August 8, 2019

Dear Parents and Friends of AYC Junior Sailing Programs:

**The AYC 2019 FALL Program Sailing Sessions begin on SEPTEMBER 6! Sign Up Now.**

A new training schedule, with the dates, times and fees for each category, is attached for both Optimist and Laser sailors. **Registration must be completed in the AYC Office and payment must be made in full by the first day of the session.** *(The Office reopens Monday 9th September and will accept payments for students starting 7th and 8th September).*Returning sailors will be evaluated and may be promoted based on their work in the previous session they last attended. New participants must agree to and sign the AYC “Sailor and Parent Code of Conduct” forms before the first lesson. If you are unsure about which category to register your sailor, please come and discuss with me.

I want to remind you that all junior members must be part of a program in order to sail out of AYC. Having your own boat does not entitle you to sail out of the facility. You must be part of a program. This policy is a mandatory safety requirement and ensures that all young sailors are supervised properly.

Earlier this summer AYC hosted a hugely successful **IODA 2019 Optimist World Championship** during July 6 – 16. There were 255 sailors in attendance from 65 countries - the largest sailing event ever to be held in Antigua and the largest participation of countries to attend in the 57- year history of IODA. Congratulations to the Antigua Team of Shanoy Malone, Theodore Spencer, Sue Agusti, Tyrique Adams, and Maurice Belgrave. Competition was extremely challenging over 6 fleet racing days and 2 Team Racing Days. An incredible learning experience for all. Theodore Spencer achieved the award for the Top Placed Antiguan Sailor – congratulations. **Thank you to all the volunteers and to the parents who helped to make the 2019 Optimist Worlds such a great success and for supporting the AYC Optimist sailors. Events such as these don’t only provide opportunity for those competing but inspire all sailors in the programs to work harder and aspire toward higher goals.**

This summer there was also important activity for the Laser and Laser Radial sailors of AYC. Daniel Smit and Jalese Gordon traveled to Poland during July 6 -23 for the World Sailing Youth World Championship and competed in the Laser Radial. Conditions on the Baltic were challenging for them but they gained much valuable experience. Currently, Jules Mitchell and Jalese Gordon are competing in the Pan American Games in Peru July 26 – August 11, in Laser and Laser Radial respectively.

Important Dates and Upcoming Optimist and Laser Events:

September 15 Bart’s Bash - qualifier for the CDC September 27 – Oct 4 IODA 2019 NAMs, Bahamas (Optimist) October 6 AYC Mini Regatta - qualifier for the CDC October 18 – 20 Caribbean Dinghy Championship (CDC) November 9 – 10 St Maarten SOL Optimist Regatta If you have any questions, please contact me directly either by email at ayc@yachtclub.ag or telephone 268-728-5045.

Regards, Karl James OLY (Two-Time Olympian – Laser Class) Manager of Dinghy Sailing and Youth Training Scheme, Antigua Yacht Club