

NACA - NORTH AMERICAN INVITATIONAL

GUIDELINES FOR ITS PLANNING AND CONDUCT

The North American Invitational is a significant contest sponsored annually by the North American Cruiser Association where the top navigators from NACA member associations throughout North America come together to share ideas and to compete in a common contest. It is held on the last Saturday in September except Chicago which is held the last Saturday in August and St. Petersburg which is held in May. The NAI will not be run in a year when the IPBA Alaska 1000 is scheduled. NAI's shall be scheduled so that they alternate with the West Coast associations.

GENERAL PLANNING SCHEDULE

1. One year in advance - identify the overall chairman and committee chairmen for the contest and develop general plans for conduct and funding of the event. The committees should include people who have participated in previous NAI's to the extent possible.
2. Not later than 6 months before the contest (March), send a letter/e-mail to the commodore of each association giving general information regarding dates, location, accommodations and plans for the event and requesting the name, address, e-mail, and phone number of the individual each association wishes to be invited as their representative in the contest. Also copy the NACA director for each association so that they will be informed and will help to assure timely response. Response deadline should be no later than 5 months before the contest (April). Also, copy the NACA Commodore and the Cruiser Log Editor for publicity in the Cruiser Log.
3. Not later than 4 months before the contest (May), send letters/e-mails to the identified representatives inviting them to participate in the NAI and providing all information regarding schedule, hotel reservation requirements, and activity plans necessary for the individuals to complete their travel planning and arrangements. Include information regarding when the contest booklet and course information will be sent. Send similar notification to all NACA Officers, Staff Commodores and Directors.
4. If the NACA Commodore is planning a meeting of the Bridge in advance of the NAI activity, he should send a letter/e-mail to the Bridge and all Staff Commodores 3 months before the contest (June) inviting their attendance, so they can arrange travel. To avoid confusion, do not list this Bridge Meeting/Luncheon in the NAI Schedule of Events.
5. Provide the names of the NAI contestants to the NACA Cruiser Log Editor not later than the June 15 closing deadline for inclusion in the Cruiser Log.
6. Not later than five weeks before the contest (August), send the contest booklet and course instructions to the invited contestants (may be provided in digital form). With the advent of electronic charts, it is no longer necessary to supply charts to the contestants. Also send the contest booklet to the Bridge.

A sample schedule follows. It may be modified, but activity vs. day should not vary.

(sample)

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

20XX NAI

<u>Date / Time</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Location</u>
Tuesday 1600 – 1900	Early Arrivals Hospitality Suite ¹	Hotel
Wednesday		
1500 – 1800	Hospitality Suite ¹	Hotel
1500 – 1830	Registration	Club Foyer
1830 – 1930	Cocktail Party	Spinnaker Room
1930 – 2000	Boat Drawing	Spinnaker Room
2000 – 2200	Light Dinner ²	Spinnaker Room
Thursday		
0730 – 0830	Meet-up, coffee & rolls	Regatta Room
0800 – 1200	Boat Trials	Measured Mile
1200 – 1330	Lunch Available	Bar
1330 –	NACA General Meeting	Spinnaker Room
– continuation	Skippers Meeting	immediately after NACA mtg.
1500 – 1730	Hospitality Suite ¹	Hotel
1600 – 1700	Observers & Scrutinizers ¹	Boardroom
1800 –	Cocktails & Dinner	Outstation or Neighbor YC
Friday		
all day	Free Day, skippers do predictions, others sightseeing	
1800 – 2100	Dinner available at Club	Dining Room
Saturday		
0730 –	Pick-up Box Lunches	Regatta Room
0730 – 0815	Turn-in Predicted Logs	Regatta Room
0830 – 1330	Run NAI 20xx Contest	On the water
1400 – 1430	Turn in Actual Logs	Regatta Room
1400 – 1530	Hosted Beer Keg ¹	Deck
1830 – 1930	Awards Cocktails	Dining Room
1930 – 2100	Awards Banquet	Dining Room
2100 – 2200	Awards Presentation	Dining Room
Sunday		
0930 – 1300	Brunch available ¹	Dining Room

¹ - Optional Activity

² - Or heavy hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour

GUIDELINES FOR NAI CONTESTANT INVITATIONS

1. All NACA Associations shall be invited to send a contestant representative. The NAI host association shall be invited to provide two representatives.
2. An association should operate a contest program to be eligible to be invited to send a contestant representative to participate in the NAI.
3. A contestant who participated in the previous year's NAI but who failed to complete the contest through no fault of his own shall be invited.
4. The previous year's: National Champion, the St. Petersburg winner, and the NAI winner shall be invited exclusive of the association contestant representative(s).
5. It is intended that the contestant be the top skipper from each association based on the previous year's contest program. However, each association may use any basis of its own choosing for determining its representative.

GUIDELINES FOR THE NAI CONTEST

1. The contest should be planned in accordance with normal practice and meet all NACA Rules criteria. Since this is a contest between North America's top contestants the course should be fair and challenging.
2. To the extent possible, course features that might result in advantage due to local knowledge should be avoided. Consequently, the NAI Rally-Master shall not be precluded from participation in the contest.
3. The contest should include at least 5 scored legs, preferably up to eight.
4. It is recommended that some means for determining the local currents be provided such as open log (time after mark) or allowing GPS speed.
5. It is recommended that the contest course not include committee directed underway changes.
6. It is recommended that some means such as minimum start spacing be employed so as to preclude the possibility of closely following in another's wake.
7. Particular attention shall be given in the drafting of special contest rules to assure their meaning is clear and to identify penalty provisions if the special rule is to supersede a standard rule for which a penalty is specified.
8. It is recommended that the instructions state that: If the contestant skipper does not indicate the score he calculated when the Actual Log is submitted to the Committee, then the Committee scoring shall be accepted as final.
9. The general attitude of both the NAI Committee and the contestants should be to enjoy the camaraderie and the competition, to avoid nit-picky matters, and to keep the contest on the water.

FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

The primary source of funding should be from the host organization, club, and sponsors. In past NAIs sponsors have included boat-oriented businesses such as brokers, stores, and yards plus other businesses including jewelers and financial institutions. Contestants will no longer be charged an entry fee. Contestants expect to pay for their meals and drinks, although it is appreciated when hors d'oeuvres and drinks are hosted. Whereas NOAA provides digital charts at no charge, paper charts are no longer supplied to contestants. The contest booklet may be distributed in digital form, so postage and printing expenses are no longer a consideration.

In order to standardize the take-home (keeper) trophies, NACA purchases a ten-year supply (for economy of scale) of brass cannons mounted on plaques. A set consists of four graduated in three sizes. A large cannon is awarded to the winner and another to the winner's boat owner. The medium and small cannons are awarded to the second and third place skippers respectively. NACA provides these trophies to the NAI host organization (cost is presently \$600 per set) without charge.

It is realized that some organizations may have difficulty funding the NAI. As such, upon request, NACA will provide limited financial assistance where needed.

Revised: September 2025