



2021 US Sailing Multihull Championship Sustainability Plan

Purpose:

It is the belief of the Formula Wave Class that, as sailors, we have a responsibility to keep the beaches and waters clean that provide the home of our sport. Pollution and general carelessness take away the beauty, cleanliness, and safety of the waters we sail in. The 2021 US Sailing Multihull Championship is an ideal platform to show we care and can hold large scale events with a high degree of sustainability.

Objective:

The objective of this document is to provide event participants, spectators, and supporters a detailed plan of the sustainable practices that will take place. This will also act as a guide for participants on how they will contribute and support the sustainability efforts of the 2021 US Sailing Multihull Championship. It is the goal of the Formula Wave Class and event hosts to obtain a silver level or better as defined by Sailors for the Sea (on a scale of Participant, Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, listed from lowest to highest).

Resources/Partners:

Sailors for the Sea - <https://www.sailorsforthesea.org/>

Sailors for the Sea Powered by Oceana is the world's only ocean conservation organization that engages, educates and activates the sailing and boating community toward restoring ocean health. Boaters see firsthand many of the issues that our oceans face, from pollution which fouls their playground, to overfishing and habitat destruction, which threaten marine life and the source of food for billions of people around the world. Through our solution-oriented programs, we unite a core constituency of sailors and boaters, nearly 12 million strong, whose support helps to win victories to save the world's oceans.

Surfrider Foundation, Texas Coastal Bend - <https://coastalbend.surfrider.org/>

The Surfrider Foundation is dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's ocean, waves and beaches, for all people, through a powerful activist network.

Corpus Christi Yacht Club - <https://ccyc.com/>

CCYC is one of the oldest yacht clubs on the gulf coast and has been home to many large championship scale events. As recently as 2018, CCYC was home to the Youth Sailing World

Championship, and achieved a Platinum Level of sustainability as defined by Sailors for the Sea. This is a major achievement for CCYC and for that event. With their knowledge of hosting sustainable events, they will be an ideal partner in running races for the 2021 US Sailing Multihull Championship.

How do we get there:

Sustainability encompasses many parts of a regatta, so we are following the guidance as put together by Sailors for the Sea to achieve our sustainable plan. The plan is divided into five primary categories, with sub-goals in each category. Below is a list of the five categories, and the selected items that we will achieve at this regatta:

- **Elimination of Single Use Items**
 - Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations
 - Eliminate Plastic Straws
 - Serve Food with Plastic Free Dinnerware
 - Use or Provide Re-Usable Bags
- **Community Involvement**
 - Publicize Sustainability Efforts
 - Involve Local Organizations
 - Post Responsible, Educational, and Re-Usable Signage
- **Responsible Waste Management**
 - Assemble and Identify a Green Team
 - Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage
 - Use Paperless Event Management
- **Environmental Stewardship**
 - Host a Beach or Marina Clean-Up
 - Promote Alternative Transportation
 - Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection
 - Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives
- **Green Boating**
 - Encourage Water-Only Washdowns
 - Use Non-Toxic Sunscreen or Cleaning Products

The rest of this document will detail how we will achieve the above listed goals and may be amended or updated at any time as needs, plans, or resources change. All changes will be noted in a version history at the conclusion of this document.

Elimination of Single Use Items

Eliminate Single Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations

The Formula Wave Class will ensure that all sailors have a water bottle for use on the boat. We will be distributing water bottles to all participants and volunteers to keep and carry with them. CCYC will have water refill stations available on the water by use of a reservoir, hose, and filter system on support boats. We will not be providing single use water bottles to sailors for on the water or on the beach use. We will also provide water refill stations on the beach by use of coolers and water jugs for sailors to fill up on land prior to leaving the beach.

Eliminate Plastic Straws

The event will be providing reusable and sustainable silverware kits to all participants. Kits include a metal straw with a cleaning apparatus sailors and volunteers may use in lieu of a plastic straw. Sailors will be encouraged to clean straws and reuse as desired throughout the event.

Serve Food with Plastic Free Dinnerware

The event will have at least three hosted dinner events. At these dinner events, the event will ensure that metal/washable silverware is used to prevent single use plastic dinnerware. Sailors will be provided with a reusable and sustainable silverware kit, which include a fork, knife, and spoon made from bamboo. Sailors and volunteers may be encouraged to bring and use these kits at dinner events and reuse them throughout the event.

Use or Provide Re-Usable Bags

Upon registration, sailors will be provided with a bag with any materials handed out. This bag will be designed to be re-usable and will be made out of sustainable materials as able.

Community Involvement

Publicize Sustainability Efforts

The event will utilize various media outlets to promote and publicize sustainability efforts. These outlets may include, but are not limited to: Social Media, E-Mail Marketing, Media Interviews, and Website Publications.

Involve Local Organizations

The event is proud to partner with local organizations in the Corpus Christi area. Our major partnerships include The Surfrider Foundation – Texas Coastal Bend Chapter, and the Corpus Christi Yacht Club. With these partnerships, we will explore other methods of local community outreach and involvement.

Post Responsible, Educational, and Re-Usable Signage

The event will display signage around the event site directing sailors and volunteers as needed. This may include but is not limited to: Water Station signage and Waste Bin signage.

Responsible Waste Management

Assemble and Identify a Green Team

The event will have a green team composed of sailors who desire to be part of leading the sustainable effort, members from our partner organizations, and community members and volunteers assisting with the sustainability plan. The Green Team will be the primary drivers of the events sustainability efforts.

Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage

The event will work with CCYC and the City of Corpus Christi to ensure waste bins and recycling bins are appropriately placed on site, and there is appropriate signage directing event participants to discard waste items properly.

Use Paperless Event Management

The event will utilize Regatta Network for digital event management. All notices, results, and information related to the event will reside [here](#). The event will also utilize digital screens to display photos and results from the event at the host hotel, and/or CCYC.

Environmental Stewardship

Host a Beach or Marina Clean-Up

The event participants will be broken up into multiple teams, and we will be asking each team to participate in a beach clean-up as part of the sustainable plan, with the additional help of the Green Team. The time of day recommended for the clean up will be first thing in the morning, but team leaders may use discretion and do a clean-up with their team anytime. The clean-up schedule is below:

Monday: Team Scarlet, Team Cardinal

Tuesday: Team Silver, Team Purple

Wednesday: Team Maroon, Team Gold

Thursday: Team White, Team Orange

Friday: Team Royal, Team Black

Promote Alternative Transportation

The event site is situated in a location that is within walking or biking distance to CCYC, local restaurants, and social event sites. The event planning team believes participants can park a car at the host hotel and would not need to drive again until the end of the week. Sailors and volunteers are encouraged to walk or bring a bike for easy transportation. Additionally, there are many electronic scooters placed around the city and event site that participants may use for transportation. The electronic scooters are accessible via a mobile app and small usage fee not associated with the event.

Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

A detailed wildlife plan is attached to the bottom of this document, [Appendix A](#). Please reference this for full wildlife awareness and protection plan. This plan is taken from previous events held on the Texas Coast.

Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

The event will have three hosted meals and will work closely with meal hosts and/or catering companies to ensure alternative options are available for those who prefer vegetarian meals or have specific dietary needs.

Green Boating

Encourage Water Only Washdowns

The Hobie Wave is not a boat that typically makes use of chemical cleaning on the hulls, but many sailors will want to wash boats during and/or after the event to remove salt to prevent corrosion. The event will not have any boat washdown area on site and encourages sailors to use water only upon returning home to remove salt.

Use Non-Toxic Sunscreen and Cleaning Products

The event will partner with a sunscreen provider to give to participants at registration. We will aim to only use reef-safe sunscreen to help keep waters healthy and clean, while still offering sailors needed protection against the sun.

Appendix A – Wildlife Plan

The Texas coast provides a habitat for five species of sea turtles. These turtles can be seriously harmed by discarded items such as balloons, plastic bottles, plastic bags, ropes, monofilament line, etc. These five species are all listed as either threatened or endangered and include the leatherback, hawksbill, loggerhead, green, and Kemp's ridley.

Every year birds migrate following the same pathway from their northern breeding grounds to their warmer, southern wintering grounds. With two major migration routes running through Texas (the Central and Mississippi Flyways), the Texas Coast is a haven for migratory birds. Twenty-six species of colonial waterbirds live on the Texas coast.

During the summer months, many birds raise their young along the Texas coast. In our areas, there are about 26 species of colonial waterbirds some of which are ground nester. These birds like low elevation, low vegetation areas and create a nest by hollowing out a small depression in sand or shell to lay their egg which are always very well camouflaged to blend in with their surroundings.

Most wild animals are opportunistic and will concentrate on the easiest food source available. Wild animals need a variety of foods in their diet that may be completely different than what we eat. When food is readily available, animals will gather in abnormally large numbers and can become a nuisance.

What to do if you encounter injured wildlife

Mammals

- Call the local stranding network at 1-800-9-MAMMAL
- DO NOT return the animal to the sea
- Keep people and pets away from the animal
- Do not leave the animal; the need comfort and cannot keep themselves upright
- Relieve pressure on fins by digging holes under them. To relieve pressure on lungs you can dig a pit under the mammal and fill the pit with water
- Keep the animal cool and wet by splashing water on the skin.
- Avoid getting water in the blowhole
- Apply wet towels or t-shirts and provide shade if possible
- Keep the blowhole free of obstruction and take care not to cover the dorsal fin, flippers, or tail
- Apply sun screens or zinc oxide, NOT suntan oil. The dolphin's skin is very sensitive and can burn severely
- Apply ice packs to the dorsal fin, pectoral flippers, or flukes to keep the animal from overheating, but do not let the ice contact the skin directly
- If the animal is in the surf, support it upright. Keep water out of the blowhole. If possible, carefully move the mammal into shallow water but keep it in the water
- Be careful of the powerful tail and mouth

Birds

- Call the Amos Rehabilitation Keep at 361-749-6793

- If the bird must be captured before help arrives, use a large towel or sheet and throw it over the bird. Most birds will immediately calm down long enough to pick them up and put them in a secure area, such as a pet crate or box
- Do not rescue shorebirds with sharp beaks. Eye protection is needed when handling these birds. Their defense mechanism is to lunge at the face and eyes
- Keep secured bird in a dark, quiet area until help arrives or it can be taken to the appropriate location
- Please do not try to feed any bird you rescue

Turtles

- Call the area coordinator at 1-866-TURTLE5
- Report the turtles location, size, proximity to surf, and condition (alive or dead)
- A stranded sea turtle is one that is found washed ashore or floating alive or dead. If it is alive, it is generally in a weakened condition
- If the turtle is alive, stay at the site until and official arrives if possible

Additional resource – Texas Seaside Center – 361-589-4023