

BRINGING THE World Match Racing Tour to Long Beach



The Long Beach Yacht Club

Congressional Cup

2026



World Class Match Racing

APRIL 28-MAY 3, 2026

Special Events



TUESDAY, April 28: Practice Day

- 5:00 pm **Club 100 VIP Champagne Reception** (Invitation Only) - Clubhouse
6:00 pm **All Members & Crew Cocktail Reception** (no host) - Clubhouse Lounge
7:00 pm **Meet the Skippers Dinner** (Blazer/Cocktail attire; ticket required) - Clubhouse Main Dining Room

WEDNESDAY, April 29: First Day of Racing

- 11:30 am **Viewing from the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier with Live Commentary**
★ Buoy's Patio open to Club members (no host food & beverage)
★ West Wing open to free public viewing
★ Loft open for Ladies Day Event (reservation required)
- 5:00 pm approx. **Press Conference** starts approximately 30 minutes after the boats return to the dock - Clubhouse Pool Deck

THURSDAY, April 30: Second Day of Racing

- 11:30 am **Viewing from the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier with Live Commentary**
★ Buoy's Patio open to Club members (no host food & beverage)
★ West Wing open to free public viewing
- 5:00 pm approx. **Press Conference** starts approximately 30 minutes after the boats return to the dock - Clubhouse Pool Deck

FRIDAY, May 1: Third Day of Racing

- 11:30 am **Viewing from the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier with Live Commentary**
★ Buoy's Patio and West Wing open to Club members (no host food & beverage from Buoy's servers)
★ Buoy's Loft open to Club 100
★ East Wing open to free public viewing
- 5:00 pm approx. **Junior Congressional Cup & The Amazing Race** with LBYC Juniors and Skippers starts approximately 30 minutes after the boats return to the dock - viewing from Clubhouse decks
- 6:00 pm approx. **Press Conference** starts shortly after Junior Congressional Cup - Clubhouse Pool Deck
6:30 pm **Family Fun Party** (tickets required) - Clubhouse Pool Deck

SATURDAY, May 2: Fourth Day of Racing

- 11:30 am **Viewing from the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier with Live Commentary**
★ West Wing open to Club members (no host food & beverage from Buoy's servers)
★ Buoy's Patio and Loft open to Club 100
★ East Wing open to free public viewing
- 5:00 pm approx. **Press Conference** starts approximately 30 minutes after the boats return to the dock - Clubhouse Pool Deck

SUNDAY, May 3: Final Day of Racing - Semi Finals & Finals

- 11:30 am **Viewing from the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier with Live Commentary**
★ West Wing open to Club members (no host food & beverage from Buoy's servers)
★ Buoy's Patio & Loft open to Club 100
★ East Wing open to free public viewing
- TBA **David Hood III Memorial Fleet Race** for non-semifinalists
After Racing **Victory Parade** back to the Clubhouse
5:30 pm approx. **Trophy Presentation and Members & Crew Party** to begin approximately 30 minutes after boats return to the dock - Clubhouse Pool Deck

Parking Made Easy for Pier Viewing

Heading to the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier to watch the 2026 Congressional Cup? Download the **Passport Parking app** on your phone for easy parking. Pay, extend, and manage your parking session with just a few taps.

Commodore Bob Piercy & Chairman Ken Mattfeld

Welcome Sailors, Guests, Dignitaries and Members of Long Beach Yacht Club

On behalf of the Flag Officers, Directors, and Members of Long Beach Yacht Club, welcome to the 61st edition of the Congressional Cup. Once again, the best match racers on the planet have been drawn to Long Beach in hopes of donning the crimson blazer, a symbol of excellence in the sailing world. They are inspired not only by the intensity of the competition, but also by our unique venue, favorable sailing conditions, the fleet of identical purpose-built Catalina 37s, and the renowned hospitality of our Club.

Sustaining our signature regatta for so many years as a premier event on the World Match Racing Tour is no small feat. It is a testament to the dedication, passion, and professionalism of our members, volunteers, sponsors, and staff. We extend our sincere appreciation to each of you whose efforts – both seen and unseen – make this extraordinary event possible year after year.

To our competitors, we wish you favorable wind shifts, fair umpire calls, and fun and memorable racing. To our guests and spectators, we hope you enjoy the excitement of world-class match racing in one of the finest settings in the sport.

Thank you all for being part of this proud tradition.



ON BEHALF OF THE
FLAG OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND
MEMBERS OF LONG BEACH YACHT CLUB,
IT IS OUR SINCERE PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU TO THE
2026 CONGRESSIONAL CUP.



BEST WAYS YOU CAN FOLLOW THE RACING ACTION

WATCH from the Belmont Pier. The view of the entire "Congressional Cup Stadium" from the Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier is excellent. Food and beverages are available on-site, and public parking is located at the end of Termino Avenue. TIP: Use the **Passport Parking app** for easy pay, extension, and management of your parking session.

WATCH from a Boat. You can anchor or cruise slowly in the spectator areas and avoid interfering with racing.

WATCH at LBYC. Live streaming with expert commentary can be viewed in the Lounge Friday – Sunday.

WATCH LIVE Online. Stream the racing live with expert commentary Friday – Sunday at www.thecongressionalcup.com or at [Facebook.com/congressionalcup](https://www.facebook.com/congressionalcup).

VIEW Live Results at www.matchracingresults.com/2026/congressional-cup/

Stay updated with daily results, race highlights, and on-the-water coverage at www.thecongressionalcup.com.

FOLLOW ALONG: Get updates, photos, and behind-the-scenes content:

 [facebook.com/ CongressionalCup](https://www.facebook.com/CongressionalCup)

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 [@lbyccconcup](https://www.instagram.com/lbyccconcup)

Tag us and share your experience: [#lbyccconcup](https://www.instagram.com/hashtag/lbyccconcup)





2026 SIGNATURE COCKTAILS

Windward Margarita

*Patron Silver, Patron Citronge Orange
Lime, Agave*

Red Buoy Lemon Drop

*Grey Goose Berry Rouge
Lemon, Simple Syrup*

Trade Wind Spritz

*St. Germain, Club Soda
Sparkling Wine, Mint*

The Commodore Highball

*Bacardi Superior, Pineapple Juice
Lime, Club Soda*

Sunset Paloma

*Cazadores Blanco, Grapefruit Soda
Lemon, Simple Syrup, Soda Water*

Spinnaker G&T

Bombay Sapphire Gin, Tonic, Lime



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(l-r) Commodore Bob Piercy, Chairman Ashore Eric Berg, Chairman Ken Mattfeld, Vice Chairman Tom Camp, Chairman Afloat Tom Decker, Pier Chairman Scott Meyer



On behalf of the World Match Racing Tour, I am delighted to welcome competitors and partners to the 61st edition of The Long Beach Yacht Club Congressional Cup.

As a founding event of the World Match Racing Tour, The Congressional Cup is one of the world's most iconic international match racing events, one that every top match racing sailor strives to win. We are very proud to continue our long-term partnership with the Long Beach Yacht Club and feature the Congressional Cup, and the Ficker Cup as official stages of the 2026 World Match Racing Tour. The hospitality which the club, its members, and volunteers extend to us and all the competitors each year is simply world class.

Best of luck to all competitors and be sure to come and watch the racing free of charge at the end of Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier. Best of luck to all competitors!

James Pleasance
 James Pleasance
 CEO World Match Racing Tour

EVERY DECISION COUNTS. EVERY DETAIL MATTERS.

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The Congressional Cup is won through preparation, tactical excellence, and deliberate strategy.

Your transaction and legacy are no different. They deserve the same approach.

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Welcome to Long Beach!



Dear Sailors, Competitors, and Fans,

On behalf of the City of Long Beach, it is my distinct honor to welcome you all to the 61st Long Beach Yacht Club Congressional Cup. As one of the premier events on the World Match Racing Tour, this regatta brings together the most talented sailors from around the globe to our beautiful shores for a week of thrilling competition and camaraderie.

Long Beach is proud to serve as a championship stop on the tour, which is only fitting for the Aquatic Capital of America. Our city's storied history in both motorsports and yacht racing—home to the famous Grand Prix of Auto Racing and the renowned World Match Racing Tour—reflects our passion for world-class athleticism and our commitment to hosting top-tier sporting events.

Whether you are a first-time visitor or a returning friend, I encourage you to enjoy everything Long Beach has to offer—from our vibrant waterfront and diverse culinary scene to our welcoming community spirit.

Best wishes to all the sailors, teams, and fans for an exciting and successful Congressional Cup!

Sincerely,

Rex Richardson
Mayor of Long Beach



Dear Sailors, Guests, and Spectators

Welcome to Long Beach and to the incredible tradition of the Congressional Cup. As the Councilmember for District 3, I'm proud to welcome you to a community that truly embraces its waterfront, its history, and the spirit of competition that defines this world-class event.

Each year, the Congressional Cup brings together some of the best sailors from around the globe, and there's no better place to host it than here in Long Beach where our coastline, our people, and our passion for the ocean come together in a way that is uniquely special.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the opportunity to watch the races from Belmont Veterans Memorial Pier. It's one of the best vantage points in the city, and a reminder of how accessible and welcoming this event is to residents and visitors alike.

While you're here, I hope you'll spend time exploring Naples and Belmont Shore. Our local businesses, many of them small, family-owned, and deeply rooted in the community, are ready to welcome you. Whether it's a meal after a day on the water or a stroll along 2nd Street, you'll experience the pride we have in our neighborhoods.

Long Beach has a long and meaningful connection to the water, and events like the Congressional Cup continue that legacy while bringing our community together. Thank you for being part of it.

Wishing you fair winds, great racing, and a memorable stay in Long Beach.

Sincerely,

Councilmember Kristina Duggan

Race Committee: Course Management



RANDY SMITH Principal Race Officer

Randy, a member of LBYC since 1992, has been involved with Congressional Cup continually since 1990 as a sailor (5 times), Event Chairman/Co-Chair (twice), Umpire (4 times), and this will be his twelfth year as the Principal Race Officer.

Certified by US Sailing as a National Race Officer, National Judge, and National Umpire, Randy works throughout the year at many national and international events, including PRO for the World Match Racing Tour Finals in Shenzhen, China in 2023 and 2024, the 2024 US Olympic Trials as a Judge, and a Race Officer for LA28 preliminary events on the Long Beach/LA Harbor Olympic Sailing venue.

PRO	Randy Smith
Deputy PRO	Michelle Blackmore
Timer	Laurel Seibert
Stats/Flags	David Murray
Flags	Mary Beth Ives
Scoring	Kelly Johnson
Repair Radio Comms/Flags	Doug Bower
Ride-Along/Videographers Controller	Todd Leuthauser
Pin Mark Set	Katie Scott, JR Young
Weather Mark Set	Robin Townsend, Chuck Tripp
Bosun/Repair	Heinz Butner

Race Committee manages the race, sets marks, conducts starts, records finishes, and ensures fair and safe competition.

LONG BEACH YACHT CLUB

WHAT DO THE RACE COMMITTEE FLAGS MEAN?

The Race Committee will start the racing only after it has decided there is enough wind, the wind direction is stable enough for fair competition, and all racing marks are in their proper locations. Through a sequence of sound signals and flags, the Race Committee communicates with the race boats telling them when to prepare for their respective starts.

Here's what to watch for, keeping in mind that — because this is match racing and there are 10 boats — there will be a sequence of five starts with two boats in each start. This sequence is called a "Flight."



FOR THE FIRST START IN A FLIGHT OF FIVE STARTS

◆ Start minus 11 minutes: 2 sound signals telling the skippers that racing is about to begin.



"F" Flag

◆ Start minus 7 minutes: the "F" flag is hoisted along with 1 sound signal.

◆ Start minus 06 minutes: the "F" flag is lowered.

◆ Start minus 05 minutes: a numerical pennant is hoisted denoting the pair racing (in this case, **Pennant "1"** for the first pair of racers).



Pennant 1



"P" Flag

◆ Start minus 04 minutes: the preparatory "P" flag is hoisted along with 1 sound signal, and the first 2 boats enter the starting area and begin their maneuvering in an attempt to gain the most advantageous start (the boat entering from the left side of the starting line has a blue flag on its backstay, and the boat entering from the right

side has a yellow flag on its backstay).

◆ Start at 0 minutes: all flags come down and the starting sound signal is given.

If a boat is over the starting line early, the Race Committee displays a blue or yellow flag denoting the boat, along with 1 sound signal.

FOR THE FOLLOWING FOUR STARTS IN THE FLIGHT

The sequence repeats for each subsequent pair of boats at the Start Minus 05 Minute point, beginning with **Pennant "2"** and continuing with **Pennants "3," "4," and "5"** until all boats have been started for the flight.



Pennant 2



Pennant 3



Pennant 4



Pennant 5

Abandonment Flag

If the race, or racing, must be abandoned, the Abandonment Flag is hoisted.



Postponement Flag

If the racing must be postponed, but is likely to resume later in the day, the Postponement Flag is hoisted.



Umpires Get Close to the Action

Craig Mitchell	IU/IJ	GBR
Svenja Huensch	IU/IJ	GER
Juuso Leivonen	IU/IJ	FIN
John Busch	IU	USA
Sandy Grosevenor	IU/IJ	USA
John Christman	IU	USA
Mark Townsend	IU/IJ	USA
Dave Pyron	IU	CAN
Kathy Lindgren	IU/IJ	USA
Kevin Hawkins	IU/IJ	USA
Katie Maxim	IU/IJ	USA
Colleen Cooke	NU/NJ	USA
Steve Meyer	Pier Umpire	
Kirk Brown	Media Umpire	
Cheri Busch	Umpire Secretary	

CRAIG MITCHELL Chief Umpire



Craig is from the UK and has been involved in sailing for most of his life. He raced dinghies on the reservoirs and lakes in the north of England as a child before heading to University in Southampton on the south coast where he continued racing in dinghies, small keelboats, and offshore at national and international levels.

Employment with World Sailing saw him become involved in race management. He was appointed as an International Umpire in 2004, before joining the World Match Racing Tour as Race Director where he oversaw more than 50 Grade 1 match racing events.

Craig has been involved in umpiring at the America's Cup since 2007 and was appointed as the Chief Umpire for SailGP in 2021.

An umpire functions as a race official by applying the rules of match racing to racing situations, primarily on the water, as situations occur to resolve rules issues.

UMPIRE FLAGS

When the boats are on opposite tacks, the port boat must keep clear of the starboard boat. The tack a boat is on corresponds to her windward side. If the boats are on the same tack and overlapped, the windward boat (closest to the wind) must keep clear.

Umpires follow each pair and make instant penalty decisions. A green and white flag means "no penalty," but a yellow or blue flag means the boat in the match with the corresponding flag on the back of their boat must take a penalty before finishing.

A penalty turn on a boat to windward is a 270 degree turn that includes a jibe and coming to a close hauled course. A penalty turn on a leeward leg is a 270 degree turn that includes a tack and coming to a downwind course.

Umpires work in pairs positioned close to the action so they see incidents accurately. They call these incidents as they happen and signal a decision when required.



BLUE FLAG

When flown by umpire.
Penalty signal from umpires or premature start (from race committee) on blue-flagged boat (flag on backstay).



YELLOW FLAG

When flown by umpire.
Penalty signal from umpires or premature start (from race committee) on yellow-flagged boat (flag on backstay).



PROTEST FLAG

(Code Y Flag)
Protest flag flown by competitor.
A competitor requests a decision from the on-water umpires believing a rule has been broken.



GREEN & WHITE FLAG

Flown by umpire.
An umpire signaling that there isn't any penalty "NO PENALTY" to action.



RED FLAG

Flown by umpire.
An umpire signaling the Red Flag together with Blue or Yellow Flag; indicates that boat must perform a penalty turn immediately.



BLACK FLAG

Flown by umpire.
An umpire signaling the Black Flag together with Blue or Yellow Flag indicates that the boat is disqualified from the match in progress.

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A Long Beach Tradition

The Port of Long Beach has been a community partner for over a century. We're pleased to support another community partner, the Long Beach Yacht Club and the Congressional Cup.



The Match Race Course

The **Start/Finish Line** for each match is between a flag on the **Race Committee Signal Vessel** and a **buoy off of its port** (or left) side. The Race Committee tries to set the race course so that **Mark W** is directly upwind from the Start/Finish Line. After some pre-start maneuvering, the race boats cross the Start Line and sail at an angle to the wind to Mark W.

As they pass Mark W, keeping it on their starboard (or right) side, the boats turn so that the wind is behind them and raise their spinnakers (the big colorful sails with the sponsor logos on them). The boats then sail downwind and go through the Gate formed by two buoys. They take down their spinnakers as they approach the Gate and turn either left or right through the Gate and head back upwind again to Mark W. As they pass Mark W on their starboard (or right) side again, they turn downwind, raise their spinnakers and sail directly to the Finish Line.

Sometimes, particularly if the wind is very light, the Race Committee may signal the boats to go around the course only once in which case they go around **Mark W** only one time and sail directly to the Finish Line ignoring the Gate.

MARK SET BOTS



For the first time in Congressional Cup history, Long Beach Yacht Club is using robotic buoys as marks on the race course. Mark set “bots” replace traditional inflatable anchored marks

with precise, GPS-controlled floating markers. The Race Committee sends instructions to each bot as to where it should be on the race course via an app on an electronic device. Each bot goes to its assigned position and stays there until it is instructed to move. Some of the bots have sensors on them that constantly report changing wind speed and direction data to the Race Committee. This allows the Race Committee to adjust the race course easily as wind and tide conditions shift. Bots provide consistent mark placement accuracy that enhances fairness, streamline race management, and reduce the time required to adjust race course marks manually.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Want to take a deeper dive on match racing rules and strategies? There are articles on our website that go into much more detail at www.thecongressionalcup.com.



START / FINISH LINE

RACE COMMITTEE
SIGNAL VESSEL



MARK W



GATE



★ CHRIS POOLE



RIPTIDE RACING
World Sailing Ranking: 1

YACHT CLUB:
Seawanhaka Corinthian
Yacht Club
U.S.A.

CHRIS POOLE returns for his eighth Congressional Cup, already holding two Crimson Blazers following his back-to-back victories in 2023 and 2024. His 24-0 record in 2023 remains an unprecedented sweep in the event's history.

Chris began sailing in the Optimist class in Falmouth, Maine at age ten. He diversified his racing skills at Maine Maritime Academy where he began honing his match racing skills. He interned at the Chicago Match Race Center in 2011 and finished second in his first match race, an early marker of his rapid rise.

In 2024, Chris became the first American skipper to win the GKSS Match Cup in Marstrand, Sweden, one of match racing's most historically significant regattas. He also placed first in the 2024 U.S. Match Racing Grand Slam series winning three of the four events and was nominated for the 2024 US Sailing Rolex Yachtsman of the Year. In January 2026, Chris was awarded overall 2025 World Match Racing Tour Points Champion for the second consecutive year.

Crew: Joachim Aschenbrenner, Bernardo Freitas, Mal Parker, Lars-Peter Rosendahl, and Harry West

★ COLE TAPPER



KAIROS RACING
World Sailing Ranking: 3

YACHT CLUB:
Cruising Yacht Club of Australia
Australia

COLE TAPPER returns for his third Congressional Cup after a third-place podium finish in 2025.

Cole discovered his passion for sailing in an Optimist at his local club. His sailing journey was kickstarted when he was selected for the New South Wales Optimist team and represented Australia at the Asian and European Championships. Graduating to the 420 and Nacra classes, he had podium finishes in both classes competing nationally and internationally. He was a runner-up at the 2023 Youth Match Racing World Championship on Sydney Harbour, followed by a dominant victory at the 2024 Championship in Jeddah, sweeping finals series 3-0. In the U.S., Cole captured the Governor's Cup in 2024, memorably overturning a 0-2 deficit to win the final 3-2, and successfully defended the title in 2025.

In 2024, Cole was named skipper of Team Andoo Australia Challenge at the UniCredit Youth America's Cup in Barcelona, racing the AC40 foiling class. The team reached the semi-finals and finished fifth overall, reinforcing Cole's standing as a leading talent in Australia's next generation of elite sailors.

Crew: Max Brennan, Jack Frewin, Nathan Guliksen, George Richardson, Hamish Vass, and Jordon Reece (Coach)

★ JOHNIE BERTTSSON



BERTTSSON SAILING TEAM
World Sailing Ranking: 2

YACHT CLUB:
GKSS
Sweden

JOHNIE BERTTSSON returns to Long Beach for his seventeenth Congressional Cup. He earned the Crimson Blazer for his first-place finish in 2009 and has placed second four times. He and his crew are easily recognized by their signature orange sailing gear.

Johnie began sailing at age nine in an Optimist dinghy. By age twelve, he had transitioned to keelboats and steadily expanded his competitive horizons from local Swedish waters to the European circuit. His early breakthrough victories included the Scandinavian Championship in 2008, followed by a landmark 2009 season in which he captured both the European Match Racing Championship and The Congressional Cup. In recognition of his achievements, the Swedish Sailing Federation named Johnie and his team "Swedish Sailors of the Year" in 2011.

Johnie has demonstrated his consistency and excellence in competition at the highest levels over a three-decade match racing career. A five-time winner of the Bermuda Gold Cup (King Edward VII Gold Cup), his 2023 triumph was particularly dominant finishing the regatta undefeated at 11-0 despite weather-shortened racing.

Crew: Martin Krite, Johan Bäckman, Björn Lundgren, Henrik Walderyd, and Daniel Wallberg

★ IAN GARRETA



MED RACING
World Sailing Ranking: 4

YACHT CLUB:
Saint Tropez Yacht Club
France

IAN GARRETA is a rising French match racing skipper who has rapidly established himself among the sport's top emerging talents on the international stage. He is back for his second Congressional Cup after placing seventh in 2025.

Ian began sailing at the age of ten at the Saint-Tropez Yacht Club in southeastern France. After several years competing in multihulls and the 420 class, he transitioned to match racing in 2021, where he quickly made his mark in both national and international youth events.

Ian and his team soon stepped up to compete successfully in open competition winning the EUROSAF Match Racing Open European Championship in 2023 and successfully defending the title in 2024. His continued strong performances throughout the 2024 season propelled him to fourth place in the world rankings. He delivered a standout performance at the 2025 World Match Racing Tour Final in Shenzhen, where he led the round-robin stage and ultimately finished fourth overall against the world's top-ranked skippers.

Crew: Calixte Benoit, Simon Bertheau, Thibaut Demal, Pierre Garreta, Gauthier Germain, and Vicenç Girodeau

★ AURÉLIEN PIERROZ



MATCH AGAIN BY NET
World Sailing Ranking: 5

YACHT CLUB:
Société des Régates du Havre
France

AURÉLIEN PIERROZ is making his first appearance as a skipper in The Congressional Cup after just missing qualification in 2025, finishing fourth at the Ficker Cup.

Aurélien grew up sailing on the Normandy coast of France and began racing in the Optimist class before progressing to Lasers. In 2016, he joined the Normandy Inshore Program in Le Havre, where he transitioned into match racing on keelboats and quickly established himself as one of France's rising match racing talents. Alongside his match racing career, Aurélien also competed in the Diam24 trimaran circuit during the prestigious Tour de France à la Voile, helping his crew claim overall victory in 2021.

Now competing regularly on the World Match Racing Tour, Aurélien has established himself among the sport's leading international skippers ranked among the top five match race skippers in the World Sailing rankings. A career highlight came with a third-place finish at the 2024 WMRT Final in Shenzhen, the championship event of the Tour.

Crew: Sebastien Riot, Aurélien Barthelemy, Paul Dagault, Camille Pfaff, Jules Ducelier, and Hugo Feydit

★ CHRISTIAN PRENDERGAST



THE A TEAM
World Sailing Ranking: 10

YACHT CLUB:
Chicago Yacht Club
U.S.A.

CHRISTIAN PRENDERGAST makes his Congressional Cup debut as one of the youngest competitors in the fleet and a rising talent on the World Match Racing Tour.

Hailing from Chicago, USA, Christian burst on the match racing scene winning the Chicago Yacht Club US Match Race Qualifier in 2024 and 2025 and the 2025 U.S. Match Racing Grand Slam series. That performance earned an invitation to compete in the 2025 World Match Racing Tour Final in Shenzhen, China where Christian led his qualifying group on the event's opening day against a highly competitive fleet of top-ranked professional skippers. He recently placed fourth in the opening event of the 2026 World Match Racing Tour.

In addition to his competitive achievements, Christian has demonstrated problem-solving skills and collaborative leadership through roles with One United Sailing contributing to sail training and safety initiatives. In addition to his sailing pursuits, Christian has experience with AutoCAD and Python and also works as a ski instructor.

Crew: Sam Gilmour, Connor Mashlan, Peter Nicholas, James Prendergast, Mark Spearman, and Justin Wong

★ JEPPE BORCH



BORCH MATCH RACE TEAM
World Sailing Ranking: 6

YACHT CLUB:
Royal Danish Yacht Club
Denmark

JEPPE BORCH is competing in his fourth Congressional Cup having placed second in 2023 and fifth in 2022 and 2024. He comes to Congressional Cup ranked first on the 2026 World Match Racing Tour leaderboard after winning the Macao Match Cup, the opening event of the 2026 Tour.

Jeppe developed a passion for sailing at an early age in dinghy racing. He won multiple national championships in the Optimist, Laser, and 29er classes, along with several international titles, establishing himself as one of Denmark's leading youth sailors. Building on this foundation, Jeppe transitioned into keelboat racing and match racing, where his ability to combine tactical awareness, boat-handling skills, and strategic decision-making has allowed him to compete consistently at the highest levels of the discipline.

Among his most notable international results are a gold medal at the 2021 Open Polish Match Racing Championship, a silver medal at the 2021 French International Match Racing Championship, and a bronze medal at the 2022 EUROSAF Match Racing Open European Championship. Jeppe's proven record of success from youth classes through elite match racing, has made him a role model for aspiring sailors and a key figure in Danish sailing.

Crew: Bastian Beach, August de la Cour, Thomas Jorgensen, Matias Rossing, and Gustav Wantzin

★ ERIC MONNIN



SWISS MATCH RACING TEAM
World Sailing Ranking: 11

YACHT CLUB:
Segel Club Staefa
Switzerland

ERIC MONNIN is one of Switzerland's leading match racing skippers and a long-standing competitor on the World Match Racing Tour. He has always finished in the top 20 since joining the Tour in 2006. Eric is back in Long Beach for his twelfth Congressional Cup defending a first-place finish in 2025 that earned him his first prestigious Crimson Blazer.

Eric began sailing at the age of six aboard his family's Surprise keelboat, similar to a J/24, and later competed in the Optimist, Laser, and 470 dinghy classes. Match racing has always been a family pursuit, with Eric sailing alongside his father, two brothers, and now his wife. His crew list for 2026 again has a surprising number of Monnins.

Eric holds a PhD in physics and works as an engineer when not racing, bringing a uniquely analytical mindset to match racing. Renowned for his technical precision and consistency, he has established himself as one of the world's top monohull match racing specialists

Crew: Julien Falxa, Maxime Mesnil, Jean Claude Monnin, Marc Monnin, Ute Monnin Wagner, and Cyril Schüpbach

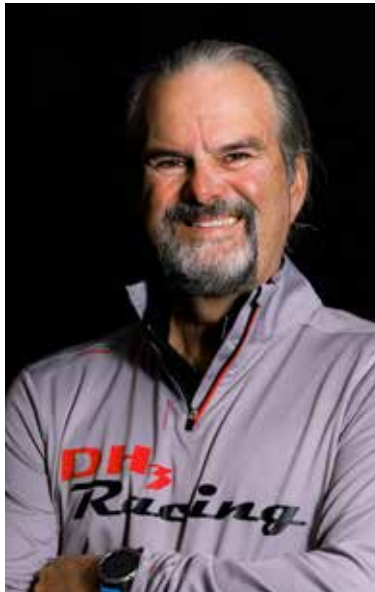
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DAVID HOOD III MEMORIAL FLEET RACE



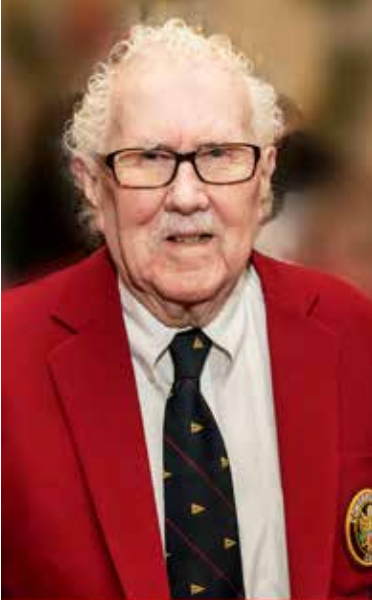
The Congressional Cup Fleet Race is now named in honor of **DAVID HOOD III**, 2016 Long Beach Yacht Club Commodore and World Match Racing Tour skipper, who passed away from cancer in July of last year, just months after an impressive fourth-place finish at the 60th Congressional Cup.

Held on the last day of Congressional Cup, the Fleet Race gives the skippers and crews who are not participating in the semifinals a chance to race for a \$1,500 purse. A perpetual trophy for the David Hood III Memorial Fleet Race has been created symbolizing Dave's enduring connection to the sport and the Club.

A successful investor and businessman, Dave did not know much about sailing when he joined LBYC in 2000. After learning to sail on the Catalina 37s and competing in the Club's iconic Wet Wednesday races, he quickly developed a passion for the sport and a drive to excel. He went on to accumulate an impressive record on the Catalina 37s, becoming an eight-time Club Champion, a two-time LBYC Yachtsman of the Year and a five-time Class/National Champion.

Dave extended his success to the international stage with his DH3 Racing team on the World Match Racing Tour. He finished 8th in 2022, 12th in 2023, and 5th in 2024. He skippered in six Ficker Cups and four Congressional Cups, earning the respect of competitors worldwide. He also coached through outreach sailing programs that supported disadvantaged youth, veterans, fire/police, and corporate team building events. He was a leader and inspiration to many others.

REMEMBERING DICK SEWARD



HONORARY CRIMSON BLAZER AWARDEE DICK SEWARD – widely regarded as the longest serving and oldest volunteer in Congressional Cup history – passed away peacefully on January 23, 2026, at the age of 95. Last year, he was presented with his Crimson Blazer in honor of his extraordinary contributions to Congressional Cup and the sport of match racing.

Dick began his Congressional Cup involvement in 1977 on the Boat Equalization Committee, which worked to ensure that borrowed boats performed as uniformly as possible. Over the decades, he served in numerous leadership roles, but his most significant and lasting contribution came in 1990 when, as Chairman of the Congressional Cup, Dick introduced the new Catalina 37 One Design – still the class used in the 2026 event.

Working alongside fellow Long Beach Yacht Club members, Dick collaborated closely with Catalina Yachts founder Frank Butler and designer Gerry Douglas to develop the new fleet. The result was eleven identical boats built to precise performance specifications specifically for match racing. The introduction of the Catalina 37s eliminated the need for boat equalization and fundamentally changed the sport.

Two years later Dick played a key role in facilitating Catalina Yachts' donation of the fleet to The Long Beach Sailing Foundation which continues to steward the boats for Congressional Cup, as well as numerous regattas, educational initiatives, and community programs.

Among Dick's many other contributions are the commemorative pins created annually since 1989, enlargement of the Congressional Cup trophy base to accommodate additional winners' plaques, and the introduction of the Crimson Blazer itself.



Awarded to distinguished yachtsmen who, in the unanimous opinion of the Crimson Blazer Committee, have contributed exceptionally to the advancement of competitive yacht racing and the success of Congressional Cup.

Henry H. Anderson, Jr. *	Barney Flam *
F. Gregg Bemis *	Cy Gillette *
Kirk Brown	Andrew Gram II *
Frank Butler *	Pete Ives *
Gordon M. Curtis, Jr. *	Gary Jobson
William T. Dalessi *	Arthur Knapp, Jr.*
Gerry Douglas	Julian K. Roosevelt *
Thomas Fisher *	Dick Seward *



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*deceased



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Watch for the Right of Way Rules

While there are other rules that govern the movement of boats in a match race, these are four key “right-of-way” rules to watch for:



- **Port keeps clear of Starboard** – a boat with the wind coming over its starboard (or right) side has the right-of-way and a boat with the wind coming over its port (or left) side must stay clear.

- **Windward keeps clear of Leeward when Overlapped** – if boats are overlapped on the same tack (the wind is coming over the same side of both boats), the boat that is leeward (farther from the wind) has right of way and the windward (closer to the wind) boat must keep clear.



- **Astern keeps clear when not Overlapped** – if boats are on the same tack but not overlapped, the boat astern (behind) must keep clear of the boat that is ahead.

- **Keep clear while Tacking or Gybing** – while a boat is tacking (the bow or front goes through the eye of the wind) or gybing (the stern or back goes through the eye of the wind) it must keep clear of the other boat; a boat cannot tack right in front of the other boat forcing it to change course.



The umpires on the water call penalties on boats that violate these rules (see “What Do Those Flags Mean?” on page 8 for a description of how that works).



Cheers to all 2026 Congressional Cup Race Teams!

lbsailingfoundation.org

The Long Beach Sailing Foundation is proud to be the steward of the Catalina 37s,
The official boat of Congressional Cup



Long Beach Sailing Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization formed in 1991 to own, manage, maintain and preserve our unique fleet of Catalina 37's. Contact us to make a tax deductible donation.

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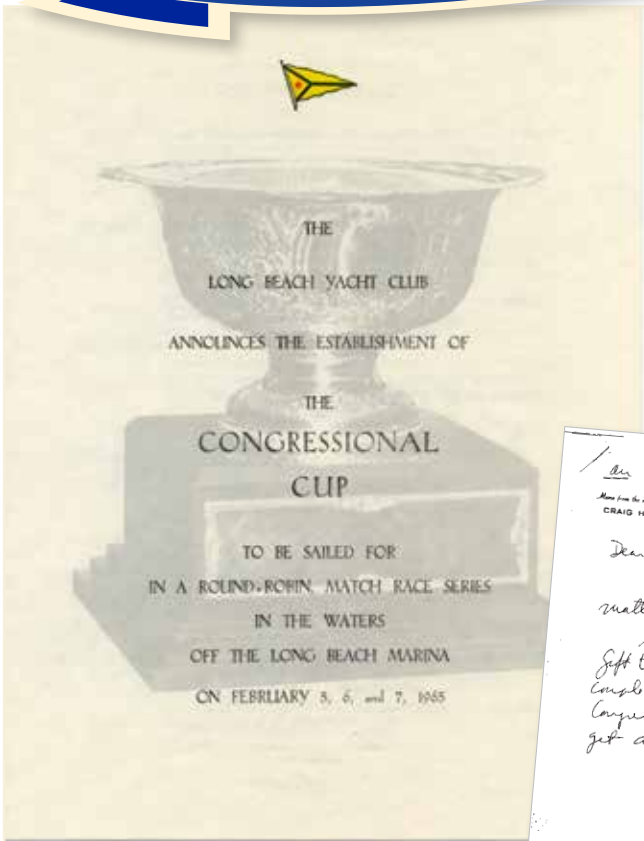
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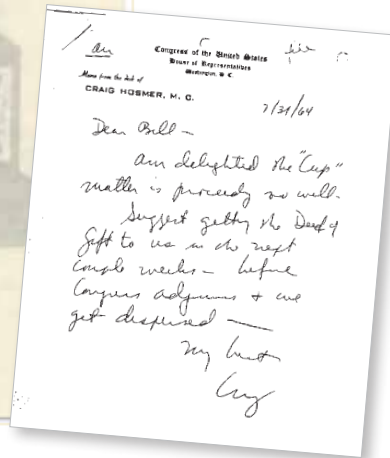
WHY IS THE REGATTA CALLED

"The Congressional Cup"?



In 1965, the Long Beach Yacht Club first asked then-President Lyndon Johnson for permission to call the trophy for its new regatta "The President's Cup". When he declined on the grounds that "Presidential" trophies should be limited to international yachting events, California Senator Thomas Kuchel and California Representative Craig Hosmer agreed to issue a Deed of Gift, personally typed on parchment paper by Congressman Hosmer, authorizing use of the name "The Congressional Cup" instead. Many similar trophies and events have been authorized by members of Congress. The "Congressional" label refers to who helped sponsor or

endorse the event rather than an official Act of Congress federally chartering or creating it.



FOR MORE INFORMATION: If you want to learn more about the history of the Congressional Cup and the Catalina 37 sailboats, check out the articles on our website at www.thecongressionalcup.com.



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Match Race Vocabulary

Astern Behind the boat.

Backing Pushing out a sail so the wind fills it from the opposite side. Used to slow a boat or turn the bow away from the wind.

Beating To sail upwind, close hauled, tacking to make way to the upwind mark.

Running Sailing downwind, with the wind behind you (i.e. Sailing with the wind).

Bow The forward part of a boat, the pointy end.

Clear Astern One boat is clear astern of another when her hull and equipment in normal position are behind a line abeam from the aftermost point of the other boat's hull and equipment in normal position. The other boat is clear ahead.

Clear Ahead When one boat is clear astern, the other is clear ahead.

Close-Hauled Sailing as close to the wind as possible.

Keep Clear A boat keeps clear of a right-of-way boat. Clear astern must keep clear of the clear ahead boat, windward must keep clear of leeward boat when overlapped, and port tack must keep clear of starboard tack boat.

Right-of-Way The boat either clear ahead, or to leeward if overlapped, or on starboard if on opposite tacks.

Luff or Luffing When a sail is waving back and forth as the sail is "eased" out too much or the boat is heading into the wind, the sail is said to be luffing, like a flag flying in

the breeze. When a boat turns its bow toward the wind the boat is said to be luffing.

Overlapped The boats are overlapped when neither is clear astern. When two boats are on the same tack and overlapped, the one on the leeward side of the other is the leeward boat. The other is the windward boat. Windward boat must keep clear of a leeward boat.

Windward A boat's windward side is the side that is toward the wind.

Leeward A boat's leeward side is the side that is away from the wind.

Jibe Turning the boat away from the wind so the stern passes through the wind and the sail switches sides.

Tacking Turning the boat into the wind so the bow passes through the eye of the wind and the sail switches sides.

Starboard Refers to the right side of the boat. A boat is on a "starboard tack" when the wind is on its starboard side (coming over the right side of the boat).

Port Refers to the left side of the boat. A boat is on a "port tack" when the wind is on its port side (coming over the left side of the boat).

Give-Way The boat which must alter course to avoid another boat, the burdened boat in the Rules of the Road.

Zone The area around a mark within a distance of two boat lengths of the boat nearest to it. A boat is in the zone when any part of her hull is in the zone.



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On behalf of the Congressional Cup Sponsorship Team, Congressional Cup Executive Committee, and the members of Long Beach Yacht Club, we thank our sponsors for partnering with Long Beach Yacht Club and supporting the 2026 Congressional Cup Regatta.

This event would not be a success without the generous and unwavering support you have provided. We deeply appreciate your sponsorship that has helped us to grow Congressional Cup into one of the premier sailing championships in the world.



Club 100 continues to lead the way in Member Sponsorship. With over 17 years in the making our members have raised well over \$300,000 in support of the Catalina 37s and Congressional Cup.

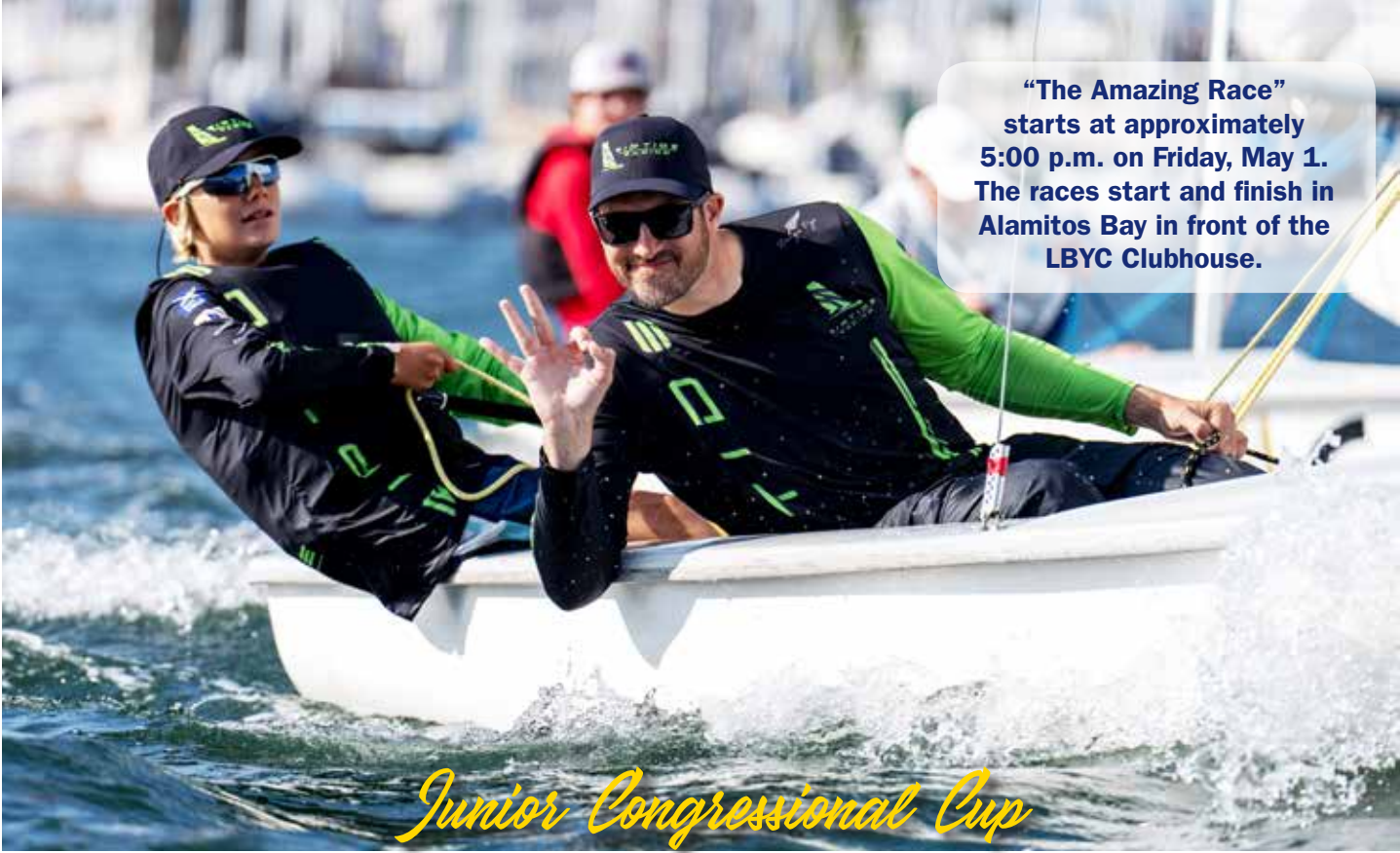
Club 100 is an exclusive group of LBYC members who believe in all the benefits the global recognition of Congressional Cup brings to Long Beach Yacht Club.

We give a special thanks to our "Club 100" members. As individuals, they're Long Beach Yacht Club Members, together we make a sustainable driving force in what makes Congressional Cup is one of the premier sailing championships in the world.



2026 CONGRESSIONAL CUP

“The Amazing Race” starts at approximately 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1. The races start and finish in Alamitos Bay in front of the LBYC Clubhouse.



Junior Congressional Cup

A tradition at Long Beach Yacht Club since 2010, the Junior Congressional Cup pairs our Congressional Cup skippers with talented junior sailors, male and female. In this regatta, however, the juniors take the helm and the ConCup skippers are their crew for a short series of fleet races on 13-foot CFJ – Club Flying Junior – dinghies. This pairing gives the young competitors rare, hands-on

exposure to top-tier sailing strategies and mentorship by some of the best sailors in the world.

While it is all for fun, both the young skippers and their elite crew are competitors at heart who want the honor of being first to finish in the Junior Congressional Cup. The result is a regatta defined by relentless competition and the search for the best performance.

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YEAR SKIPPER, COUNTRY

1965 Gerry Driscoll, USA

1966 Gerry Driscoll, USA

1967 Scott Allan, USA

1968 Skip Allan, USA

1969 Henry Sprague, USA

1970 Argyle Campbell, USA

1971 Tommy Pickard, USA

1972 Argyle Campbell, USA

1973 Dennis Conner, USA

1974 Bill Ficker, USA

1975 Dennis Conner, USA

1976 Dick Deaver, USA

1977 Ted Turner, USA

1978 Dick Deaver, USA

1979 Dennis Durgan, USA

1980 Dennis Durgan, USA

1981 Rod Davis, USA

1982 Scott Perry, USA

1983 Dave Perry, USA

1984 Dave Perry, USA

1985 Rod Davis, USA

1986 Harold Cudmore, Ireland

1987 Edward Owen, United Kingdom

1988 Peter Gilmour, Australia

1989 Rod Davis, New Zealand

1990 Chris Dickson, New Zealand

1991 Chris Dickson, Japan

1992 Terry Hutchinson, USA

1993 Rod Davis, New Zealand

1994 Chris Law, United Kingdom

1995 Harold Cudmore, Ireland

1996 Gavin Brady, New Zealand

1997 Gavin Brady, New Zealand

1998 Peter Holmberg, US Virgin Islands

1999 Peter Holmberg, US Virgin Islands

2000 Dean Barker, New Zealand

2001 Peter Holmberg, US Virgin Islands

2002 Peter Holmberg, USA

2003 Ken Read, USA

2004 Ed Baird, USA

2005 Dean Barker, New Zealand

2006 Gavin Brady, Hong Kong

2007 Mathieu Richard, France

2008 Gavin Brady, USA

2009 Johnnie Berntsson, Sweden

2010 Francesco Bruni, Italy

2011 Ian Williams, United Kingdom

2012 Ian Williams, United Kingdom

2013 Simone Ferrarese, Italy

2014 Taylor Canfield, US Virgin Islands

2015 Taylor Canfield, US Virgin Islands

2016 Taylor Canfield, US Virgin Islands

2017 Ian Williams, United Kingdom

2018 Taylor Canfield, USA

2019 Ian Williams, United Kingdom

2020 No race

2021 Taylor Canfield, US Virgin Islands

2022 Ian Williams, United Kingdom

2023 Chris Poole, USA

2024 Chris Poole, USA

2025 Eric Monnin, Switzerland

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