

Phase 2 Update as of June 8, 2020:

As somewhat expected, organized events/sailing regattas are still not permitted in Phase 2. There's some talk of trying to convince government officials otherwise, but the Marblehead Harbormaster has already said he feels that the prohibition of organized events remains in place. In fact, he went on to say that while there's some talk of holding unorganized races/events in Rockport, he advises against it. If that doesn't make it clear, don't know what does. So looks like racing is on ice for another 3 weeks at a minimum. Again, no rogue racing.

The good news is that although we can't race, we can now bring crew from other households on our boats. So you can stop making your 5 year old pump iron to become a trimmer. Social distancing guidelines still need to be observed, keeping 6 feet apart or wearing masks if that's not possible. For most boats, that likely means wearing a mask or some sort of face covering, and keeping 6 feet apart on the rail. Not perfect, but better than expected at this point. It also means that we can have a socially distanced race committee once we can race, as opposed to the one man band variety. While we may not be able to race or run races with full crews, it won't have to be single or double handed once organized racing/events are allowed.

My best guess is that we'll be able to race in Phase 3, which can begin no sooner than June 29. It seems to me that if they can conduct non-virtual fishing tournaments in Phase 3, we should be able to race too. That's only my opinion, but it seems in line with the phasing so far. Racing is not deemed an essential activity, as well as a privilege for us to enjoy. With it comes a tendency for people to gather, as much as we say we can dispense with that after racing, and crews are in close proximity with each other for a couple of hours. As there is concern about spreading the virus through singing, that's also true for shouting, and well, we do shout, some more than others. So it's fairly reasonable that sail boat racing is a Phase 3 activity, as much as we'd like to be doing it sooner.

For now, we're preparing for a July 1 start to Wednesday Night Racing, subject to when racing is allowed. Once we have confirmation and clarification regarding Phase 2, and possibly a couple hints on Phase 3, we'll call another skippers meeting on a Wednesday evening, right now thinking June 17 or 24 at 7:30 pm. There's been a suggestion of having additional racing on another day of the week to make up for some of what we missed. We're open to discussion on that. One thought is a few Friday nights, so as not to conflict with other events, bring to the meeting or email me any other thoughts you may have.

Thanks for your patience while we navigate these trying times. Stay well,

Karen and Peter D  
Boston Yacht Club Race Committee  
[bycrace@bostonyc.org](mailto:bycrace@bostonyc.org)