

BYC Frostbiting FAQs

- What's the big draw for sailing when it's cold outside? – Camaraderie with other sailors, lots of starting practice, tuning up tactics. Most important – frostbiting enables year around sailing!
- Why BYC on Bristol Harbor? – Easy launch, close to the race course. Protected venue. Generally flat water. Warm showers for boats and sailors. 5-7 races/day. Excellent race committee, always a safety boat.
- How should I dress for frostbiting? - Most sailors wear dry suits; a few use heavy-duty wet suits. Special gear may not be required for the first few races while the water temperature remains in the 60's.
- Are Lasers available for charter? – In the past EBSF has chartered boats and a few members are considering charters. Contact the Frostbite Fleet Captains if you are interested in chartering, purchasing a used boat or have a boat for charter or sale.
- How can you stand to sail in such cold weather? – We jokingly say, "It's not THAT cold". And most days it's not. We don't sail if the wind is over 20 or the temperature is under 20. Many days are sunny, and we dress warmly. Many racers wear insulated or waterproof gloves.
- I'm from out-of-town. When do you make the call to race or not? – The fleet captains monitor the weather daily during frostbite season to watch weather patterns. The results sent out early in the week generally contain a weather heads-up. A final decision is sent by Friday morning. Occasionally we must wait until Saturday morning, however we always make that call by 9am at the latest.
- What about restrooms? – For much of the season the four BYC outside restrooms with showers are open. During the winter, restrooms and showers are available in the club.
- Who sails in the BYC Frostbite Series? – Our winter sailors include women, men, and youth ranging in age from teenagers to 70-somethings.
- How do you set the courses for your races? – We set marks each day to provide a variety of windward/leeward and triangular courses with upwind starts.
- Do you really sail 50 or more races in a season? – Last year Laser racers sailed 100 races and Aeros sailed 75.
- Is there a social aspect to Frostbiting? – Absolutely! Lots of time to check in on rigging and weather during set-up. More talk time post-race during boat washing and de-rigging. Fall "Talking Sandwiches". Time in the Chart Room around the bar or outside around the fire pit provides a warm environment for hot topics such as weather, strategy, and such.