

Junior Team Success at Victoria Regatta!

May 4 and 5, 2024

Six junior sailors from the Saltspring Island Sailing Club (SISC) attended the Royal Victoria Spring Dinghies Regatta, which took place on May 4th and 5th in the waters of Cadboro Bay and Oak Bay.



Aoi Otsu and Luci Pugh Aucoin, both age 12, participated in the Opti Red fleet, while Malikaa Clement (14), Maeve FitzZaland (13), Reuben Sol (15), and Izzi Pugh Aucoin (14) all participated in the C420, double-handed dinghies division.

The racing format for junior sailing involves multiple races over a set course throughout each day of racing, with points awarded in order of placement—the goal being a low overall score.

Shifty winds and choppy waters made for tricky conditions, but the Salt Spring sailors held their own. After a disqualifying false start on the first heat of the day, all the SISC 420 sailors recovered well, with Izzi and

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Reuben earning first place over the course of the day and Maeve and Malikaa earning fifth. This was Malikaa and Maeve's first regatta as partners and their confidence and teamwork was impressive.

The second day brought more challenges, with heavy winds, strong currents, and cold temperatures on the water. Izzi and Reuben had an eventful capsizes, resulting in a DNF on the second heat of the day. Once they righted their boat, they were able to continue racing in the next heat, and came back with strong results and a first place finish overall. Maeve and Malikaa gave a consistent performance, only dropping one place from the previous day.

The rough conditions caused the remaining Opti to retire early from the racing. Many capsized boats throughout the fleet were witnessed by spectators on shore, and several racers from other teams had to be towed in from the races before the day was over.

Despite being unable to finish their races, Opti sailors Luci and Aoi finished 35th and 36th respectively at their first competitive event, amongst a large pool of sailors.

The junior sailing team greatly appreciates the support of SISC in their training and racing, as well as coaches John and Finley, who spent the weekend out on the water with the team.

Report by Izzi Pugh Aucoin, Reuben Sol, and Anna Pugh.

