

# ICSA Offshore Sailing Report

On behalf of collegiate offshore sailing teams, I'd like to open a discussion about collegiate offshore sailing and bring the following information to the ICSA Board's attention. Put simply, collegiate offshore sailing is growing in popularity and needs more infrastructure.

## Overview of Collegiate Offshore Sailing - Key facts:

- Since the 2015/2016 scholastic sailing season, at least 98 college sailing teams have participated in collegiate offshore sailing events
- The largest percentage of participants are Fundamental and Regional teams
- Teams are actively seeking more opportunity for participation and growing their rosters for collegiate offshore sailing
- Many teams have relationships with nearby yacht clubs and yacht club members that allow them to borrow and practice on their boats

## Current Membership Information (2024/2025):

Total College Sailing Teams: 278

Total Active: 178

Active Teams Participating in Offshore Sailing: 55 (31% of all active college sailing teams)

Inactive teams participating in Offshore Sailing: 3

## Participation in Collegiate Offshore Sailing events by year:

2024/2025	58
2023/2024	54
2022/2023	53
2021/2022	37
2020/2021	37
2018/2019	54
2017/2018	54
2016/2017	38
2015/2016	40

## Collegiate Teams That Own Fleets (reported in Fall, 2024):

Navy (CR, MAISA) - Navy 44's, Colgate 26's

College of Charleston (CR, SAISA) - J105's, J/36,

Antrim 40, 10 x J/22's

Maine Maritime (R, NEISA) - Colgate 26's

Cal Maritime (R, PCCSC) - Catalina 37's

Coast Guard (CR, NEISA) - J/70's

UC San Diego (R, PCCSC) - 20 x J105's

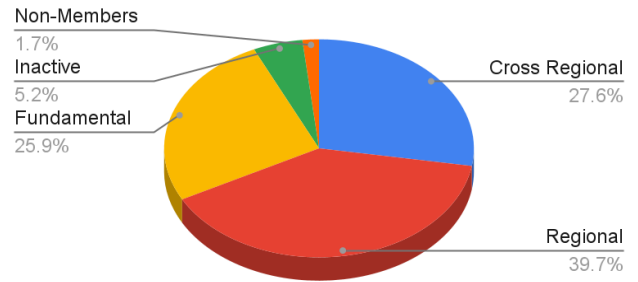
University of South Florida (CR, SAISA) - 10 x J70's, 1 x J24, 6 x Sonars, numerous larger keelboats (30+ feet)

US Merchant Marine Academy (CR, MAISA) - 2 x J44's, 3 x IC 37's, x Sydney 38, 6 x J70's

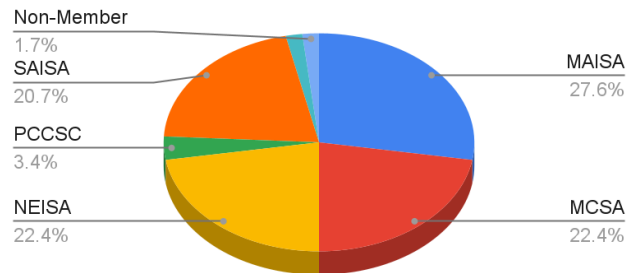
\*Several other teams have keelboats, just not entire fleets of them

**\*\*DISCLAIMER:** most data is based on information available on TechScore and the ICSA team database linked on the College Sailing website. Some participation data was found through results histories outside of TechScore.

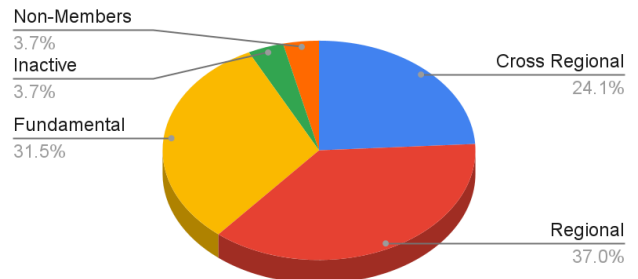
## 2024/2025 Participation by Membership



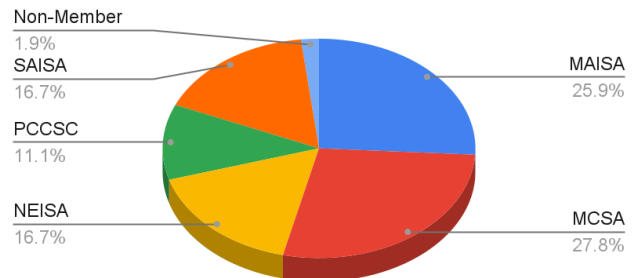
## 2024/2025 Participation by Conference



## 2023/2024 Participation by Membership



## 2023/2024 Participation by Conference



## Collegiate Offshore Sailing Events

The following 10 collegiate offshore events take place annually, 8 of which are sanctioned by the ICSCA and (mostly\*) operate in compliance with the ICSCA governing rules and procedures:

Season	Name	Host School	Conference	Venue	Type
Fall	Shields	Navy	MAISA	Navy	Cross Regional Regatta
	GLIOR	-	MCSA	Chicago	NOT ALLOWED Promotional
	IOR	-	NEISA	Larchmont Yacht Club	
	McMillan	Navy	MAISA	Navy	Cross Regional Regatta
	Kennedy	Navy	MAISA	Navy	Cross Regional Regatta
Spring	SCOR	College of Charleston	SAISA	College of Charleston	NOT ALLOWED Interconference
	Port of Los Angeles Harbor Cup	California Maritime Academy	PCCSC	Los Angeles YC	Cross Regional
	Coast Guard Invitational 1	Coast Guard	NEISA	Coast Guard	Regional
	Coast Guard Invitational 2	Coast Guard	NEISA	Coast Guard	Regional
	Coast Guard Invitational 3	Coast Guard	NEISA	Coast Guard	Regional

### Key facts:

- Current events over subscribed - many have waitlists equal to or larger than the participation list
- Many events are capped by fleet size (8-10)
- \*Some events accept entry from inactive schools to avoid excluding eager and talented teams from college sailing events
- There have been “exhibition” events over the years, all of which reported success and enthusiasm from participants. For example:
  - Maine Maritime Academy Colgate Invite (Spring, 2022)
  - SAISA Melges 24 Collegiate Offshore/Inshore @ Georgia Tech (Fall, 2023)
- College sailors have participated in events that use PHRF format racing and scoring

### Important Takeaways:

- Offshore sailing regattas are encouraging and including teams that cannot keep up with highly-competitive and well-funded dinghy programs an opportunity to still participate in college sailing
- Offshore sailing regattas provides a cost-effective opportunity for young programs to get involved or existing teams get re-involved with collegiate sailing
- Sailors who do not fit the standard weight and size required to be competitive in collegiate dinghy sailing have an avenue to participate in college sailing
- There is significant interest in the growth of collegiate offshore sailing
- Existing collegiate offshore sailing teams, especially select leading programs, are invested in growing and further supporting collegiate offshore sailing
- Leaders in the collegiate offshore sailing space have already worked to organize/coordinate two different racing formats (one-design & PHRF), and have implemented a framework to include waivers, entry fees, borrow/charter boat policies/procedures
- Yacht clubs, and their members/boat owners, across the country have already expressed interest and excitement in collaborating with collegiate offshore sailing teams and events

## Collegiate Offshore Regatta Success Story

College of Charleston will host the single largest collegiate offshore sailing event “sanctioned” by the ICSA this spring: the 2025 SCOR

- Uses three separate fleets:
  - CofC’s 10 x J/22’s
  - CofC’s own keelboats (2 x J/105’s, J/36, Antrim 40)
  - Partnering with local sailors to borrow boats for the regatta (16/30 boats)
- Will accommodate 30 collegiate sailing teams
- Placed college teams in boat by resume/past performance and experience
- Has historically had a 10+ team waitlist
- Supported by partners like the Charleston Ocean Racing Association and the Carolina Yacht Club

### Testimonials from teams registered for the 2025 SCOR:

#### University of Central Florida (Inactive [F], SAISA):

“We have been racing in Larchmont and LA for several years and we are looking to expand.”

#### The Citadel (R, SAISA):

“[We’re] committed to expanding the Citadel's offshore program and attending more ICSA keelboat events in the future.”

#### Florida State University (R, SAISA):

“We are completely student led and would love to go back into the Keelboat world after not being a part of it for 4 years.”

#### Stony Brook University (R, MAISA):

“As a crew we are extremely comfortable and confident on keelboats and looking for opportunities to go out and compete. It's going to be extremely expensive for us personally to come to this regatta due to travel time and cost, being a club team we get very little funding or assistance from our university. However our enthusiasm for the sport makes attending this regatta a goal for us. Thank you, Shay Gualdoni”

#### North Carolina State University (CR, SAISA):

“We love attending the SCOR event and hope to continue making it a part of our Spring schedule each year. This season, we have more experienced keelboat sailors than ever before and hope to improve on past results significantly.



## SCOR 2025 BOAT PAIRINGS

Sportboat Class:	
Brown University	J/120
Clemson University	J/111
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University	J/120
Georgia Institute of Technology	J/35
North Carolina State University	J/36
Northeastern University	J/120
The Citadel	Cheetah 30
U.S. Merchant Marine Academy	J/111
University of Rhode Island	Antrim 40
University of South Florida	Melges 32
University of Wisconsin	Melges 32

J/105 Class:	
Boston University	J/105
College of Charleston	J/105
Florida State University	J/105
Stony Brook University	J/105
U.S. Coast Guard Academy	J/105
U.S. Naval Academy	J/105
University of St. Thomas	J/105
University of Vermont	J/105
Virginia Tech	J/105

J/22 Class:	
Miami University (OH)	J/22
Michigan State University	J/22
Ohio State University	J/22
Princeton University	J/22
Syracuse University	J/22
University of Central Florida	J/22
University of Maryland	J/22
University of Rochester	J/22
Vanderbilt University	J/22
Western Michigan University	J/22

**Issues Collegiate Offshore Sailing Teams Currently Face:**

- Lack of Awards
- Poorly designated national championship & no national championship qualifier circuit
- Lack of events
- Current events are over subscribed
- No board representation & underserved
- Larger collegiate offshore sailing programs are getting pressure from their AD's about expense of program and lack of awards/titles to justify expense
- Other collegiate offshore sailing programs face fundraising issues because of lack of events and opportunities to grow program beyond the current schedule and available berths per regatta

**Issues the ICSA Faces with Collegiate Offshore Sailing:**

- IOR & GLIOR (sponsorship conflicts)
- Eligibility concerns
- Misalignment with ICSA processes/policies (namely championship & event participation)

**Suggested/Ideas for Solutions:**

- Need more infrastructure for offshore sailing - create a subcommittee to coordinate efforts with offshore sailing team representatives
- Board representation by teams with offshore programs in committees where appropriate
- All American Awards
- More clearly designated national championship and qualifier circuit
- More events