



*Want to sail this close to the best young
match racing sailors in the world?*

57th **Governor's Cup**

International Youth Match Racing Championship
July 22-27, 2024

Balboa Yacht Club



Newport Beach, California



U.S.A.



The 57th Governor's Cup



James Spithill, Gavin Brady, Paul Cayard, John Kostecki, and more recently, Nick Egnot-Johnson, Harry Price, and defending champion Jeffrey Petersen 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 achieve Grade 1 status from World Sailing, granted in 2018 and qualified again in 2019. In 2023, crews from a record eight countries were represented

This year, 2022 World Youth Match Racing Champion, Jeffrey Petersen (USA) will be trying to become the first Governor's Cup skipper to win three times in the 57 years of the Cup. Many of last year's competitors in both the Youth MR Worlds and Governor's Cup are also eligible this year so the competition should again be excellent.

Photo Mary Longpre

Getting Invited

The Governor's Cup Selection Committee will select 12 skippers who submit a Request for Invitation ("RFI") by April 12, 2024. Decisions of the Selection Committee will be announced no later than April 26, 2024. 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 among the world's top match racers, so early RFI submittal is encouraged. Skippers and crews must not have reached their 23rd birthday by July 27, 2024, 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 12, 2024.**

For more information, see back page.

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.

Monday, July 22

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

Tuesday, July 23

- 1st Race Day
- Selected Crew Interview Availability
- Crew Dinner

Wednesday, July 24

- 2nd Race Day
- Crews invited to barbecue dinner

Thursday, July 25

- 3rd Race Day
- Crews invited on big boat "BeerCan" race
- BeerCan Barbecue

Friday, July 26

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

Saturday, July 27

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

Balboa Yacht Club celebrated its 100th Anniversary in 2022. It 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.

BYC, its members and staff look forward to carrying on a 57-year Governor's Cup tradition and welcoming the best young match racers in the world to the Club and to Newport Beach in July of this year.

BYC, the Boats, Housing, Hospitality



GovCup 22s ready for action at BYC

The Club is located in Newport Harbor, the largest small boat harbor in the United States with over 9,000 boats. The competitors will have the opportunity to race in the harbor if they wish by joining one of the big boats sailing in the summer "BeerCan Regatta" after the racing on Thursday. 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!

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 launched in 2016 and 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 have proven to be fast in light air and plane and surf in a breeze.

GovCupTV's 30 strong volunteer team of Club members have raised the bar for live TV coverage of modern match racing. In 2023, including our ten live shows on Facebook and YouTube with almost 10,000 views. All told, the TV coverage alone delivered tens of thousands of impressions in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Western Europe and, of course, the USA and Southern California. Coverage includes Skipper Interviews in the weeks before the Cup on Tom Ehman's *Sailing Illustrated* show which attracts a worldwide audience Tuesday & Fridays.

During "GovCup Week", live coverage includes: Monday Opening Dinner; Wed-Sat pre-race morning shows; all day racing coverage Friday and Saturday; and press conferences both of those days and the Saturday prize giving. Check out 2023 Final day coverage at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_HfRb6pVcgk



At left, 2023 Friday evening press conference with Tom Ehman, Andy Rose and competitors Marius Westerlind (SWE) & Jeffrey Petersen



At left, 2023 GovCup TV with screen shot from one of two drones (in addition to roving boat and base boat cameras and commentators).





- 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 (but see next sentence) and crew must be under the age of 23 on July 27, 2024.
- 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
- 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.

Regatta Information & Requesting an Invitation

- The winner of the 2024 U.S. Youth Match Racing Championship for the Rose Cup will also receive an invitation if he or she has indicated a desire to sail in the Governor's Cup by filing a Request for Invitation ("RFI") by the deadline. For information on the U.S. Youth Match Racing Championship for the Rose Cup, please go to:

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/championships/2024-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 12, 2024**. 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 26, 2024**. Criteria considered by the Selection Committee are available on 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 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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