



Understanding reciprocity between yacht clubs

Questions often arise about issues of Pacific Inter-Club Yachting Association (PICYA) reciprocity between yacht clubs and yacht club members. We hope this guide will help demystify how reciprocal privileges work—and your role in being a good ambassador for Island Yacht Club when visiting member clubs.

There are over 100 yacht clubs and boating organizations in PICYA, each unique in size, structure, membership interests and facilities. Therefore, each club may develop its own program of activities and its own policies and procedures about reciprocity with other clubs.

While we believe that all PICYA member clubs have a spirit of sportsmanship and friendliness toward other boaters, we support every club's right and responsibility to establish its own policies with respect to visiting privileges. Reciprocity is a privilege, not a right.

Visiting Protocol and Courtesies

A yacht club is no different from a person's home with respect to guests.

Most yacht clubs in Northern California reciprocate with other clubs, however these reciprocal privileges are not intended to entitle guests unlimited use of other clubs' facilities.

As an Island Yacht Club member, you should not assume that all yacht clubs are reciprocal; you should always check with the club, ahead of time.



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How to visit a yacht club

Ahead of your visit

First, call the yacht club to verify that you have reciprocal privileges—and ask what is needed for you to visit. Usually, clubs will welcome you upon presentation of your IYC membership card, however a letter of introduction from IYC's Commodore may be required.

When making arrangements, please ask about club and marina rules around allowing pets and using club facilities, including guest slips and docks.

When at the yacht club

Yachting protocol, courtesy and a thank you goes a long way in fostering good relations between clubs – you are our ambassador, so make us proud! Here are some tips to ensure you are welcomed back to the club:

- Always sign the guest register.
- Always have a current membership card from Island Yacht Club and be prepared to show it.
- Wear a nametag from IYC, or sign a 'stick on badge' from the club.
- Ask for a copy or location of club rules and observe them; you are a guest.
- Patronize the facilities of the club, such as the bar or restaurant. The club may have brought in extra staff just for your visit.
- Under no circumstances board any vessel without permission.
- Always follow good environmental practices, especially around waste disposal from your vessel. Leave a clean wake.
- Above all—support the yachting community, make new friends and enjoy wonderful boating adventures!