

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 shall be held on the Saturday of the first week in August unless significant considerations dictate otherwise and by approval of the NACA Executive Committee.

GENERAL PLANNING SCHEDULE

1. At least 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 (February 1), 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.
3. Response deadline should be no later than 4 months before the contest (April 1). Copy the NACA director for each association so that they will be informed and will help to assure timely response. Also, copy the NACA Commodore for publicity in the Cruiser Log.
4. Not later than 3 months before the contest (May 1), 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.
5. 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 2 months before the contest (June 1) requesting their attendance so they can arrange travel. To avoid confusion, do not list this activity in the Schedule of Events.
6. When available, provide the names of the NAI contestants to the NACA Commodore for inclusion in an early issue of the Cruiser Log.
7. Not later than five weeks before the contest (July 1), send the contest booklet and course instructions to the invited contestants. 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 Aug x 1600 – 1900	Early Arrivals Hospitality Suite	Hotel
Wednesday Aug x 1500 – 1800	Hospitality Suite	Hotel
1500 – 1830	Registration	Club Foyer
1830 – 1930	Cocktail Party	Spinnaker Room
1930 – 2000	Boat Drawing	Spinnaker Room
2000 – 2200	Light Dinner	Spinnaker Room
Thursday Aug x 0730 – 0830	Meet-up, coffee & rolls	Regatta Room
0800 – 1200	Boat Trials	Measured Mile
1200 – 1330	Lunch Available	Bar
1330 – – continuation	NACA General Meeting Skippers Meeting	Spinnaker Room immediately after NACA mtg.
1500 – 1730	Hospitality Suite	Hotel
1600 – 1700	Observers & Scrutinizers	Boardroom
1800 –	Cocktails & Dinner	Outstation or Neighbor YC
Friday Aug x ? 1800 – 2100	Free Day, skippers do predictions, others sightsee Dinner available at Club	Dining Room
Saturday Aug x 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	Deck
1900 –	Awards Banquet	Dining Room
Sunday Aug x 0930 – 1300	Brunch available	Dining Room

GUIDELINES FOR NAI CONTESTANT INVITATIONS

1. There are no specific limits on the number of associations to be invited to send a contestant representative.
2. An association must 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 in the contest through no fault of his own shall be invited.
4. Both the National Champion and the winner of the NAI in the previous year should be invited.
5. It is intended that the contestant be the top skipper from each association based on the previous years 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 to meet all criteria for NAI sanction. 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 Racemaster shall not be precluded from participation in the contest.
3. The contest should include at least 5 scored legs, preferably more.
4. It is recommended that the contest course not include committee directed underway changes.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.

Revised: October 2012