The Irish Sailing Youth National Championships is an annual event. The event is unique - not only is it the biggest youth event held in Ireland, it’s the only time that different youth classes come together to compete, gain valuable experience on the water, hear from Irish Sailing coaches, and, along with their families, learn more about the Irish Sailing Performance Pathway.

There are five classes taking part from all across the country.

Irish Sailing saw this as a perfect opportunity to promote environmental awareness and achievable actions for reducing the impact of activities on the environment.

Volunteers, employees, visitors, competitors and club members were all invited to join the campaign during the event and with evergreen actions.

Gail MacAllister
Sustainability Officer
Irish Sailing
gail.macallister@sailing.ie
Elimination of Single-Use Items

1. **Eliminate Single-Use Water Bottles and Provide Water Refill Stations**
   - The event was a “No Single Use Plastic” event. Participants, volunteers and employees all used reusable bottles and the club hydration stations.

   ![Participants with reusable bottles](image1)
   
   Just a few of the participants and race officers with their reusable bottles

2. **Eliminate Plastic Straws**
   - Royal Cork Yacht Club does not make straws generally available, though does have biodegradable straws available should a client require one due to disability requirements.

3. **Serve Food with Plastic-Free Dinnerware**
   - All meals were served in reusable crockery.

   ![Biodegradable Straws and Crockery](image2)
   
   Biodegradable Straws  Crockery used
4. **Use or Provide Reusable Bags**
   - Cloth bags provided for every participant, volunteer and employee.
   - Volunteer lunches provided in compostable lunch bags.

5. **Award Practical Items or Use a Perpetual or Upcycled Trophy**
   - Awards made by Willie in Clonmines Joinery from scraps of leftover stairs timbers.
   - Their environmental policy [https://www.clonminesjoinery.ie/environment/](https://www.clonminesjoinery.ie/environment/)
Community Involvement

6. Publicize Your Sustainable Efforts

- Environmental message on web page https://www.sailing.ie/Racing/Irish-Sailing-Youth-National-Championships#1873 (see below).
- Posters promoting #2minutebeachclean competition and awareness of habitats were displayed around the club house.
- Invited Olympic Silver Medalist, Annalist Murphy, and Round World Sailor, Damian Foxall, to endorse the programme.
Invitation to join the #2minutebeachclean campaign

7. Involve Local Organisations
   - Supplies sources locally for catering, boat repair, management.
   - Volunteers from local community.
   - Royal Cork Yacht Club collaborate with a local scheme “One Green Village” for environmental care and awareness in the community
   - The club links up with MaREI – the SFI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine research and innovation by providing talks to the youth within the club.
8. Post Educational and Reusable Signage

- We invited Bird Watch Ireland to provide posters and leaflets for display at the club to create an awareness of the birdlife in and around our coastline.
- Set of updated signs are available online and used by this event and available for others too.

![Bird Watch Ireland Poster](image)

![Downloadable posters on sailing.ie](image)
9. Serve Local Food or Source Seafood Sustainably
   - Meats are sourced from responsible suppliers and all goods purchased from local suppliers where possible.

A few local food supplier samples
Responsible Waste Management

10. Organize a Green Team
   - The green team tend to be hard to capture, so we managed to get Green Team member Gavin Deane and the Rear Admiral of the club to do some modelling for you.
   - Other Green Team members were Gail MacAllister and Miriam McMahon

11. Ensure Proper Waste Bin Placement and Signage
   - A wide variety of waste disposal options and locations are made available for participants.

12. Divert Food Waste from the Landfill
   - The kitchen of Royal Cork Yacht Club has food waste bin, which is then collected EPA licensed waste collector, Greenstar.
   - All organic waste collected is composted in an environmentally friendly manner.
13. **Use Paperless Event Management**
   - All documents were made available on the website, including parental consent, jury documents, SIs, denial letter and more on the ‘Official Notice Board’
   
   https://www.sailing.ie/Racing/Irish-Sailing-Youth-National-Championships#1151

**Official Notice Board**

- Amendment to SIs No1 @ 27/10/21 ... [HERE](#)
- 2021 Youth Nationals NOR ... [HERE](#)
- 2021 Youth Nationals SIs ... [HERE](#)
- Event Group What's App ... [HERE](#)
- Parental Consent form for Under 18s ... [HERE](#)
- COVID declaration ... [HERE](#)
- Protest Information ... [HERE](#)
- Denial Letter ... [HERE](#)
- Sailors Guide to Online Jury Portal ... [HERE](#)
- Event Site Layout ... [HERE](#)
- Support boat info [HERE](#)
- Accommodation [HERE](#)
- Things to do in the area [HERE](#)

**IMPORTANT NOTICES**

- Irish Sailing Nomination and Selection Procedure for the 2021 Youth Sailing World Championships ... [HERE](#)
- 29er IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT ... @16 Sept 2021

NB: Arrival date for the event is Wednesday 27th October @ 1200 unless prior arrangements with the club are made.
Environmental Stewardship

14. Host a Beach or Marina Cleanup
   - Linked up with the An Taisce Clean Coast and their #2minutebeachclean programme.
     i. Every sailor, volunteer, employee was given a beach clean up kit and invited to do a beach clean in their home port on their return home after the event.
        - Prizes include wetsuit repair kits, cotton tshirts, hoodies and towels.
     ii. Our head performance coach gave a quick clean up around the shore side before heading out on the water to set an example to the youth sailors.

Head Squad Coach setting an example collecting the very few bits of rubbish we could find

Take a bag and join our #2minutebeachclean army

Share your beach clean on social
#2minutebeachclean
@irishsailing @cleancoasts
to win prizes galore

Invitation displayed with cloth bags for all club members to join the #2minutebeachclean campaign
15. Promote Alternative transportation
   • Bus, shoreside walking and cycling path, club bike rack and electronic car hook up available.
16. Increase Awareness of Wildlife and Habitat Protection

- Designed a Habitat Awareness poster to create an awareness of the different habitats on our coastline.
- Endorsed by Olympic Silver Medalist, Annalist Murphy, and Round World Sailor, Damian Foxall.

![Habitat Awareness A2 Poster](image)

17. Offer Vegetarian or Vegan Alternatives

- Vegetarian option was made available on each night’s menu
- All meals were prebooked to avoid food waste.

![Online booking for meals](image)
Green Boating

18. Use Eco-Smart Race Management Techniques
   - WhatsApp groups created to provide consistent communication of results etc to participants
   - No paper Sailing Instructions
   - WhatsApp for all communications
   - No sponsor bow stickers
   - Viewing platform awareness
   - Media boat active on the water time kept to minimum required
   - Committee boat anchored, engine off, use of holding tank
   - Using racingrulesofsailing.org for all protest hearing information, submissions, and reports
   - Facilitate a lunch rib, reduces waste on the water
   - Retirees sent to mothership and brought in groups rather than individually
   - Online briefings to reduce sound pollution with speaker systems

19. Prevent Toxins from Entering the Water
   - Royal Cork Yacht Club has an Oil Spill Team and Procedure

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Oil Spill Procedure
Contact a senior trained staff member immediately.

Spill Managers:
Gavin Deane (General Manager) – 0872899190
Mark Ring (Marina & Racing Manager) – 0872833266
Dave Coveney (Marina & Facilities Supervisor) – 0879850509

The Spill Manager is the official responsible for monitoring or managing responses to oil spills. Once notified of an oil spill, the Spill Manager also will conduct an immediate assessment to evaluate several factors, including the size and nature of the spill, the type of oil spilled, its potential hazards, and the resources needed to contain and clean it up.

The Spill Manager also will monitor any existing response efforts to determine whether additional technical support is necessary. (Coast Guard, Fire Brigade other local authority)

- Immediately contain the spill
- Identify the source of the spill
- If in the water use oil absorbent booms
- Treat the oil to make it safe if possible.
- Start cleaning up the spill with the oil spill kit
- Wash down after cleaning affected areas with large volumes of water
- Assess the reason for the spill (could it have been prevented check CCTV).
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Published Spill Management Policy
20. **Encourage Green Boating Practices**

- All participants were reminded of the Environmental standards of the event and Rule 47 active

**PLUS**

- Royal Cork Yacht Club is a **Blue Flag Marina** and has a full Environmental Policy. The Royal Cork Yacht Club is committed to minimising the impact of its activities on the environment.
- The local area around RCYC has a number of **biodiversity** aware green spaces.
- Royal Cork Yacht Club Evergreen Sustainability Actions are on display and implemented at all times.
SUSTAINABILITY ACTIONS

1. OPERATIONS & EVENTS
   - Sustainability Committee in place
   - Sailors for the Sea Clean Regattas programme employed for events
   - MaREI Research Centre for Energy, Climate and Marine as Sustainability Partner

2. EDUCATION & OUTREACH
   - Marine conservation talks
   - Signage about local ecosystems and marine litter
   - Information on sustainability steps and calls to action

3. WATER
   - Water refill stations on site
   - Reusable water bottles on sale
   - Water conservation measures in place on site

4. WASTE
   - Deposit / return scheme on reusable coffee cups
   - Compostable single-use plastic e.g. straws etc. on request
   - Waste segregation on site with clearly labelled bins

Club Evergreen Sustainability Actions