

Description of MBL Divisions

The Mass Bay League consists of over 30 teams varying widely in the nature of their programs, the experience and skill of their sailors, the history and continuity of their team and coaching staffs, and their competitive aspirations. Historically, the league has accommodated these differences by having 3 divisions, each with differing characteristics. As teams and the league evolve over time, we can benefit from a clear description of the characteristics of the divisions so that we can provide guidelines for each team and consider changes in division and subdivision delineation. For the league as a whole, these descriptions, along with defined expectations, help us to establish the best divisional fit for each team.

C Division

The C Division consists of teams based at Community Boating that compete only in fleet racing according to a schedule determined by CBI.

B Division(s)

B Division season competition is comprised of team racing. While each team is unique, B Division teams typically can be described in one or more of the following ways:

1. They have a preponderance of sailors who come to spring high school sailing with limited sailing experience and training, and limited racing experience. Many B Division teams have 1 – 3 sailors with more experience, but the primary focus of the teams is to develop basic sailing skills, develop fleet racing skills, and teach team racing concepts and skills. Teams need lots of practice time and focus on competition within the league and their division.
2. They may not share the goals of the regional (NESSA) and national (ISSA) organizations and do not wish to compete in that arena.
3. They have travel limitations, organizational and logistical difficulties, or venue access issues that limit their activities.

A Division(s)

Teams typically wish to compete at the highest level possible within the league and have interest in competing regionally in NESSA. A Division season competition is comprised of team racing. A preponderance of their sailors come to the spring season with significant fleet racing experience. Sailors have a command of the rules sufficient to team race successfully. After a couple of weeks of practice, their season consists of a greater ratio of competitions to practices than the other divisions have. Teams have a history of consistency in their organizations and continuity in the operation of their programs. Teams have a willingness to travel and an ability to host other teams.

Teams from all the divisions participate in fleet race events sponsored by the league throughout the season.

League Expectations

Membership in the league comes with a commitment to meet the requirements and expectations of (and established by) fellow league members. Teams that do not meet the expectations may be placed in a different division or may cease to be a member of the league. All teams must be committed to the goals of teaching good sportsmanship as well as sailing skills to our students and creating opportunities for more students to participate in the sport of sailing.

Expectations for Sportsmanship

Coaches must:

- Show respect for the league procedures for scheduling, both for season meets and fleet race regattas
- Coordinate with other coaches to schedule and meet logistical challenges
- Educate their own team to the league standards for sportsmanship and the requirements of RRS and ISSA Procedural Rules
- Impart an understanding to their teams of the optimal usage or avoidance of protests within competitions- when they are appropriate and when they diminish the racing experience.
- Assist in regatta management wherever useful, particularly at the Zimba Championship
- Show respect for sailors on opposing teams
- Adjudicate protests without prejudice, promoting sportsmanship and understanding of the rules
- Set a positive example for sailors

Sailors must:

- Show respect for all coaches, race management personnel, and venue staff
- Treat fellow competitors with respect
- Obey the Racing Rules of Sailing, especially in taking penalties for breaking a rule
- Avoid using protests as a tactic for success
- Be respectful of opponents in protests
- Accept the decision of protest committees
- Thank the Race Committee at the end of a race
- Show respect for the property and equipment of the host teams and venues
- Assist hosts in set up, rigging, de-rigging, and clean up
- Thank competitors for hosting or travelling

Divisional Expectations

Expectations for C Division teams

Administrative

- Attend annual meetings at least half the time
- Meet all the requirements of CBI

MBL Guidelines for Establishing Division Membership

Competitive

- Practice and fleet race in accordance with CBI schedule and format

Expectations for B Division teams

Administrative

- Attend annual meetings at least half the time
- Have a completed schedule before the end of January meeting. They may rely on other teams to schedule some of their meets.
- Be a NESSA member
- Pay dues on time (Do not get warning email for non-payment)

Competitive

- Sail all required division meets
- Sail 2 required out-of-division meets
- Register on time for events
- Arrive on time for events (by 4:00 for after school meets unless a different time is previously arranged)
- Be respected for sportsmanship by other MBL teams (No more than one complaint per year)
- Balance home and away meets every other year – (or a period of several years if they meet at a neutral site)

Expectations for A Division teams

Administrative

- Attend annual meetings at least two of every three years
- Do their own scheduling. Begin scheduling in the fall and complete schedule before the end of January meeting.
- Be a NESSA member
- Pay dues on time (Do not get warning email for non-payment)

Competitive

- Sail all required division meets
- Sail 3 required out of league meets
- Sail in O'Day
- Sign up so they will be Mark and Terk eligible
- Compete in A Division team race event (if invited – berths might be limited if A Division is too large) and at least one of these three regattas – Courageous, Sharon Invite, Freshman/Soph, Donald Green - or 3 out of 4 of the above regattas if not in the team race event
- Register on time for events
- Arrive on time for events (by 4:00 for after school meets unless a different time is previously arranged)

MBL Guidelines for Establishing Division Membership

- Do not withdraw from an event for which they registered more than once in three years
- Be respected for sportsmanship by other MBL teams (No more than one complaint per year)
- Balance home and away meets every other year – (or a period of several years if they meet at a neutral site)