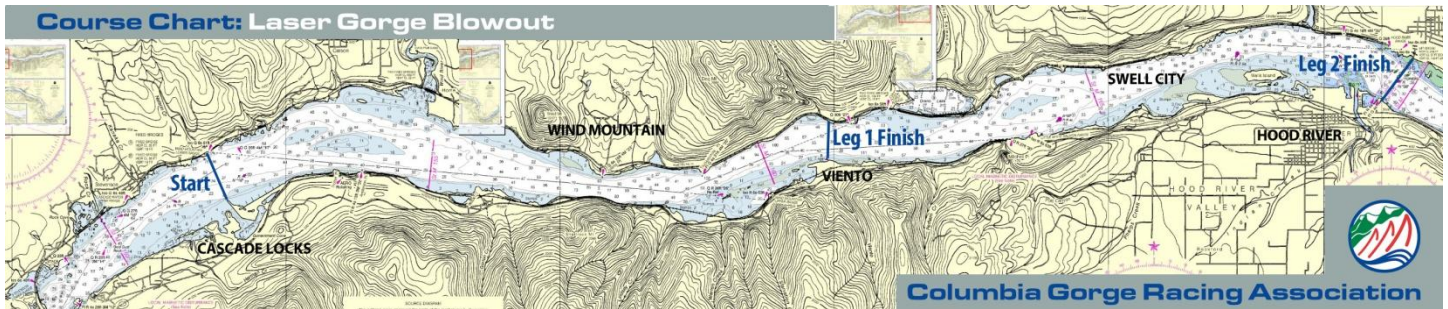
14. RIGHT TO USE NAME & LIKENESS

- 14.1. By participating in this event, all competitors 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 regarding accommodations, travel, and area recreation is available [online](#).
- 15.2. For further information please contact the CGRA Race Office [CGRA Race Office](#) at susan@cgra.org, or the [CGRA Laser Blowout Chairman](#) 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. From Wind Mountain to 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.