

Royal Protocol

QUEENS AND PRINCESSES

There are many traditions and protocols governing queens and princesses and it would take a book to cover them all. What follows are answers to some often asked questions.

For CBYCA clubs, the Ball protocol is to provide free attendance for the Queen of the Chesapeake and her escort. Free attendance or reduced prices for all other "royalty" is at the discretion of the host club and the Commodore of the host club.

In all other respects, CBYCA clubs should treat visiting queens and princesses of any outside club or organization in the world exactly as they would treat their own queen and princesses. For example traditionally, queens are introduced after visiting clubs, princesses, and organizations, sit at the head table, are asked to speak and receive yellow flowers (often roses).

As for dress, queens and princesses from non-CBYCA clubs and organizations should follow their own protocols (as long as the attire is appropriate for the occasion -- most CBYCA club balls are traditionally very formal). As hosts, CBYCA clubs recognize respect and celebrate the traditions and protocols of guest clubs and organizations. Princesses of visiting clubs that are also members of the CBYCA (this is common with clubs in the DRYL and PRYCA), may follow either CBYCA or their own protocols, but we suggest consideration be given to the special regional identity provided their "home" organization.

"Royal" persons of various organizations around the world often wear sashes. Matching sashes are sometimes provided as part of the "Queen of the Chesapeake" pageant. We recommend CBYCA Club Princesses wear sashes that include their club name as part of their official attire. A nice tradition practiced by clubs of the DRYL and recently by clubs of the CBYCA is for the princesses to wear unique sashes in club colors. The Queen of the Chesapeake and the Queen of the DRYL always wear sashes.

If a visiting queen wants to wear white, we are not aware of any conflicting protocol and suggest it is quite appropriate because white is the traditional Chesapeake Bay color for queens and the host club princess.

Please check with Maryland Yacht Club, the sponsoring club of the Queen of the Chesapeake contest, but it is our understanding that the princess of any CBYCA member club may compete regardless of the club's location. HOWEVER, if your club princess wins, she must perform the traditional duties of the Queen of the Chesapeake, which will keep her and her supporting cast (parents, commodore, etc.) in the Chesapeake Bay region almost every weekend.

KING OF THE CHESAPEAKE

Originated and sponsored by Marley Boat Club, the "King" started as a typical summer silly thing to do. The "King" has since evolved into a Goodwill Ambassador (more blunt folks might say a buffoon for a year) who appears at parties during the year of his reign "blessing" his subjects with sheets of toilet paper. The "King's" costume is something to see as each "King" from the year before adds something to it. The "King" is well respected because it takes a lot of courage for a fellow to get up and make an absolute fool of himself for the entertainment of his friends.

QUEEN OF THE GALLEY SLAVES

The female equivalent of the "King of the Chesapeake." The Galley Slaves, a long-standing informal association of lady boaters, sponsors the "Queen," who is selected by contest at the annual summer gathering of the Galley Slaves. The "Queen" is noted for her colander "crown," celebrating the Galley Slaves' lofty status as provider of sustenance for hungry crews. The "Queen" serves as a Goodwill Ambassador for a Year, appears at parties and club events and blesses her male subjects with an uncooked spaghetti noodle.

QUEEN OF THE NARROWS

Male Goodwill Ambassador sponsored by Kent Island Yacht Club and selected at an annual summer contest. This "Queen" is known to embody the spirit of elegance and beauty and can be quite striking in appearance. In fact, many are struck temporarily blind and speechless when "she" appears.