

2010



Grand League Series of Regattas- additional information



Domestic Events Committee
domesticevents@rowingireland.ie

The Grand League Regatta Series

To all Rowers, Coaches, Administrators, Organisers, Parents,

There are a number of exciting changes to our racing experience in 2010 as a result of the new format for the Grand League Series of Regattas. Please take a minute to familiarise yourself with some of the implications of the changes for you.

1. Regattas

The straight course multilane regattas are taking on the challenge of running the new format. They are Skibbereen, Queens, Cork, Metro, Athlone, Limerick and Monkstown.

2. Schedule of racing.

The schedule for racing for the entire series will be consistent from event to event. It is important that all clubs and coaches are aware of the schedule and manage their boats and crews accordingly. Every effort has been taken to schedule all boat categories, all grades, all genders and divisions to maximise the racing experience.

3. New Format.

A significant change to traditional racing will be the format.

4. Boat Categories

Races will take place in boat categories. All boat categories will be competed for, 8+, 4x, 4-, 4+, 4x+, 2x, 2- and 1x).

5. Division of Boats

There will be two divisions, the top division will comprise the **experienced rowers** - Senior, U23, Lwt, Inter and Junior 18A, the **beginners division** will comprise Novice, Junior 18B and Junior 16 grades. Junior 15 and Junior 14 will race separately.

6. Men and Women

Genders will race separately.

7. All Grades.

All grades are accommodated in this format. The full list is in the GL Series document.

8. Race guaranteed.

Every entry is guaranteed a race even if no other boat enters from your grade, provided of course that other boats in other grades in your division enter.

9. 2 race guarantee.

Provided there are more boats entered in each series than lanes, each competitor will have 2 races for every event entered. (Junior 14 and 15 will only race once per event).

10. First race- timed.

The first race will consist of a multicrew, multilane timed race. Boats will be selected to fill each of the lanes beginning with the higher grades.

11. No Recall in the first series of timed races

For the timed races no recall for those who break the start will take place - rather a 15 second time penalty will be incurred.

12. Timing.

A dedicated team of timekeepers will work over the regatta series to provide a quality results service. Results will be displayed as soon as is practicable.

13. The second race, the Finals.

The finals will consist of the more traditional race format where it is multilane and the time is slightly less relevant – you still have to go faster than the other crews in your final. Selection for the finals will be by way of times from the first series. The fastest boats will fill the lanes in the first final and so on.

14. Declarations

All crews will be required to declare for both the timed races and the finals. Declarations will be possible the day before the race and on the day by specific times that will be published following the close of entries.

15. Benefits

There are a number of benefits to coaches and rowers from this format. Racing against the clock you always have to race hard. Racing against other crews of similar speed will provide the racing stimulus that coaches and rowers want.

16. League system - Points

Embedded in the regatta series will be a points system to provide an added challenge to clubs. Taken from Grand Prix formula 1 motorsport, points will be awarded for crews who compete for each grade. The sliding scale of points is simple. 10 for grade winner, 7 for second then 6,5,4,3,2,1. Even though you might not win your grade you would still be fighting for points throughout the season for your club. All grades will be offered throughout the season.

In Senior Grades where composites are permitted each club in the composite will be allocated the appropriate portion of the winning points.

17. Bonus Point.

A bonus point will be awarded to each Junior and Intermediate crew that finishes ahead of a Senior crew. One point for each Senior crew in their particular final that they finish ahead of. This is an added incentive for Intermediate and Junior status crews to compete to a higher level.

18. Bias

Within the Grand League Points system there is a natural bias in favour of the small boats. 8 rowers in an VIII can win a maximum of 10 points for a win. 8 scullers can potentially win $10+7+6+5+4+3+2+1 = 38$ points!! Apart from the technical benefits from being in a small boat now there is added reason to develop those skills over the regatta series and remember in the new format you will be racing people of your own speed!

19. Prizes

At the end of the season prizes will be awarded based on the accumulated points totals in the following categories: Overall Club, Open Men, Open Women, Junior Men, Junior Women. Initially a monetary prize is offered.

20. Pennants.

Pennants will be awarded to each of the Grade winners based on accumulated points over the Series.

21. Price

A price of €10 per person per event entered has been determined as fair to both competitor and organiser. The competitor gets two full course competitive races per event. The organiser must cover costs in running the regatta which are significant. All regattas are committed to improving their events and a small profit will enable some of the needed improvements to take place. Even at €10 there is no guarantee the regatta will break even. Hence the desire to develop a spectacle that in the future will be worthy of attracting sponsors.

Junior 15 and Junior 14 the fee is €5 per person per event.

22. Status

Status wins will count for each race that 2 or more boats from different clubs compete in. The status win will be allocated to the first boat across the line in the relevant grade in the highest of the finals.

23. Under 23 Grade.

Under 23 grade is introduced as a senior status grade with the age restriction for Under 23. A rower may compete in an Under 23 event until 31st of December of the year in which he/she reaches the age of 22.

The U23 grade will facilitate 19-22 year olds and those who wish to composite at this level. U23 is a FISA competition grade.

24. Junior 18 A and B

Junior 18A has been placed in the experienced division to facilitate greater competition for this grade.

Junior 18B will help recruit and retain juniors who take up the sport towards the end of the Junior cycle. They will be competing against similar speed boats in their division.

25. Junior 15 and Junior 14

Junior 15 and Junior 14 squads are included in the regatta racing but not included in the league points because we believe that the focus for this age group should be learning to row and having fun at regattas and not feel the weight of serious competition resting on their shoulders by having the outcome of the competition or the league depending on their performance. We will introduce a sculling skills based fun event for this age group as a demonstration event at some regattas in 2010 and offer it as a competition in 2011.

26. Promoting participation for casually fit and Masters

The new format allows for the less fit and older athlete to compete at their level. Currently a less than fit senior can only race against the fit athletes of today. In the new format they can compete in the timed race and subsequently race against crews of similar speed. This format promotes participation by making the racing relevant to the abilities of the crew.

Casually fit and Masters crews can compete effectively in this format.

27. The Rowing Ireland Rules of Racing apply.

28. Look for the Positives.

The new format has been developed with the best interests of the rower, the coach, the regatta organiser and the sport of rowing in mind. Determine for yourself how you can get the most out of this exciting development.

29. Feedback to improve.

Please provide the Domestic Events Committee with feedback on all aspects of the Grand League Series. Doubtless there are ways to make it better. Considered constructive feedback with workable recommendations are particularly appreciated.

30. Feedback to domesticevents@rowingireland.ie

Domestic Events Committee,

March 2010