



So. California Junior Olympic Sailing Festival
and Chubb U.S. Junior Singlehanded and Doublehanded
Championship Qualifying Regatta
Alamitos Bay Yacht Club July 14-16, 2006



July 6, 2006

SoCal's best sail in Junior Olympics

LONG BEACH, Calif.---With their eyes on future dreams, more than 150 of the best boy and girl sailors in Southern California will compete in their section of US Sailing's Junior Olympics at Alamitos Bay Yacht Club July 14-16---the most important regional youth sailing event of the year.

The event is open to all sailors who will not turn age 19 before the end of the year. There is no minimum age. The early entry deadline featuring a significant discount in the entry fee is today (July 6). [Online registration](#) is available.

For the last decade the national program of Junior Olympics has been a test for potential world-class talent. This one also is a featured activity of the City of Long Beach's two-month-long International Sea Festival that celebrates the city's heritage with sailing and other marine-related activities.

In a rotation of Southern California venues, Long Beach last hosted the Junior Olympics in 2000. US Sailing Inshore Director Lee Parks said, "This is the 10th year for Southern California, which has been a mainstay of the Junior Olympics since their inception. They had 74 competitors the first year and 140 to 160 every year since, and this year is on an even higher note."

It's also the Southern California regional qualifying regatta for the Chubb U.S. Junior Singlehanded and Doublehanded championship---US Sailing's competition for the F. Gregg Bemis and D. Verner Smythe trophies, respectively, at Texas Corinthian Yacht Club in Kemah, Tex. Aug. 8-13. The top two eligible place winners in Club 420s and Laser Full Rig classes will qualify to go to Texas.

"This is definitely a springboard for young people with the determination and talent to jump to the next level," event chairman Mike Segerblom said, "and it gives everyone an idea of how they compare with their peers."

On Thursday, the day before racing starts, there will be an on-water clinic for registered competitors starting at 1 p.m. Coaches will include Robbie Dean, 1996 U.S. Youth doublehanded champion; Kevin Taugher, 2005 U.S. Men's Singlehanded champion; Peter Wells, '89 U.S. Junior



High-resolution photos will be available free to print media

[Click for Online registration](#)
(Early entry deadline is today!)

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Singlehanded champion and 2004 U.S. Olympic sailor, and Adam Deermount, 2000-01 college all-American.

Other classes besides 420s and Lasers expected to establish are 29ers, CFJs and Laser Radials---the latter potentially a convenient tune-up for some of the competitors in the Laser Radial Worlds at Marina del Rey July 28-Aug. 12.

Southern California sailors have won 12 Bemis titles and 10 Smythes in 30 years, and several graduated to the international level through the Junior Olympics. Past Bemis and Smythe winners include Wells, John Shadden, a 1988 Olympic bronze medalist; Brian Ledbetter, '92 silver medalist; 2004 Olympian Kevin Hall, and current hopefuls Mikee Anderson and Andrew Campbell.

Ten races over three days are scheduled on each of two Olympic-style trapezoid courses inside the Federal breakwater and off Seal Beach. On Sunday one course will be set close to Belmont Pier for free spectator viewing. Racing will start at noon Friday and 11:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, conditions permitting.

More information: www.abyc.org

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