

Portland Yacht Club 420 Race Team 2026: *Join us for 2026*



The Portland Yacht Club is excited to continue our growth and development of top-level sailing and race team programs. Our Optimist program has made great leaps, we are offering foiling lessons to Pram beginners, and our 420 Race Team, which won the Maine State 420 Championship this past summer, has its sights set on national-level regattas and attending triple-crown events.



We train in one of the most picturesque and beautiful places to sail on the east coast: Casco Bay Maine. Moreover, Portland Yacht Club is slated to be the host of next summer's big c420 event in the US, the 2026 c420 New England Championship! We plan to begin the season with that event, and then travel to the triple crown events and other top regattas as the schedule allows.

Why We Are Different

- Top-Level, professional, dedicated coaching, low student/teacher ratio (see coach Bios below).
- We own 6 top-level Simmons 420's with sails, so we have our own charter fleet, in-house. Options exist to join our team with your boat, or with one of our new boats (with sails).
- We are committed to excellence and individual sailor attention.
- Options for spending the summer here in Maine training in between regattas exist as well. Housing options possible.
- We offer **cross-training in the i420**, when and where appropriate. This will allow our teams to train specifically for the US Youth Championship, and more. PYC currently owns 3 i420 and these are available to PYC Race Team members.

Right now, we have 2-3 spaces open for teams to join our Race Team for travel events, and we anticipate that spaces will be claimed by those keen on training and next-level sailing. We also have the potential to match skippers with crews, and vice versa. For questions and an application, please reach out to Sailing Director/Coach Tom Sitzmann, 443.220.2089 or junior.director@pycme.net

RACE COACHES

MARTIN CLOOS Martin Cloos is an Argentine sailor and coach with over 10 years of experience. He has competed in Optimist, I420, Lightning, 470, and Etchells, among others, representing his country in world-class regattas. In his youth career, he competed in two Optimist World Championships, placed in the top 15 at the Optimist South American Championship, and won the I420 South American Championship. More recently, he transitioned to larger boats, including Lightning, Etchells, and 470, competing in the Olympic circuit this past year.

As a coach, Martin has worked with Optimist, ILCA, 29er, and 420 classes, training national and international teams. He has coached sailors from Ecuador, Argentina, and Mexico in International events such as the 2024 Optimist World Championship, 2023 WS Youth Worlds and the 2021, 2022, and 2023 South American Championships, among other major international competitions. Currently, he serves as the Youth National Coach for Argentina in the 420 class and will soon take on the role of Head Coach for the Mexico National Team.



TOM SITZMANN Tom Sitzmann is returning for his third season leading our PYC program. A lifelong sailor, educator, and coach, Tom Sitzmann has amassed a diverse range of sailing and professional experience in addition to excelling in one-design racing and professional sailing. A graduate of Tufts University, where he was a member of the ice hockey team, he served as a coach at both Tufts and Dartmouth College. He later coached sailing at the US Naval Academy and served as the Head Intercollegiate Coach at Bowdoin College. Currently the Head Coach at Severn School, Tom has led his teams to 12 National Championship podium finishes, earning six National Championship titles, including the 2023 Baker Team Race and 2008, 2024 Mallory Fleet Racing titles. In 2023 and based on their record, Severn School was named the US High School Sailing Team of the Year. Tom also helped coach his son Tommy and Luke Woodworth to their wins at the i420 Midwinters, North Americans, US Youth Championship, and World Championship title. Tom currently works with College Sailing Associates, an athletic/educational consulting firm, specializing in sailing recruitment.

GUEST COACHES Guest coaches will include top-finishing 420 sailors in both c420 and i420 classes.