



CLEAN REGATTAS BEST PRACTICES CHECKLIST

Our 25 Best Practices encapsulate everything you need to know in order to run a water-based event in the most sustainable way possible. With three sustainability indicators in each best practice, the certification system is based on 75-point system. Start by choosing a few Best Practices to focus on, and each year try incorporating a few more to reach new heights on the sustainability ladder.

Note: Don't try to do everything on the list all at once. Even the 34th America's Cup started at the Bronze Level before working their way up to Platinum.

NO TRASH

1. Assemble a Green Team

- ☐ Invite local environmental groups to help with the sustainability challenge.
- ☐ Create a dedicated team of volunteers/staff to assist liaison with running a Clean Regatta
- ☐ Identify Green Team to participants.

2. Good Waste Management

- ☐ Ensure that a Recycle and Compost bin (if applicable) are placed adjacent to all Landfill bins.
- ☐ Conduct a *Waste Audit* to determine what kind of waste your participants are primarily tossing.
- ☐ Educate staff and participants about what can be recycled versus composted or landfill.

3. Water Bottle Reduction

- ☐ 100% elimination of all single-use plastic water bottles at your event.
- ☐ 80% elimination of all single-use plastic water bottles at your event.
- ☐ Either provide or require participants to bring their own reusable water bottle.

4. Water Refilling Stations

- ☐ Make water coolers or water jugs available to refill water bottles on land.
- ☐ Provide water to participants out on the water via coach boats or designated water boats.
- ☐ Install permanent or semi-permanent water filtration systems.

5. Recycling

- ☐ Ensure 1:1 ratio of Landfill to Recycling bins.
- ☐ Divert 50% of all waste from entering the landfill.
- ☐ Hand out compostable bags to competitors to encourage recycling on the water.

6. Compost

- ☐ Ensure 1:1 ratio of Landfill to Compost bins.
- ☐ Divert all food scraps from landfill.
- ☐ Coordinate with outside group to collect food scraps or create a compost bin on site.

7. Paperless Regatta Management

- ☐ Use an online Regatta Management System to handle all electronic registration.

- ☐ Use 100% Post-Consumer Recycled Paper or FSC-certified paper. Ensure all printouts to be double-sided.
- ☐ Switch to a flat screen monitor or whiteboard to broadcast event results.

8. Responsible Dinnerware

- ☐ All single use dinnerware is recyclable or compostable. No Styrofoam.
- ☐ Eliminate straws.
- ☐ Eliminate 85% of single-use dinnerware, including plates, cups, and cutlery.

9. Regatta Awards

- ☐ Create or use a perpetual trophy.
- ☐ Award gear or usable items as trophies.
- ☐ Use sustainably sourced or upcycled items in the trophy creation process.

10. Trash Free Regatta

- ☐ Have Green Team and participants monitor event site and remove litter.
- ☐ DO NOT alter Rule 55 (Trash Disposal) from the ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing and remind sailors of this rule at skippers' meeting.
- ☐ Organize a beach or boatyard cleanup with volunteers and/or participants.

11. Eliminate Baggage

- ☐ Use reusable bags while shopping for event.
- ☐ Offer competitors reusable bags to hold event documents.
- ☐ Eliminate lunch bags or ensure that they are compostable.

NO TRAIL

12. Offer Sustainable Food

- ☐ Work with catering company to offer locally sourced or organic foods.
- ☐ Ensure that all seafood is sustainably sourced.
- ☐ Offer vegetarian alternatives to lower your menu's carbon footprint.

13. No Discharge

- ☐ Remind all participants in Notice of Race (NOR) and at skippers' meeting that sewage discharge is illegal.
- ☐ Coordinate to make sure that affordable or free pump-out services are available for all boats.
- ☐ Require and provide dye tablets for all participants' holding tanks.

14. Oil Spill Prevention

- ☐ Provide all motorboats with ONE bilge sponge and ONE fueling spill pad.
- ☐ Create "Safe Refueling Areas" and ensure proper training to all staff.
- ☐ Coordinate with nearby organizations or marinas to have emergency plan in case of large oil spill emergency.

15. Runoff Reduction

- ☐ Set up a rain barrel(s) to collect precipitation at your event.
- ☐ Reduce fertilizers and/ or pesticides on venue property.

- ☐ Discuss long-term solutions for reducing runoff at your venue.

16. Maintenance

- ☐ Ensure all fiberglass sanding/fairing be contained and collected.
- ☐ Provide secure and enclosed location for all boat maintenance.
- ☐ Do not allow boats with bottom paint to scrub while in the water.

17. Toxic-free cleaning

- ☐ Eliminate the use of any harmful cleaning products at event site.
- ☐ Suggest a “Water Only Washdown” protocol for boats at your event.
- ☐ Require use of nontoxic cleaning products.

18. Bottom Paint Education

- ☐ Include information about the ecological threats posed by copper-based bottom paint.
- ☐ Provide coupon for copper-free bottom paint to your participants.
- ☐ Ensure that all race committee boats use copper-free bottom paint.

NO TRACE

19. Responsible Signage

- ☐ Make sure all waste bins are clearly marked RECYCLING, COMPOST, or LANDFILL.
- ☐ Reuse signage year after year.
- ☐ Make sure all signage is made from fabric or sustainably sourced material, not PVC.

20. Efficient Power Boats

- ☐ Replace any two-stroke engines with more fuel-efficient four-stroke engines.
- ☐ Invest in fuel-efficient rigid inflatable boats (RIBs) instead of fiberglass.
- ☐ Limit number of crashboats on racecourse by having coaches “carpool” with each other.

21. Sustainable Energy Sources

- ☐ Use biodiesel in any onsite generators, committee boats or race boats.
- ☐ Purchase renewable energy credits from electric company.
- ☐ Install solar panels or wind turbine onsite or aboard race boats.

22. Carbon Offsets

- ☐ Conduct an energy audit of your venue.
- ☐ Invest, find sponsorship or collect donations to offset full or part of your events carbon dioxide emissions.
- ☐ Track participant travel and include in calculation of carbon footprint.

23. Promote Alternative Transportation

- ☐ Provide secure bike racks to promote bicycling.
- ☐ Encourage public transportation, carpool, or hybrid cars to/from event in all print/online communications.
- ☐ Give a parking discount or VIP parking spots for participants who carpool or drive hybrids.

24. Collect Sustainability Metrics

- ☐ 100% metric collection for available Best Practices.
- ☐ 75% metric collection for available Best Practices.
- ☐ 25% metric collection for available Best Practices.

25. Public Engagement

- ☐ Promote Clean Regattas involvement on your regatta's website, sailing instructions and at the skippers meeting.
- ☐ Share Sailors for the Sea ocean conservation message with competitors and display sustainability signs throughout event.
- ☐ Promote Clean Regattas to media through press releases, social media and in news stories.

Bonus Point Opportunities – When an event goes above and beyond current Clean Regattas Best Practices, bonus points may be awarded on a case-by-case basis. Previous examples include: Green Boat Award, regatta clothing made from sustainable materials, and innovative reuse of materials.

Certification Qualifications

Upon final tally of best practices met, you may apply for certification at the following levels:

Best Practice Points Achieved	Level
75 out of 75 Sustainability Indicators	Platinum ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
19 out of 25 Best Practices	Gold ★ ★ ★ ★
13 out of 25 Best Practices	Silver ★ ★ ★
7 out of 25 Best Practices	Bronze ★ ★
<7 Best Practices	Participant ★

👉 **Note:** For any questions, please contact tyson@sailorsforthesea.org for more information.