



Volume 1, Issue 3

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LETTER FROM THE COMMODORE

Join ILYA #FAIRSAILING

Dear ILYA clubs and sailors,

Happy 2018 sailing season! As Commodore of the Inland Lake Yachting Association, it is a pleasure to look forward to another year of regatta and home lake sailing in our marvelous scows.



Our regatta hosts for the Invitational and Championship events are ready. Our member clubs' local regattas are posted on our website and in Scowlines, signaling that 2018 promises to be another year of successful home lake and ILYA racing. Our sister organizations - WYA, USODA and US Sailing - are equally prepared for the 2018 season. While sailing is reportedly on the decline in other regions, we are fortunate our numbers and enthusiasm remain high in all our classes.

Coming soon: Look for a new website design from the ILYA, with improvements to make it easier to post or find regatta information.

The main purpose of this letter is to announce an initiative which will impact all ILYA sailing in this and future seasons. Our region has taken pride in our adherence to the rules, our expectation of exceptional high standards due to role models such as Buddy Melges and Peter Barrett - in general, we value our consistent concern for the utmost in sportsmanship ideals. In recent years, there appears to have been a decline in our on-water execution of rules adherence, a change in focus in youth sports and

**April**  
28 - John Strassman RC 201 - Practical Teaching

**May**  
Rules of Week to be featured

**June**  
Visits to Clubs and Sailing Schools

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teaching, a perceived "loosening" of penalties as we moved to the two-circle turns. Our decision to launch this initiative is based on a seminar held at Harken last fall and on subsequent interviews with youth sailors and instructors. There was a consensus that ILYA racing was changing, showing a decline in sportsmanship. We believe it is time to re-calibrate our own compass. We want nothing other than the finest and fairest sailing.

To that end, the ILYA is committed to a new venture - ILYA #FAIR SAILING. You will hear from the ILYA each Tuesday via Scowlines as we approach this problem with education, education, education. How will we do this? The ILYA will provide a rules video or live presentation to your club, just for the asking. We have developed a quiz which will signify an individual's intent to learn, know and comply with the rules. This quiz may be taken until successfully passed, after which an individual will be identified as a "fair sailor". And your club will have an incentive to join as a "fair sailing club"- a special pennant will be issued if many of your sailors commit to the initiative.

How will this look in 2018? We expect to see more sailors exonerating themselves on the water. We expect to see more use of the protest, arbitration and early "on-land" penalty alternative. To pique sailors' interest or exposure to the process, in March the ILYA sponsored an advanced race committee course and a Dellenbaugh course for sailors; and we sponsored a course by Bruce Martinson on protest committee work in April. There will be one last race committee course at Harken the last weekend of April. In addition, Ed Eckert of Cedar Lake (Wis.) will lead a course for instructors June 7-8 where #FAIR SAILING will be a topic.

Look for the ILYA to:

- Contact your sailing school directors and instructors individually about including education and adherence to the racing rules in their curriculums.
- Contact your yacht club with either an offer to present a rules seminar or to send you our video of an explanation of Part 2 of the rulebook.
- Supply a quiz for your sailors to take (repeatedly, if needed) to indicate their desire to join the ILYA #Fair Sailing initiative.

Let me be very clear: as stated above, **the ILYA is committed to this endeavor**. We're all in. We want all our sailors, young and old, new and experienced, to understand the rules and execute them to the best of their ability. We understand that learning rules on the water is different than learning in a classroom. Bottom line, we believe in sailing clean and fair. We are discarding any notion of "I owe you one", "it's OK, he's my friend or teammate" or any other excuse. The ILYA believes sailors are more competent and CONFIDENT when they understand the rules of the game and are clearly encouraged to follow them.

ILYA races are sailed amongst the best of friends - it's what sets us apart and also what holds us together. Join us in this most important initiative to make sure that all of that racing among friends, in all boats, at all levels is at the absolute highest level of fair play.

**Join ILYA #FAIRSAILING.**

David Porter  
ILYA Commodore



**Thanks to  
Bruce Martinson  
and  
John Porter  
for their leadership and  
volunteer efforts to  
further  
ILYA #FAIRSAILING**

Join the ILYA

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**"A good sport is someone who adheres to a code of ethics and doesn't compromise the quality of the game"**

*- Dave Perry, author, champion sailor, rules guru*

*Thanks to Dave Dellenbaugh for assisting the ILYA #Fair Sailing initiative. With Dave's permission, in April, you will enjoy excerpts of his sportsmanship edition of Speed and Smarts.*



### **What Does It Mean to be a Good Sport?**

I have two favorite quotes that express the essence of what it means to be a good sport in sailing. The first is from Paul Elvstrom, the Great Dane who won four Olympic gold medals. Elvstrom once said something to the effect of, "You haven't won the race if in winning the race you have lost the respect of your competitors." In other words, Paul would rather lose a race than win it but behave in a way that his competitors did not respect. This commitment to do what is right and respectable, win or lose, is the essence of good sportsmanship.

The second quote is from Dr. Stuart Walker, a long-time competitive sailor and author who wrote, "Although winning is the object of the game, it is not the object of playing the game." The reasons for playing the game are typically to have fun, learn a lot and challenge ourselves to perform at the highest level possible. It's important to remember this whenever it feels like winning is the only thing that matters. Fortunately, we frequently see or hear about sailors being good sports, and these examples are inspirational. I remember one year, quite a while ago, when the US Sailing Sportsmanship Award went to Scott Steele, one of America's top board sailors at the time. During the Goodwill Games (an event similar to the Olympics), Scott helped his closest competitor, Grzegorz Myszkowski of Poland, get reinstated after being incorrectly scored OCS. As a result, Myszkowski won the gold medal and Steele got silver.

"The number one rule in my book is honor," said Steele. "What's most important to me in sailboat racing is that the competition is fair - that everyone is given an equal chance to win. I hope everyone sails with this feeling."

Steele is one of the vast majority of racing sailors who, like Elvstrom and Walker, do not believe in 'winning at any cost.' They try their hardest to win each race because that's the goal (as Dr. Walker reminds us), but they remember and value all the other reasons why they go sailing.

To me, sportsmanship includes fairness, courtesy, friendliness and many more qualities that are important both on the water and ashore. The bottom line on good sportsmanship in sailing, as in most other parts of life, is the Golden Rule. In other words, 'Do unto others as you would have others do unto you.' If you always treat your teammates, your competitors and everyone else involved with the sport (e.g. race committee members, judges, administrators) as you would like to be treated yourself, then you won't have to worry about sportsmanship.

-- Excerpted from Speed & Smarts #133 Dave Dellenbaugh

Next week, we'll offer some real-life examples of good sportsmanship.

*Sportsmanship and fair play are valued attributes that are expected to come naturally from within each sailor.*

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