

Visa Invitation Letters and Travel Letter for National Interest Exemption

Class association/Host organizers- responsible for ensuring all competitors have the proper visa and documents needed to enter the United States. The host organization can issue a Visa Invitation Letter for competitors, see example below.

All competitors traveling from overseas must ensure they have the proper visa to enter the United States. Information on the type of visa needed can be found through this link- <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/us-visas/visa-information-resources/wizard.html>

Visa Invitation Letters

Visa invitation letters can be issued for any competitor by the class association. Please email the following information to (insert Class association contact) who will then issue the Visa Invitation Letter on class letterhead:

Last name as shown on passport-
First name as shown on passport-
Passport number-
Passport issuing country-
Date of birth (Month/day/year)-
Date of arrival (Month/day/year)-
Date of departure (Month/day/year)-
Regattas you plan to attend-
Event class-

US Sailing- assist in the National Interest Exemption Waiver process for competitors traveling from the countries listed below.

National Interest Exemption

Anyone traveling from (even for a layover) the following countries must contact US Sailing to file a National Interest Exemption 212(f) waiver with the Department of Homeland Security. This waiver is not a guaranteed entry but rather a courtesy letter to those traveling from specific countries. Currently Customs and Boarder Protection is only processing waiver requests for travel to the US within 30 days. This request will be submitted by US Sailing to the USOPC 30 days out from the event start date.

Class associations will need to have individuals from the countries listed below send in the requested information via JotForm- <https://form.jotform.com/211163499104048> . Please provide sailors with a one pager of event COVID protocols for their NIE request. The protocols must include language that encourages competitors to be vaccinated prior to travel. Refer to the CDC for language to include in the event protocols- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel-during-covid19.html>.

Asia/Middle East -China, Iran

Europe- Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom

South America- Brazil

Please have the following information ready when filling out the JotForm:

Last name as shown on passport-

First name as shown on passport-

Date of birth (Month/day/year)-

Passport Number-

Passport issuing country-

Departure airport-

Phone-

Email-

Regatta you plan to attend-

One pager of the event COVID protocols, provided to you by the class association or event organizers

Timeline

When Request to approve Worlds or Continental Championship is approved by US Sailing Board

US Sailing send along NIE request JotForm to class associations to distribute

Class association contact the international competitors with visa information and NIE jotform

30 days out

US Sailing will file NIE requests received via jotform with the USOPC

2-14 days

Waivers are processed and returned to competitors via email

Visa Letter Template, to be put on class/event letterhead:

DATE (Month, day, year)

To Whom It May Concern:

X Class association is pleased to formally invite the below designees to attend the X event, USA in City, State, USA.

Per their request, sailor first and last name, class of boat sailor, is granted an invitation.

We invite them to attend the X event, USA, held event dates. As this is an important international competition, they will be participating in training throughout date of arrival and departure. Please allow travel and training time.

We look forward to his safe travels and arrival in the USA.

Please contact me directly if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Class Association contact