

Minutes - 2020 Spring VISA Meeting - Jan. 21, 2020 6:30PM, NYCC

1. Roll Call and Team Reports: Contact information for schools is attached.

- **Catholic High School** - Fall Team only, not sailing this season.
- **Christchurch School** - Kieran O'Connell (coach, via phone) – approx 30 Varsity; practice on campus M-F, some Sundays
- **Cox High School** - Fall Team only, not sailing this season.
- **Granby/Maury High Schools** – Ken Cason (Volunteer Advisor/Coach), - Granby 3 sailors; Maury 8 sailors; Practice MW,TH at NYCC
- **Hampton City Schools** - Sam Sipe (Coach), Parker Bunting (asst. Coach, not present), Kelly Handy (parent); KHS 14 varsity, 5 can sail JV; Hampton, Bethel, and Phoebus will not sail as of this report; practice at YSV T, TH, optional F
- **Hampton Roads Academy** – not sailing this season.
- **Hague School** - possible new school - Ken Cason
- **Mathews High School** - Michael Schmidt (coach); developing new team
- **Nansemond Suffolk Academy** – Chris Pfrang (parent), - club team with 2 sailors, practicing @ NYCC; T, Th
- **Norfolk Academy** – Sarah Allgeier (parent) - club team with 2 sailors: NYCC
- **Norfolk Collegiate School** – Randy Stokes (Varsity Coach), Tony Kreuger (parent volunteer) - approx 12 Varsity, practice at NYCC, T-Th
- **Peninsula Catholic** - not sailing this season.
- **Poquoson HS** – Charlie Brewer (Coach), Walter McKenna (Parent, VISA scorekeeper), Steve Henderickson (Asst. Coach) - 10 varsity; Practice M, W, TH at Messick Point
- **Smithfield HS** - last participated spring 2016
- **St. Christopher, St. Catherine** - last participated fall 2016
- **Walsingham Academy** – John Wandling (coach) - 4 sailors, Kingsmill M, W
- **York, Grafton, Tabb** – David Hanna (coach, not present), Jeff Hodges (volunteer), Jody Kelly (parent), Regina Elliott-Daugherty (parent) – York full team, Grafton 3 sailors, Tabb 1 sailors; practice Tues/Thur at Seaford Yacht Club.
- Also present –
 - Joan Patterson (Director)
 - John Klinck (Webmaster, SailVISA email list)
 - Joe Maus (Treasurer)
 - Kevin Eley (Asst. Director; High School Sailing Chair for YSV)
 - Katy Schuck - (incoming Secretary, NCS parent)

2. Officers

- Director - Joan Patterson
- Assistant Directors - Kevin Eley, Kieran O'Connell, Steve Hendrickson
- Past President - Randy Stokes
- Treasurer- Joe Maus
- Secretary- Katy Schuck
- Safety Officer - Chris Pfrang
- Webmaster - John Klinck
- Scorer - Joan Patterson, Walter McKenna

3. Treasurer's Report:

3.1 Joe Maus presented an account of our current finances and expenditures from last season. Please refer to the attached copies for details .

*waiting CC bills to replace/repair Dolly and fiberglass on FJ hull #1, **as well as one rudder**, and fiberglass repairs at NYCC - will come from MAF fund.

Ending Balance - \$16,699.35

Visa Balance - \$9,767.89

MAF Balance - \$6,931.46

3.2 Dues -

3.2.1 Each team is responsible for paying the annual ISSA/MASSA dues of \$150.00 online prior to the start of the fall season. **This will increase in the fall of 2020 due to an increase at the ISSA level.** Proposed VISA dues and fees for full teams (4 sailors or more) this season will be \$650 (\$250 for insurance, \$100.00 MAF, and \$300 VISA dues). Partial teams (under 4 sailors) will pay 50% insurance, 50% MAF, and \$75/sailor VISA dues until \$300 is reached. Individual teams contribute \$100.00/season to the MAF Fund until a maximum balance of \$1000 is accrued. Insurance **and dues** will be adjusted based on the number of participating teams.

3.2.2 Dues resulting from current census are presented. Dues are high this season because the team count is low. We will query partial and uncommitted teams in mid-Feb. If there is an increase in participation, we'll recalculate, and hopefully lower, dues.

3.3 Distribution of boat replacement funds to nonprofit host venues -The purpose of the visa replacement funds is to encourage the non profit organizations who have bought a fleet of boats for regular use as a high school varsity regatta fleet to establish and maintain a varsity fleet replacement fund. The goal is that the funds that VISA provides will encourage the fleet owner to raise and collect fleet replacement fund during the life of its fleet in amounts that allow for the replacement of the fleet. The VISA funds are intended to supplement the fund raising of a fleet owner and will only be provided to the extent that a fleet owner is in fact raising and escrowing replacement funds on its own (independent of the VISA funds). Starting Fall 2019, VISA will establish an account to collect and hold funds for the replacement of the YSV fleet, and the funds will be made available for and only for that purpose.. As required by an earlier vote of this board, Randy Stokes and Kevin Eley worked together to determine the number of YSV boats that are suitable for varsity racing, the number of regattas hosted, etc., etc. and the amount that YSV should receive from VISA for boat replacement. Beginning **Fall 2019** and continuing until adjusted by the VISA Board, each season, YSV shall receive a fee equal to 50% of the regatta fees paid by VISA to COVA during that season. The fees for YSV shall be held by VISA in trust and shall be paid over to YSV at such time as YSV replaces its fleet. Such fees paid over to YSV shall be limited to 20% of the fleet replacement cost and shall be paid over only when YSV has raised cash to pay at least 80% of the replacement fleet costs and is obligated to pay for the replacement fleet.

4. Regatta Schedule:

The attached regatta schedule for the **Spring 2020** season was reviewed and approved. We have 4 venues- NYCC, CCS, Fort Monroe, and Poquoson. Inquiry regarding teams ability to travel to district and national events, and to be able to field full Team Race teams, will be sent out early in the season. Timely response is imperative for district allocations.

5. Discussion of the Regatta Formats and Rules: The minutes as follows are our Procedural Rules for the Fall 2019 season:

5.1 Regatta Formats :

Regatta formats were reviewed and will remain the same with changes noted. The attached Sailing Instructions were approved without revision. The Protest Procedures were accepted without revision. The formats are approved as follows:

5.2 Roll Call:

Teams will respond to roll call by **8:00PM** on the Wed. before the regatta for fleet races, and by **8:00PM** on the Monday before the Saturday Team **and Match** races. Roll call requests **are firm and changes will only be accepted in actual emergency**. Teams who are unable to fill a second or third requested berth with sailors from their school will be denied second berth requests at the next regatta that they attend.

5.3 A/B Fleet Season Series:

- 5.3.1 On the varsity course, we try to have at least 30 FJ boats in each NYCC race. At CCS we have access to a fleet of 21 FJ's and 18 420's. At YSV, 18 FJ's are available.
- 5.3.2 Races will be separated and scored in two fleets, A and B. Each School may enter one A and one B boat in each respective fleet. This pair of boats is known as team one. Each fleet will be scored separately. The combined finishes for each school's team one A and B fleets will be used in the season standings.
- 5.3.3 Schools may offer a second team A and B to fill the remaining boats available; known as team two. Priority for team two boats is based on a school's ability to fill an additional team of A and B boats, and each school's current season standing or final season standing, whichever is most current. Example: 18 boat fleet, with 13 schools attending, 5 team two's will be available to the top 5 ranked teams that can fill an additional A and B team. Team two will use the remaining new boats, as well as older boats. Rotation for Team two will be through this combined secondary fleet.
- 5.3.4 Teams will be allowed a Team three, etc. A and B in remaining boats as available. Team three boats will be scored (and will rotate or stay in the same boat) in a manner suitable to scoring program.
- 5.3.5 Team one, Team two or Team Three, etc. can win the regatta. The results of Team two's and three's will appear and remain in the regatta scores for all purposes, including calculating the season standings. However, the season standings for each school will be based on the results of its Team one. For example if CCS Team 2 finishes 1st, and CCS Team 1 finishes 2nd at a regatta, CCS gets a 2 for season standing.
- 5.3.6 Each school at regatta sign in will designate the skipper and crew sailing in A and B fleet. Skippers cannot rotate into another fleet, nor from team one to team two or from team two to team one. Crews can substitute freely between fleets or team 1,2 or 3.
- 5.3.7 On days when the league hosts two simultaneous fleet race regattas, all schools' Team 1's will be offered a berth at the Team 1 event. Remaining berths at the event will be awarded to Team 2's based on season standing. At the Team 2 event, all teams will be offered a berth. Remaining berths will be awarded to Team 3's, etc. based on season standing. Scores for season standings will be based on Team 1 finishes in the Team 1 event.
- 5.3.8 In the State Championship, normal format will be followed and will be the same as a regular season regatta. The State Championship will also count towards overall season standings.
- 5.3.9 Varsity Time Limits: At all venues, no race will start after 3:00PM.
- 5.3.10 JV Time Limits: Set by the League. No Race starts after 3:00 pm. When varsity and JV compete at the same venue, JV will launch after varsity. JV will have lunch breaks as determined by the race committee.

5.3.11 Safe Weather conditions- When there is a question of whether or not it is safe to continue a Regatta based on weather conditions the VISA Safety Officer, attending representative board member, and/or representative of host venue will have the final say as to whether or not a regatta will end.

5.4 Team Race Series:

- 5.4.1 The league shall conduct a 3x3 team race series on Thursday afternoons at NYCC. Races to be held on the dates shown on the attached schedule. The teams may be divided into silver and gold based on # of teams present and whether they are a school's 1st or 2nd team. A point is earned for each match (a match may be best of 1 or 3) that a team wins. If a match is not completed on the day two teams meet, they will sail the match at the next mutually convenient opportunity. A "match" is a race (or a series of races) with an opposing team. A "round" consists of the results of each team completing a match (a race or an agreed upon set of races) against each other team. All races sailed on the same day will be considered part of part of the same match, unless the teams agree otherwise. Teams may begin a second round even though the first round has not been completed. For example, if Smithfield has sailed against Christchurch once, and these two teams are able to schedule a second match before the first round is completed (i.e. before all the teams have sailed a match against each other), the second match will be included in the next round. Also, teams are not required to sail the same number of races against all teams within a round. For example, CCS may schedule a match against NCS for round one and sail 5 races within that match, and it may schedule a round one match against Smithfield in which it sails only one race. For each match (regardless of the number of races sailed), each of the teams receives only one win and one loss.
- 5.4.2 YSV and Poquoson will hold the Peninsula 3x3 Team Race Series. Conditions permitting, this is an invitational series of four weeks. Rounds are completed over the course of the series.
- 5.4.3 **Three** weekend 3x3 team race regattas will be sailed. Results of **these regattas** will count towards the season standings and **one of these** regattas will serve as the Team Race State Championship. Teams not participating in **weekend team race** regattas will have three points added to their fleet season scores unless they participate in a 3x3 weekday team race regatta. The gold and silver fleets will be scored as two separate regattas. Liberal substitutions will be allowed to enable teams to fill boats.
- 5.4.4 Matches from the Saturday Team Race **may** be combined with those of top teams from the Thursday Team Race Sail-off to determine eligibility for promotion to the MASSA Baker Qualifier. In the event that VISA is unable to complete the Saturday 3x3 Team Race, an additional sail-off between the top teams will be held on a subsequent Saturday as per the schedule.

5.5 Record of Participation Data:

Record of Participation data will be entered into techscore by midnight on the day of the event. Failure to complete the data by midnight will result in scoring penalties as prescribed in the procedural rules.

5.6 Varsity Eligibility:

ISSA Eligibility Rules apply, except that the 6th, 7th and 8th graders may sail in all divisions other than Team 1 (MASSA/ISSA qualifier races), provided that they are competent, and don't slow or otherwise damage quality of racing. Eligible (per MASSA or ISSA rules, as applicable) sailors must sail in Team one for MASSA/ISSA qualifier purposes. If ineligible sailors compete in team one, the team will be scored as DSQ under the qualifier formula. For season standings, only VISA eligibility rules must be met. A student attending a VISA school shall not sail for another school, except in

emergency situations as allowed by the ISSA procedural rules. Students from schools with partial teams will be allowed to sail in combined teams with other partial schools. These teams will be designated as "MASSA Unassigned", or will use the name of the school with the majority of sailors for scoring purposes. For season standing purposes, these teams will be removed and the scores of the teams finishing after them will be advanced.

5.7 JV Eligibility:

Same eligibility requirements as varsity (See ISSA Procedural Rules), except age limitations: JV Sailors must be 6th through 10th grade. Older sailors can compete in JV but not be scored for the purpose of season standings.

5.8 Race Committee:

Each School team shall provide one (1) varsity race committee volunteer at each regatta and one (1) JV race committee volunteer if they participate in JV if requested by the host team. Teams should request volunteers a week in advance. The RC (including mark and chase boats) will be provided and organized by the regatta host school and will be formed from this group of volunteers subject to the approval by the president. In the event that the volunteers cannot decide who has what responsibilities, the VISA President shall designate who is to do what. Unrelated regatta hosts (e.g. W&M, ODU), at its option, provide a race committee. The regatta host venue (e.g., CCS, NYCC, etc) determines who can operate any regatta host boats and equipment. The host team shall also provide a protest committee chairperson who shall coordinate and arrange protest hearings. Committees for League Championships will be at the discretion of the VISA board. Lifejackets must be worn by all individuals (RC, Support, Coaches) while on the water supporting any high school event.

5.9 Qualification Formula for MASSA Events:

5.9.1 Races with ineligible sailors will be counted as DSQ's for qualifying purposes. Races not attended will be counted as DNC's and will not count for qualifying purposes unless they are taken as an available drop. DSQ and DNC will be assigned the score of fleet +1 from the fleet season event with the most participating boats, for all season events. Visa Teams that pay the annual MASSA/ISSA dues and the season's VISA dues will be eligible to race in the MASSA regional championship events and qualifiers using the following formulas:

5.9.2 MASSA Fleet Race events (including qualifiers):

VISA teams will be selected based on position obtained using Low Point system, by adding the final position in each visa team one fleet race event sailed this season prior to the MASSA event. Teams get one drop for every three regattas completed and scored by the league. Ties will be broken in accordance with RRS A.8.1 and A.8.2. Performance in the last regatta sailed will be the final method of breaking a tie. Last season's season standings will be used to select teams if no VISA fleet race regatta is completed prior to a MASSA fleet race event.

5.9.3 MASSA Team Race events (including qualifiers):

The Saturday Team Races will be used for qualifying purposes. Teams must participate in Thursday team race either at NYCC or YSV, **or in a prior Saturday team race**, in order to qualify for **the** MASSA team race qualifier **division**. Ties will be broken in accordance with RRS D.4.4 and D.4.5 (substituting "match" as defined above for "race"). Last Fall's standings will be used to select teams if no VISA team race regatta is completed prior to a MASSA team race event.

5.10. ISSA or MASSA Information:

MASSA Qualifiers and ISSA National Championships are shown on schedule. See the ISSA web site for other opportunities. Representatives from the venues, in conjunction with the VISA director, will propose venues for MASSA events to the board, for a board vote.

5.11 PROCEDURES for resolving questions during season:

We are governed by the minutes of our pre-season meeting, MASSA's Rules, the ISSA Procedural Rules and the Racing Rules of Sailing. If an issue is not covered in our minutes or the rules, we follow our most recent precedent. After the preseason meeting, we can change the preseason decisions and the rules only by unanimous vote. Protocol for resolving midseason questions and issues is an inquiry that roughly follows the following lines:

1. Did we make any special provision for this issue in this season's preseason meeting? (Check the minutes).
2. Is the issue covered in the ISSA Procedural Rules as adjusted by MASSA? (Check the procedural rules and MASSA Adjustments)
3. Is the issue covered by the RRS? (Check the RRS)
4. Is the issue covered by a recent past precedent? (Think through what we have done in the past and if we have not addressed the issue, consider what others have done)
5. If the issue is not resolved by any of the foregoing procedures, then the league officers shall resolve the issue in the manner they believe to be fair and in the best interests of the league.

5.12 Individual VISA student awards:

Varsity sailors from 9th-12th grade are eligible for awards. 1st place school select up to 2 skippers and 2 crew, 2nd place school 1 skipper and 1 crew for ALL-VISA (positions based on Fleet Race season standings). VISA Officers will collectively select 3 additional skippers and 3 additional crew for ALL-VISA. Females selected will automatically be selected for the All-VISA Women's Team and additional female sailors will be selected up to 3 skippers and 3 crew. Sailors will be selected by the VISA Officers based on the objective data of results and additional subjective criteria if there are sailors that are tied in results. VISA Sailor of the Year will be awarded in the Spring. It was voted on that we will now have a Male and Female Sailor of the Year. All State Sailors will be chosen in the Fall and Spring Season. VISA Volunteer of the Year and Sportsmanship Award will be given in the spring.

5.13 Personal Gear:

- 5.13.1** If either the water or air temperature is below 50 degrees, wetsuit or drysuit is mandatory. If the combined water and air temperature is below 120 degrees, decisions regarding safety attire will be determined by the safety officer.
- 5.13.2** Regatta host will set rules on shoes. Coaches shall be required to enforce these rules.
- 5.13.3** All Varsity and JV sailors must wear helmets at VISA hosted events. Helmet should be kayak/water rated with a rating of CE 1385 Standard or CE NAN 1385 standard or equivalent.
- 5.13.4** All competitors shall wear a USCG Type III PFD. The 1st violation of lack of Coastguard approved PFD shall be a verbal warning. The 2nd violation by the same team at the same event shall be another warning. The 3rd violation by the same team at the same event will result in the team being disqualified.

6. Website/Listserve:

The listserv is Googlegroups. There are three groups. Coaches, Executive Board and General VISA group. John Klinck manages the Listserve and Website.

7. Regatta Host Responsibilities

Host teams are to fill out the google doc in preparation for league/MASSA regattas.

8. New Business:

- 8.1 Gary Bodie has agreed to teach a Team Race Clinic for coaches. The fee will be \$20.00/participant to benefit YSV. Date will be a Sunday or Monday in early March - TBA.**
- 8.2 Teams are encouraged take complaints regarding sailors (or adults) conduct on the water to the offending sailor's coach in a gentlemanly manner, or to file a protest. The race committee is not the complaint department.**

9. Old Business Reminders

- 9.1** Raised by Randy during the spring 2018 meeting, and approved by unanimous consent, volunteers involved in assisting capsized sailors will need to be checked out and approved by VISA officers. The need for safety training for volunteers was discussed. Kieran offered to provide training at a discount and will take the lead.
- 9.2** Boats/sails at all venues – reviewed stewardship of equipment at all facilities. Host team will post a qualified sailor or adult at each of the facilities' sail storage area and the docks/boat storage area. These individuals will be responsible for ensuring that sails and boats are stowed properly. This individual will walk through stowage with the facility representative before they leave for the day.
- 9.3** Regatta Host will complete the Regatta Organization spreadsheet.
- 9.4** Communication - Please encourage parents to sign up for the VISA listserv by sending an email to Joan Patterson or John Klinck. Direct parents to the VISA facebook page for photos. The new ISSA/MASSA web pages are up. VISA is well represented photographically. The new VISA website will be up soon.
- 9.5** Teams are encouraged to contact Kieran for team racing resources.

Meeting was adjourned at XXXPM. Minutes were approved as presented.

Contact Information Fall 2019: