



# Governor's Cup

## International Youth Match Racing Championship



July 29—August 3, 2025



Balboa Yacht Club  
Newport Beach, California  
U.S.A.



# The 58th Governor's Cup



James Spithill, Gavin Brady, Paul Cayard, John Kosteki, and more recently, Nick Egnot-Johnson, Harry Price, and defending champion Cole Tapper are only a very few of "GovCup" winners and crews that have distinguished themselves in the America's Cup, the Olympics, World Match Racing Tour and the Round the World Race. Three of the top ten WMRT skippers are GovCup "alumni".

What is the Governor's Cup? It is hosted by the Balboa Yacht Club in Newport Beach, California, and is the oldest and arguably the most prestigious youth match racing event in the world and is the first age-limited event to ever achieve Grade 1 status from World Sailing, granted in 2018 and qualified again in 2019.

In the new Youth Match Racing rankings from World Sailing, 6 of the top 10 are "GovCup" veterans and 4 of the 10 are expected to be here this year! You'd better be too!



GovCupTV's 30 strong volunteer team of Club members have raised the bar for live TV coverage of modern match racing. In 2024, including the ten live shows on Facebook and YouTube, the TV coverage delivered thousands of impressions in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Western Europe and, of course, the USA and Southern California. Coverage includes morning shows Wed-Sun, press conferences, and skipper interviews in the weeks before the Cup on Tom Ehman's *Sailing Illustrated* show which attracts a worldwide audience Tuesday & Fridays.



The Governor's Cup Selection Committee will select 12 skippers who submit a Request for Invitation ("RFI") by April 11, 2025. Decisions of the Selection Committee will be announced no later than April 25, 2025. Accomplished match racers are encouraged to file an RFI as soon as possible. The Selection Committee at any time after receipt of an RFI, may choose to invite sailors whose records clearly indicate that they are

## Getting Invited

among the world's top match racers, so early RFI submittal is encouraged. Skippers and crews must not have reached their 23rd birthday by August 3, 2025, the last day of the regatta. Crews will be 3 or 4 sailors with a combined weight of no more than 579lbs/262.5kg. The NOR, event brochure and RFI forms are posted on the Governor's Cup website (govcupracing.com). *Note RFI Deadline is April 11, 2025.*

For more information, see back page.

Balboa Yacht Club was organized in 1922 and has produced many champion sailors including Olympic medalists, world champions, and America's Cup sailors. It has three members of the United States National Sailing Hall of Fame and two that have been named Rolex U.S. Yachtsman of the Year. And, it boasts two former Youth MR World Champions, Jeffrey Petersen and David Wood.

BYC has always focused on youth sailing—and since 1967 with the "GovCup," match racing in particular. In 2010 some of its members founded the "Rose Cup" for US youth match racers and in 2015, it became the official US Youth MR Championship. Three members of BYC have won the Rose Cup.

The Club is located in Newport Harbor, the largest small boat harbor in the United States with over 9,000 boats. Racing will be held in the Pacific Ocean off the city. Summer conditions for the competition generally feature onshore winds of 6-15 knots with a light chop.

*Housing is provided by BYC for the competitors and the entry fee includes most meals!*



GovCup 22s ready for action at BYC



## The Boats

BYC and the Newport Balboa Sailing and Seamanship Association ("NBBSA") provide 12 "Governor's Cup 22" sloops for use by the competitors. The "purpose built" boats were designed by famed designer and former BYC commodore, Alan Andrews, and were launched in 2016.

They have proven to be one of the top boat types used in youth match racing worldwide. They feature TP 52 type "flat top" mainsails, masthead spinnakers and a modern "T Keel". They were specifically designed to be able to race fairly in very light breezes but also perform in 18-20 knots. According to many of the GovCup participants that have sailed them, the design brief was met!

## Schedule of Events

Balboa Yacht Club members put on quite a show for GovCup competitors, sponsors and fans. At right is a schedule of just a few of the week's events. From housing the competitors with Club families, to providing most meals with the cost covered by the entry fee, the GovCup "re-earns" its reputation each year as a "must do" event for youth match racers from around the world.

### Tuesday, July 29

- 1100-1200 Registration
- Lunch for Crews
- Practice sailing in Governor's Cup 22s
- Opening Dinner

### Wednesday, July 30

- 1st Race Day
- Crews invited to barbecue dinner

### Thursday, July 31

- 2nd Race Day
- Crews invited on big boat "BeerCan" race
- Crews invited to barbecue dinner

### Friday, August 1

- 3rd Race Day
- Free Night

Selected crew members will be interviewed on broadcast morning shows

### Saturday, August 2

- 4th Race Day; Semi-Final Races;
- Reception & Press Conference

### Sunday, August 3

- Final Race Day; Semi-Finals continue; Petit Final and Final Matches
- Press Conference & Trophy Reception

## Travel



Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) is about 45 miles northwest of BYC but the Orange County/John Wayne airport (SNA) is much more convenient and only about a 20 minute drive from the Club. International connections to SNA are numerous, but fares may be higher.

For those teams that expect to be invited to the Youth Match Racing World Championship in Poland and GovCup, you will have one travel day, Monday, July 28, in order to arrive at Gov Cup for registration, practice and the Opening Dinner on Tuesday, the 29th. We apologize for this but there was a conflict with World Sailing's scheduling of the Youth MR Worlds. Since the Polish OA for that event could not move its dates, our registration and practice day has been moved to Tuesday from its traditional Monday to allow for travel, and we trust that will work as it did in 2022,



- The Governor's Cup is an invitational event. Twelve or more teams will be selected and invited by the Governor's Cup Selection Committee.
- Crews may be composed of three or four persons with a maximum weight of 579 lbs/262.5kg.
- Skippers and crew must be under the age of 23 on August 3, 2025.
- The event will apply for Grade 3 status from World Sailing. However, the Cup may be re-graded based in large part on the quality of the competition. All skippers must have a World Sailing number in order to earn ranking points for the regatta. To register go to [www.sailing.org/isafsailor](http://www.sailing.org/isafsailor)
- The Committee may invite skippers whose records clearly indicate that they are among the world's top match racers (including former GovCup winners) at any time after such skipper files an RFI. **Skippers should submit their RFIS as soon as possible after the RFI is posted** and may be invited anytime thereafter at the discretion of the Committee.

## Regatta Information & Requesting an Invitation

- The winners of the 2025 U.S. Youth Match Racing Championship for the Rose Cup and the 2024 U.S. Intercollegiate MR Championship will also receive invitations if they have indicated a desire to sail in the Governor's Cup by filing a Request for Invitation ("RFI") for the Governor's Cup by the April 11 deadline. For information on the U.S. Youth Match Racing Championship for the Rose Cup, please go to:

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/championships/2025-u-s-youth-match-racing-championship/>

- Other than as noted above, invitees will be selected from among skippers submitting a complete RFI by the deadline of **Friday, April 11, 2025**. The selection will be designed to produce a diverse fleet of the best youth match racing talent worldwide. Invited skippers will be notified no later than **Friday, April 25, 2025**. Criteria considered by the Selection Committee are available on [govcupracing.com](http://govcupracing.com)
- All information necessary to prepare a Governor's Cup RFI, including the NoR, and forms, is available for download at [www.govcupracing.com](http://www.govcupracing.com) under "Race Documents". Potential entrants may also obtain a Request for Invitation package by telephoning the Club at the number below or sending an email to the email address also listed below.
- The entry fee is \$1,000 but covers almost all meals during the event. Housing is provided by BYC families.

### For More Information:

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Governor's Cup website is [www.govcupracing.com](http://www.govcupracing.com)

All photos in this brochure by  
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