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**Welcome to Nelson Bays Team Sailing (NBTS)**

We are a volunteer organisation that works closely with Nelson Yacht Club and School sports coordinators that exists to provide all secondary school age students in our region with the opportunity to participate in competitive team sailing. Each sailing team is made up of 6 sailors sailing in 3 boats, plus one (or two) reserve sailor(s). Schools may have 1, 2 or sometimes 3 teams. Each school appoints a parent team manager who is also on the NBTS committee, and we liaise closely with school sports coordinators.

**Why sail with us?**

Team sailing is fast paced, very sociable and a lot of fun. You will get wet, get shouted at (in the spirit of friendly competition), experience amazing highs and lows and develop a whole range of sailing and life skills. For many past team sailors sailing has become a lifelong passion, with team sailing providing a gateway into other sailing disciplines, such as sail cruising, and fleet racing.

**What does it cost?**

For the 2025-2026 season:

Term 4 membership $330

Term 1 membership $380

This covers term time training and racing.

Each sailor is also required to join Nelson Yacht Club and this is a Youth Membership of $114 per year. NBTS operate out of Nelson Yacht Club and as users of all their facilities our sailors must have NYC membership, which also includes Yachting New Zealand membership.

There are additional costs associated with competing at away events, such as Regionals (if not hosted in Nelson) and Nationals. Individual school teams may fundraise for these events, to minimise costs. **Note:** we think the term fees are excellent value for money for professional coaching for up to 6 hours per week (3 hours team training and 3 hours racing on Sundays). The fees do fall far short of covering our costs and this year we have had to raise our fees to cover our operating costs.

**What we offer**

* Sailing on Nelson harbour in our Olympic class ‘420’ sailing dinghies
* Professional training and coaching twice a week
* Free use of our boats for NYC fleet racing (for suitably experienced sailors)
* The opportunity to compete at regional, national and international level
* Safety systems and protocols to minimise inherent risks of sailing
* Safety boat cover
* A fun, welcoming and professional environment

This season we are delighted to be welcoming back Patrick Harris as our sailing coach. Patrick is himself a previous Nationals winning team member.

**What we expect from you and your family**

* A commitment from each sailor to attend training and racing sessions (one weeknight and every Sunday throughout the season)
* A commitment from each sailor’s parents/caregivers to help out on 3 full days per season with weekend racing (no experience necessary)
* A commitment from sailors and their parents/caregivers to help out with fundraising
* Assisting with working bees as they arise during the season

**Dates and events**

Our sailing season kicks off pre-season training in the first week of October.

Pre-season training

**Beginners and Development Sailors** – Monday 29th September to Wednesday 1st October, 9-4pm Daily. $180 for 3 days.

This course will be a fun introduction to beginner team sailors who might like to try team sailing before committing to the season, and it is for other sailors who might like to upskill, try out skippering or just get more experience. Expectation is all participants would be Level 1 Learn to Sail Level. This will be limited to 12 sailors.

**Advanced Sailors** – Thursday 2nd October to Friday 3rd October, 9-4pm Daily. $120 for 2 days.

This course is intended for our experienced team sailors and those wanting to step up to a more competitive level. Limited to 12 sailors.

To register for either holiday courses or term training go to the Nelson Yacht Club website sign in and register under the NBTS spring holiday programs. Please note you are required to either join the Nelson Yacht Club or already be a member in order to participate in any courses.

Term Training

Each secondary school is allocated a training night in Term 4, these training start on Monday 13th October. Training nights will be as follows:

* Monday: Waimea College
* Tuesday: Nelson College for Girls
* Wednesday: Garin College
* Thursday: Nayland College
* Friday: Nelson College/Nelson College for Girls

On training nights sailors should arrive as soon as possible after school to rig boats and get ready, training finishes no later than 7pm. If weather conditions prevent sailing then land based training/teambuilding takes place instead.

Towards the end of term 4 our coach will allocate sailors to A and B teams. A teams compete at Nationals.

Sunday Racing

Each Sunday during the season the schools race against each other in 2 sessions. 11am – 1pm and 2 – 5pm. During term 4 sailors will have the opportunity to sail with different combinations of skippers/crew and teams. Your sailor may do the early session one week, then the next week the late session. Each school takes turns providing adult volunteers to provide crew for the start boat and the safety boat for the Sunday sessions. The dates and team responsibility days are below:

Duty Days - volunteers needed for each duty day by the following teams

* 19th October – Nelson College
* 2nd November – Waimea College
* 9th November – Garin College
* 16th November –Nayland College
* 23rd November – Nelson College for Girls
* 30th November - No Racing NYC Event
* 7th December - Nelson College
* 1st February - Waimea College
* 8th February - Garin College
* 15th February - Nayland College
* 22nd February - Nelson College for Girls

**Open Day**

There will be an Open Day for Team Sailing at Nelson Yacht Club on Sunday 12th October: 10am-3pm. This is an opportunity for sailors from all schools to get together and meet other sailors. New sailors are welcome to come and have a go. There’ll also be a BBQ/sausage sizzle.

**Regional Regatta – Top of the South Team Sailing Regatta 12th-15th March 2026**

All sailors will be given the opportunity to attend and sail at the regional regatta on the 12th-15th March. This year it will be held in Nelson. Each team organises its own entry costs involved for each sailor. Team managers will be in contact with more information.

**National Regatta – Whangarei 14th-18th April 2026**

Sailors selected for National teams will travel to compete at the Secondary Schools Team Sailing National Championships in Whangarei in the second week of the April school holidays. Again each team organises its own travel and entry with costs involved for each sailor.

**Looking for more information or have questions?**

Nelson Bays Team Sailing Secretary

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