

WYC By-law and Policy Proposals

Prepared by Co-Commodore Renee Chien with input from WYC Officers on November 27, 2024 for General Meeting on December 4, 2024

By-Laws

Proposed rewrite of the WYC By-Laws Article III, Section B:

Section B. Members of the Executive Council

The Executive Council consists of Officers and Position Holders (including Fleet Captains). The Voting Members of the Executive Council are Regular Members in the Executive Council.

Original:

Section B. Voting Members

The Voting Members of the Executive Council are Regular Members who are Officers, Position Holders (including Fleet Captains), and/or Chiefs.

Proposed amendment to the WYC By-Laws Article VI, Section A:

Section A. Appointment

Position Holders are appointed by the Co-Commodores with the approval of the Executive Council. ~~Secretary and Treasurer are paid Positions and must be approved by a majority vote of either the General Membership or the Executive Council.~~ The Co-Commodores may remove Position Holders from their Position, but decisions of removal may be overturned by a majority vote of the Executive Council. Additional Positions may be created at the discretion of the Co-Commodores or the Executive Council.

Proposed amendment to the WYC By-Laws Article IV, Section B:

Section B. Dues Exemption

~~Position Holders are exempt from paying membership dues if the Member acts in the capacity of their designated role during the quarter(s) in which dues exemption is claimed.~~

Proposed amendment of the WYC By-Laws Article V, Section A. 4 and 5:

4. Dues Exemption

Ratings Examiners are dues exempt for any quarters in which they commit to providing 10 or more hours of service to the Club's instructional programs. ~~These may be paid hours if applicable.~~

5. Wages

~~Ratings Examiners who are not Officers may ask to be paid for their hours of service to the Club's programs, pending approval by a majority vote of the General Membership or Executive Council. Their desired work hours will be coordinated with the Vice Commodore. During work hours, the Ratings Examiner will be on duty in service of the club. The Ratings Examiner's primary job is to administer Practical Tests and Written Exams, and to supervise sailing activity. When not performing those duties, the Ratings Examiner will provide other services to the Club such as boat maintenance, facilities maintenance, or other tasks that the Club requires.~~

Proposed rewrite of the WYC By-Laws Article VI, Section A. 1:

1. Purpose

The body of Chiefs serves as a cornerstone of safety and leadership within the Washington Yacht Club. Chiefs are active Members entrusted with the authority to administer Skipper Ratings to qualified Members and to act as a resource for safety-related matters.

Recognized for their good judgment, substantial knowledge, and experience with the Club, Chiefs shall play a vital role in enforcing the Club's safety policies and ensuring the well-being of its Members. Additionally, Chiefs are expected to model exemplary

behavior and uphold a standard of respectable and responsible participation in Club activities, contributing to the Club's culture of safety and mutual respect.

Original:

1. Purpose

The primary purpose of maintaining an active set of Chiefs of the Club is to identify and recognize Members who show good judgment in matters of safety and a willingness to continue to contribute their advice and efforts to supporting the Members and the activities of the Club. Their substantial knowledge, abilities, and experience with the Club benefits the continued success of the Club as a whole.

Proposed amendment to the WYC By-Laws Article VII, Section A. 3 ii:

ii. New Boat Fund

~~30% of all membership dues and initiation fees, all unburdened donations, all interest earned on bank savings, and the proceeds from any sale of Club assets that are not a part of the Keelboat Fleet.~~

Proposed amendment to the WYC By-Laws Article VII, Section A. 1:

1. Budget Proposal and Approval

The Treasurer shall present a proposed annual budget for the following year at or before the last planned meeting of Fall Quarter, with advanced notice of the expected date provided to them by the Co-Commodores. The proposed budget must be discussed and approved by the General Membership. Until an annual budget is approved, no expenditures shall be made, except to be used for wages, insurance, existing bills, and fuel, or via emergency authorization described below.

Proposed amendment to the WYC By-Laws Article VII, Section A. 1:

1. By-Laws

A proposed By-Laws amendment shall be announced via the wyc_info@u.washington.edu email list at least 7 days prior to a General Meeting in which the amendment may be voted on. The amendment may be further revised during the meeting prior to a vote and/or following a failed vote.

Original:

1. By-Laws

A proposed By-Laws amendment must be announced at a General Meeting where discussion and revision of the amendment may take place. The revised amendment will then be posted to the wyc_info@u.washington.edu email list at least 7 days prior to a General Meeting in which the amendment may be voted on. The amendment may be further revised during the meeting prior to a vote and/or following a failed vote.

Policies

Proposed amendments to the WYC Policies Article III, Section A, 1. Amounts

In October 2006, the cost of membership at the WYC was \$40/quarter (or \$120/year, 4 quarters for the cost of 3) PLUS a one-time initiation fee of \$25 for students. (For associate members, the cost of membership was \$225/year). Our current cost of membership, at \$39 per quarter with NO initiation fee is lower than the fee in 2006 *BEFORE adjusting for inflation*. **For context, \$40.00 in October 2006 has the same amount of buying power as \$62.23 in October 2024.**

Though we recognize the importance of keeping sailing accessible to college students on a college student budget (and we are exploring need-based scholarships/aid), the Club has been operating at a deficit for years, and we have not been spending nearly enough on maintaining, repairing, and replacing our fleet. Increasing our dues would allow us to take better care of the equipment we do have, give us options for replacing our boats in disrepair, and provide more community-building incentives to volunteers and members.

Of note, Cal Sailing Club, the offshoot of UC Berkeley's recreational sailing scene, who we consider a sister club, [proposed their dues be increased to \\$99/quarter from \\$119/quarter for students](#), and \$120/quarter from \$150/quarter for non-students starting in 2025.

Comparison of costs for clubs that maintain/procure facilities provided to club members:

- Union Bay Rowing Club membership ('24–25): **\$75/qtr** (increase from \$50)
- Husky Sailing Team dues ('24–25): **\$70/qtr** PLUS 3 to 5 shifts worked at Climate Pledge Arena
- Women's Ice Hockey Team at UW: **\$375/qtr** for the practice team members
- Equestrian Team at UW: Dues **\$30–100/year** PLUS **\$60–80 per session**

Here, we are proposing a few options for getting us to a more financially sustainable place.

Option 1.

	Initiation Fee	Quarterly Dues	Annual Dues
Student	\$0	\$50	\$150
Associate	\$0	\$90	\$270

Option 2.

	Initiation Fee	Quarterly Dues	Annual Dues
Student	\$0	\$65	\$195
Associate	\$0	\$120	\$360

Option 3.

	Initiation Fee	Quarterly Dues	Annual Dues
Student	\$0	\$80	\$240
Associate	\$0	\$150	\$450

Option 4.

	Initiation Fee	Quarterly Dues	Annual Dues
Student	\$0	\$100	\$300
Associate	\$0	\$190	\$570