



# SCOW Racing Policy

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## SCOW Racing Policy

Revised and Approved by the Board of Directors, March, 2023

### Racing Director Duties

1. To recommend revisions or updates to any parts of the Racing Policy that will enhance the sailing/racing experience of the club's members.
2. To recommend races to the Board in which SCOW members are authorized to use the club's boats and to develop the racing calendar at the beginning of the year.
3. To work with the Board of Directors to maintain a fair balance in the use of SCOW boats between those who wish to use the boats for racing and those who wish to use them for other purposes.
4. To reserve boats (Flying Scots and cruisers) to be used for organized racing activities.
5. To organize and run the Flying Scot races---which includes obtaining a mandatory Marine Event Permits from the Metropolitan Police Department's Harbor Unit for all SCOW run races and arranging a Race Committee. (Permits should be acquired early in the year, preferably in January or February, or at least over 30 days prior the event.)
6. To coordinate with the marina staff and other relevant organizations (e.g., other Washington Sailing Marina (WSM) clubs, ODBC or FSSA), in the organization of WSM regattas.
7. To allocate boats to qualified skippers to participate in organized racing events.
8. To oversee the participation by SCOW boats, skippers and crews in local, organized racing events.

### General Rules for Participating in SCOW Racing Activities

If otherwise not specified, the general rules of attending organized racing events are as follows:

1. When racing SCOW boats, a certified skipper must always be on board.
2. Only SCOW members will be allowed to crew on SCOW club owned boats for organized racing activities.
3. The Racing Director has discretion to permit non-members to sail on SCOW owned boats. Non-members are required to sign Waiver of Liability in the appropriate logbook before boarding.
4. SCOW members who skipper their own privately-owned boat have sole discretion regarding the crew that sails on their boat. There is no SCOW policy that precludes non-members from crewing on a privately-owned boat, owned and skippered by a SCOW member.
5. Skippers are responsible for making their own decision to race or to continue racing. Skippers should use their best judgement weighing factors such as skipper and crew experience and skill level, weather and river conditions, boat condition, and SCOW's boat use policy.

### Flying Scot Racing

#### Program Goals

The Flying Scot races are intended to serve both as a training ground for those wishing to learn the rules and protocols of sailboat racing, and to assist skipper and crew in honing and developing their existing racing skills.

#### Schedule

At the beginning of the year, the Racing Director decides when and how Flying Scot racing will take place in the given year. This schedule should be followed as closely as possible, but it is up to the Racing Director to determine the pace and intensity of the program. While Scot racing is to remain open to all, the Racing Director may include special training.



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## Wednesday Night Races (WNR)

All crew who wish to race or learn to race are welcome to participate in the races organized on Wednesday evenings from April through September. Boats are available to skippers after 4:00pm on a come first serve basis and crew is selected at the docks. Wednesday night races are conducted by the Racing Director or Scot skippers assigned by the Racing Director.

## Additional Club Races

The Racing Director may propose and organize additional races, regattas or racing series at his/her discretion. These events require the approval of the Board and a Marine Event Permit from the Metropolitan Police Department. A Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SIs) should be provided whenever possible.

## Other Races at WSM

The Racing Director may propose and organize SCOW participation in racing events conducted by other clubs at the WSM. These events require the approval of the Board. A Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SIs) should be provided whenever possible.

## Scot Skipper Qualifications for Racing

1. Skippers of club boats must be Flying Scot skippers in good standing with the club.
2. Skippers new to racing should first gain experience as racing crew before skippering a boat for racing.

## Cruiser Boat Racing

Cruiser races are mainly run by DISC. Only qualified SCOW racing skippers may race the cruisers and only SCOW members may be crew. SCOW racing skippers who wish to race SCOW boats in DISC races must maintain their own memberships in DISC and must be DISC members in good standing for the sailing year. A minimum of three on board or more, as appropriate for the conditions, is mandatory. When racing with a spinnaker a minimum of four (a skipper and three crew) must be aboard.

## Cruiser Racing Skipper Qualification Procedures

In order to become a racing skipper the following procedure must be followed:

1. Candidate must be a cruiser skipper in good standing with the club.
2. Candidate should have at least one year experience as a SCOW cruiser skipper or equivalent experience on the river.
3. Submit a racing resume that shows the racing experience of the candidate. At minimum, the applicant is required to have at least 20 hours of racing in at least 6 different races as a skipper. This can be on any SCOW boat or any experiences obtained on other racing boats. Candidates wishing to be certified to race in the spinnaker class need at least 20 hours racing with a spinnaker and appropriate spinnaker handling experience as crew or skipper.
4. Candidate should have experience serving on a race committee for DISC or similar races.
5. Candidate must pass an oral examination administered by a certification board/panel. The board will be chaired by the Racing Director. The composition of the board will be determined by the Racing Director. The format of this examination will be questions and discussion of racing scenarios with the focus being on safety and sound judgement. The candidate must demonstrate knowledge of the racing rules of sailing, race procedures, and an awareness of the risks associated with racing a keelboat in a crowded fleet and how to properly manage that risk.
6. Candidate must pass SCOW's on the water racing checkout. This test will be administered by a Racing Checkout Skipper, designated by the Racing Director, during an actual race. The candidate must demonstrate competent



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boat handling and decision making during a fleet race. The candidate's rules knowledge, judgement, and risk management will be evaluated by the designated Racing Checkout Skipper(s) during the normal course of the race.

7. A SCOW Cruiser Racing Checkout Skipper will be recommended by the Racing Director in consultation with the Training and Skipper Directors and approved by the Board.

### Boat Allocation

Cruiser racing skippers shall contact the Racing Director to request a boat for an upcoming race. Boats will be allocated to racing skippers on a first come first serve basis.

When there is high demand, the Racing Director may choose to use a lottery to allocate boats. The lottery, or a series of lotteries, will be organized in such a way that all skippers who wish to race have an opportunity to do so if that is possible.

1. All interested skippers shall submit their names to the Racing Director for the lottery. (If possible, lotteries should be held at least two weeks in advance of races.)
2. Races and DISC's KISS Series (generally consisting of six races) shall be considered separately.
3. For each race or KISS Series the skipper's names will be placed in a hat and drawn by the Racing Director or an appointed impartial person. The date, time and place of this drawing will be made known in advance. The first skipper's name drawn will have first choice of the boat. Subsequently drawn names may each choose their boat.
4. At subsequent lotteries, Racing Skippers who have not raced in previous KISS Series will receive priority in the lottery process
5. Individual races shall be awarded to Racing Skippers similarly to the above method described for awarding a race series (i.e., if you raced the last race, those who did not, will be higher on the list than you are.)

### Other Racing

If SCOW skippers wish to race in another local race that is not already approved by the Board then they may do so as long as they comply with the SCOW boat use policies. If special consideration or boat allocation is needed, SCOW skippers may:

1. Submit a request to the Racing Director before that race. (The further in advance, the better.)
2. The Racing Director may submit this request to the Board if he/she feels that this race will not intrude on the club's other members and maintain a fair balance in the use of SCOW boats between those who wish to use them for racing and those who wish to use them for other purposes.

### Special Olympics

Although Special Olympics is not part of the SCOW Racing Program, SCOW supports Special Olympics and makes the club Flying Scots available for the Special Olympics practice sessions and the Special Olympic Regatta.