

2022 CJ Buckley Regatta Summary

East Greenwich, RI

The 2022 CJ Buckley Regatta for the Club 420 Association National Junior Team Racing Championship concluded with the team West Coast Best Coast winning after 2 fantastic days of team racing. They rose to the top of the 24 teams that attended this year's event. A massive thank you to our [sponsors](#), and the over 60 volunteers that make this event happen every year.

Monday morning saw 155 sailors from 16 states and 3 countries arrive at the beach of Goddard Park ready to compete. Rear Commodore Vincent McAteer from the East Greenwich Yacht Club welcomed the sailors, and GBSA President Lauren Ridgely Swanson, also one of CJ's sailing instructors, spoke of the importance of this event. Carter Buckley, CJ's father, spoke to the competitors about his son and his passion for the sport of sailing and team racing.

A fresh 6-10 out of the SSW allowed Justin Assad, PRO, and his team of volunteers to get racing started on time at 10:30am. Clinton Hayes, Chief Umpire, assembled a team of 10 umpires from around the country and facilitated the fully umpired Swiss League rotation. Racing was tight and justice was dispensed as 120 races were complete over 5.5 hours of racing. NB4T A Team ended the day having gone 10-0.

Tuesday started with a redress hearing born out of a black flag protest. The results led to 2 resails happening during the first two flights of sailing for the day. 72 Club 420s, 20 coach boats, 8 umpire boats, 2 media boats, and the start and finish boats arrived at the spot between Sally's Rock and Sandy Point to commence battle yet again. Another 48 round robin races were completed along with the 2 resailed races before entering the knockout stages.

The Gold Fleet consisted of the top 4 teams, West Coast Best Coast, NB4T A Team, Five Guys, and Red Hot Chili Peppers. NB4T matched up against RHCP and WCBC raced Five Guys in a best of three series. The Red Hot Chili Peppers were able to take a race off NB4T but eventually fell 2-1 in the series with NB4T advancing to the Finals. WCBC vanquished Five Guys in 2 races, making the best of 5 race finals a West Coast affair.

After breaking a few ties, the Silver Fleet saw Severn, Mainiacs, The Bucket Hats and Clarkfeet emerge. Severn beat Clarkfeet in both races, advancing them to the silver fleet finals. The Bucket Hats took a race off the Mainiacs but couldn't hold on, and the Mainiacs advanced to the Silver Fleet Finals. The Silver Finals needed all three races, with multiple lead changes happening around the course in each race. After faltering in the first race, the Mainiacs roared back in the final two races to win the silver fleet and finish 5th in the event.

WCBC carried their momentum into the finals completing the gentleman's sweep of their fellow Californians. West Coast Best Coast won the first two races of the series with 1-2's. NB4T A Team ground back on Race 3, winning with a 1,3,5. WCBC would not be deterred, and in Race 4 came storming back with a 1,2,5 – a narrow cross in the last third of the last beat sealing their victory. A live stream of the finals allowed the general public to see the quality that both teams brought. Live, public scoring on google drive allowed competitors, coaches, and spectators to follow all 190 races sailed over both days.

Congratulations to West Coast Best Coast: Chase Decker, Sophia Mulvania, Cam Spriggs, Reade Decker, Ashtyn Tierney, and Peter Busch for an event well sailed!