

O'pen Skiff Regatta – Guidelines on Fleet Selection

Our aim is not to have every kid a racer doing laps, but every O'pen Skiff sailor enjoying the sport for a lifetime. This is why O'pen Skiff Regattas are designed to run 3 fleets (Gold, Silver and Green) in order to support and challenge every level of sailor.

Summary

Gold Fleet

- Suitable for sailors who have a deeper understanding of the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and want to race competitively with more experienced sailors.
- Suitable for sailors who can handle their boats in a range of conditions and efficiently sail a triangle / trapezoid courses (from light to heavy winds).
- It is expected that the sailor has competed in either one or more Australian Sailing youth events, State Championships, Nationals or Worlds in the O'pen Skiff or similar youth or junior class.

Gold Fleet Prizes Overall: 1st, 2nd, 3rd U17: 1st, 2nd, 3rd U15: 1st, 2nd, 3rd U12: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Silver Fleet

- Suitable for sailors who can competently sail a triangle / trapezoid course in moderate winds and understand basic racing rules.
- Suitable for sailors who want to challenge themselves in a racing environment with the aid of an elected coach.

Silver Fleet Prizes

Overall: 1st, 2nd, 3rd. U17: 1st, 2nd, 3rd. U15: 1st, 2nd, 3rd. U12: 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Green Fleet

- Emphasis is on fun.
- Suitable for sailors similar and/or equal to Tackers 2.
- Will consist of a variety of activities, led by appropriately qualified instructors (in an approximate ration of 1:10 on the water). These activities may include on-water games to improve boat handling, theory sessions, on-water coaching sessions and structured racing if deemed appropriate by the instructors.

Green Fleet Prizes

Prizes may be awarded for 'encouragement' and 'taking part'. Not necessarily place getters.

Gold Fleet

Gold Fleet is intended for the top level O'pen Skiff Sailors in-order to challenge them and develop the necessary skills to compete at National and World class events, as well as making the transition to Youth Pathway classes easier.

A Gold Fleet sailor is expected to have the necessary skills to sail challenging courses in a range of conditions and have a sound Knowledge of the [Racing Rules of Sailing \(RRS\)](#).

To be part of the Gold Fleet it would be expected that you have competed in either one or more Australian Sailing Youth events, State Championships, Nationals or Worlds in the O'pen Skiff or similar Youth or junior class.

Gold Fleet is a minimum requirement to qualify for World class events and necessary to be counted as an age group winner in the overall results of any Australian O'pen Skiff regatta.

Depending on previous results, the decision to move from Silver to Gold is up to the sailor, their parents and coaches.

Can I change from Gold to Silver or Vice Versa, once I have started?

If a sailor decides to change from Gold to Silver Fleet or Vice versa during the regatta, any races they have already sailed in the previous fleet will be scored as DNC's.

Silver Fleet

Silver Fleet is intended to be an introduction to more serious racing and provides a racing experience governed by the [Introductory Rules of Racing](#) and aided with on water coaching.

Silver Fleet sailors are expected to have a basic understanding of Racing Rules and can confidently sail a triangle / trapezoid course in moderate winds. Sailors may choose to return to Green Fleet if conditions are too challenging or they feel overwhelmed.

Why is Silver Fleet important?

- To encourage sailors to grow their skills by racing in more experienced and bigger fleets.
- To encourage Sailors to attend O'pen Skiff regatta's.
- To encourage their continued participation in O'pen Skiff racing.
- To build a manageable pathway between Green Fleet to Gold Fleet.

Silver Fleet start and courses for National events

- Silver Fleet ideally starts 5 minutes after the Gold Fleet, the aim is to have both fleets finishing around the same time even if separate finish lines are needed.
- Silver fleet would sail preferably on similar but shorter course to eliminate pressure on resources and give kids the opportunity to learn from their peers.
- A trapezoid configuration is favoured with a shorter windward leg.

When does a sailor move on from Silver Fleet?

- When they are capable of sailing around a triangle / trapezoid course in moderate to upper wind and wave conditions.
- When they are getting around the course consistently within the time limit.
- When they have a comprehensive understanding of the Racing Rules of Sailing.
- When they are looking to challenge their skills.
- When they place in the top 5 in a State or National event it is highly recommended that the sailor moves to the Gold Fleet at the next regatta that they attend.

The expectation is that you would have your own boat or charter boat. Allocated coaches will support the last 5 boats only and coach up to but not past the next boat. Silver Fleet will carry a ribbon or diamond on their sail to differentiate them from the Green or Gold Fleet.

Green Fleet

Green Fleet is an extremely important aspect to all O'pen Skiff regattas as it aims to guide and grow the future generation of sailors. Green Fleets main focus is on fun and learning and therefore will be fully coached at an aimed ration of 1:10.

Allocated Green Fleet coaches will decide each session plan depending on the conditions on the day, this will then be communicated to sailors at the morning briefing.

Sessions can include on-water games to improve boat handling, theory sessions, on-water coaching sessions and structured racing if deemed appropriate by the coaches.

Please note: O'pen Skiff Green Fleet is designed for sailors with basic sailing skills equivalent to Tackers 2 or a similar level of club training program.

Why is Green Fleet important?

- To encourage novices to attend their first O'pen Skiff regatta.
- To encourage their continued participation in O'pen Skiff racing.
- To build the fleet from the bottom up with the flexibility of modified course's and on water coaching.
- Set up inclusion pathways for kids who chose O'pen Skiff as their first boat.

Green Fleet is Fun

- Green Fleet courses will be run as close to shore and the club as possible.
- Green Fleet events have a coaching clinic before every on water activity which clearly describes the intent of the session.
- Green Fleet introduces sailing knowledge in a fun and practical way that will benefit the sailors in the future.
- Green Fleet sailors can sail two up with a sibling or friend and use a modified rig if preferred.
- Green Fleet is fully coached with lots of encouragement.
- Green Fleet mainly awards participation prizes so that the emphasis is on camaraderie, cooperation and learning.

Green Fleet starts and courses for National events

- Green Fleet will be run on a separate course, aimed to be located close to the shore and host club.
- Where possible Green Fleet will also be run in a different time frame to make use of lighter winds and allow the opportunity for siblings to share a boat or for charter boats to be utilised twice.
- Session format and courses will be decided by the coaching team on the day to suit the conditions – sailors will be informed at the briefing.

When does a sailor move on from Green Fleet?

- When they are comfortable sailing around a triangle / trapezoid course in moderate wind and wave conditions.
- When they understand all flags and courses.
- When they have an understanding of the [Introductory Rules of Racing](#).
- Most importantly when they feel ready.

Note

The aim of this document is to provide a guideline that describes the intent and level of entry for each O'pen Skiff Fleet, in an effort to help a sailor select which fleet is best suited for them. It is intended to be re-evaluated at least once a year to reflect the ever evolving and changing junior sailing category.