



2022 Laser Gorge Blowout

July 15, 2022

Columbia Gorge Racing Association
Cascade Locks, Oregon

NOTICE OF RACE

1. RULES

- 1.1. The race will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*.
- 1.2. RRS 40.1 will apply while boats are racing (PFD required; flag Y need not be displayed).

2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. The Sailing Instructions will be available at check-in on July 15, 2022.

3. COMMUNICATION

- 3.1. Official notices will be posted on the south wall of the CGRA Race Office.
- 3.2. Oral instructions may be given during the competitors meeting. This changes RRS 90.2(c).

4. ELIGIBILITY & ENTRY

- 4.1. The regatta is open to boats of the Laser/ILCA class, including ILCA 7, ILCA 6, and ILCA 4 rigs.
- 4.2. Boats of the RS Aero class are invited to enter and sail, but are ineligible for the Laser Gorge Blowout Perpetual Trophy.
- 4.3. Eligible boats may enter the event by registering online at www.regattanetwork.com/event/24331.
- 4.4. Competitors are required to sign and comply with a waiver of liability as a condition of eligibility. This waiver may be completed at online registration or at the event check-in.
- 4.5. No entries will be accepted after 9:00 am on July 15, 2022.
- 4.6. The number of entries will be limited to the first 25 Laser/ILCAs. If less than that number register, RS Aeros are welcome to join up to the maximum total number of entries.
- 4.7. Wind Clinic participants must have approval from Wind coaching staff for entry in the race.

5. FEES

- 5.1. The entry fee is \$45, paid by cash, check or credit card at check-in on the morning of the race.
- 5.2. CGRA Members (Intermediate or Pro) receive a discount of \$5.00 (you can join CGRA [here](#)).

6. SCHEDULE

Friday, July 15	8:30-10:30 am	Check-in, registration, & car shuttle to HR
	10:30 am	Competitors Meeting
	11:00 am	Race Warning
	5:00 pm	Refreshments & Awards in Cascade Locks

7. THE COURSE

- 7.1. The course shall be from a starting line off the point at Cascade Locks Marine Park to the bridge at Hood River. Course length is approximately 18 miles.
- 7.2. 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.

- 7.3. 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.
- 7.4. The decision to race will be announced at the competitors' meeting. If the wind is too light to complete the course or if sustained wind prevents the race from being safely completed, the race will not be sailed. This is strictly the decision of CGRA.

8. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 8.1. The following [US Sailing prescription](#) will apply: Appendix V1 (two-turn penalty replaced with a one-turn penalty).

9. SCORING

- 9.1. Finishing order shall be determined by combining elapsed times for Stage 1 and Stage 2, not including rest time at Viento. The competitor with the lowest combined time wins.
- 9.2. Competitors on course side at the starting signal of either Stage 1 or Stage 2 will not be recalled but will have a penalty of 2 minutes added to their time for that stage.

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. Medals will be awarded to the top 3 finishers.
- 11.2. The first Laser (shortest elapsed time) shall have his or her name engraved on the coveted Laser Gorge Blowout Perpetual Trophy.
- 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 [Rule 9, Narrow Channels, of the US Coast Guard Inland Navigation Rules](#).
- 12.2. 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 commercial vessel, will be subject to protest and disqualification.
- 12.3. In the event of breakdowns, boats may be towed to shore and secured for later pick-up.
- 12.4. A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee as soon as possible.

13. RISK, DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY, & PERSONAL CONDUCT

- 13.1. Competitors participate in the regatta at their own risk. See RRS 3 (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 produce and publish, at their discretion and without compensation, any photographs or videos in which competitors may appear during the period of the event.

15. FURTHER INFORMATION

- 15.1. Additional information on travel, tourism, and lodging in the Gorge is available at www.cgra.org.
- 15.2. 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 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 to one of the many local brewpubs for some well deserved refreshments.