

Dear Competitors,

We are looking forward to the upcoming New Zealand Youth Championships and the opportunity for everyone to come together to race and test their skills. The purpose of the New Zealand Youth Championships this year is to provide New Zealand's youth sailors with an enjoyable pinnacle event, an opportunity for all youth sailors to compete against New Zealand's best and recognise the top performers in the country with selection to the New Zealand Youth Sailing Team.

This event is being run on the water along the same lines as the World Sailing Youth Worlds. The Youth Worlds is a unique event where sailors are required to be highly self-sufficient on and off the water. Sailors are provided their charter boats only two days before the event and have to put them together and tune them from scratch. There is a maximum of four coaches in the team for all the classes and restricted access to the venue which means there is very limited coaching during the event. Often the coaches leave the dock early in the morning to get on a spectator boat that is anchored below the start line and do not return to shore until after all the classes have finished racing.

Exemplary preparation, decision making, and problem solving on your own is going to be essential to success at the NZ Youth Champs. There will be limited on-water coaching support available as coaches / support boats will be confined to a 'box' below the start line. Sailors can have their spare gear and food etc with a coach or support boat, and they will be able to access this boat in the 'coach box' between races. This is how the youth worlds are run and is also how the recent Olympic Test Event and 2023 Combined Worlds Championships were. If during the event there are high winds meaning extra safety support is needed, support vessels will be released from the box and allowed to motor around the course. For those that don't have a support boat out, YNZ coaches can also take gear.

The goal of the NZ Youth Champs event is to encourage:

- High quality, fair, and competitive racing
- Have an enjoyable, social event on and off the water
- An opportunity for all levels of sailors in the fleet to develop their racing skills
- An opportunity to celebrate success, and recognise New Zealand's top youth sailors

We will also be running coach led racing on Monday / Tuesday 25 / 26 Sep in preparation for the regatta. We look forward to some great sailing and seeing you in a few weeks' time.

