

The DWSC Wednesday Evening Series is traditionally one of the most popular racing series in the club. It is intended as an informal and fun event to encourage new people to race. Below are some notes on how the series will be run in 2017.

Dates for 2017

- Official Series Races: 3rd May to 16th August, all with a 7.30pm start.
- Non-series races - two evenings before (19th & 26th April) & one after those dates (23rd August) with 7 pm starts.

Guidelines for competitors

1. Racing should be fun and safe.
2. Races are often busy with a huge variety of boat speeds and participant capabilities so it is important that everyone sticks to the normal racing rules.
3. It is essential that experienced sailors should give due consideration and be aware of those who are new to the sport.
4. Count the number of laps you complete and **confirm this afterwards** on the signing in sheet. *(This should help produce correct results first time round.)*

Basic Guidelines for Race Officers

1. One start for all, using Flag D. ISAF standard 5,4,1,Go signal format.



2. Consider the number of boats when setting the line – probably at least double the length of a Sunday start line.
3. You can do individual or general recalls if necessary (although bear in mind the need to finish before it gets dark).
4. The start line is also a gate and finish line to allow fair handicap calculations.
5. We are using average lap time scoring so each lap needs to be the same length but you can use as many or few marks as you like to define the course. Sailwave allows us to use a corrected lap-time handicap system so record the number of laps every boat completes.
6. It is best to set the course in the clubhouse after checking out the wind on the water. (use a whiteboard pen or the magnetic markers on the map above the signing on sheets) Please also indicate the course on the Whiteboard on Lilibet.
7. Do use moveable inflatable buoys at every mark to make the course as clear as possible; you may need to help & encourage the safety boat cox'n to start this early.
8. Do not use the towers as marks of the course (some of them contain intakes that could cause a safety issue).
9. Please avoid using the jetty as one end of the starting line (the chains can be a hazard for centreboards and keels).
10. Shorter courses can be fun and are more flexible if the wind drops. More laps means that all boats are more likely to finish closer together in a similar wind strength.
11. Different courses are encouraged and are fun.
12. Aim for race duration of between 50 and 60 minutes depending on available light.
13. Aim to finish all boats around the same time, so consider wind strength and course length.

Results

- We request that the race team enter the results into Sailwave and publish the results on the evening. Basic Instructions on how to use the software will be posted [here](#). If you have any problems on the night please ask Mike Clapp or Tristan Beckett. If you are having difficulty publishing the results to the website please make sure the Sailwave file is saved to the Dropbox\2017 folder and inform results@dwsc.co.uk.
- All scored as one series but the Cat results will be split out to award separate prizes.
- Results for Rising Sun, Setting Sun and overall series (see club calendar for dates). Discard rate same as other club series which is 50% + 1 to count.

RACE OFFICERS for the Series

Members of the Race Team will be awarded average points for that duty (enter a result code of OOD in Sailwave).

Jon Senior is still looking for volunteers to fill the spaces.

Results

Results will be posted [here](#).

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are there no Sailing Instructions for Wednesday Evening Racing?

When I asked this question many years ago the answer was that we did not want a set of SI's because it would change the ethos of the Wednesday evening series. This is that it is a series run by volunteers for the members in addition to the more formal racing at the weekend. Having a set of SI's would make the series more formal and potentially discourage some people from volunteering to be Race Officers. A set of SI's would mean that the Race Officer would be open to having to attend a protest committee for a redress hearing if a sailor spotted they had not followed one of the instructions. No one wants a protest committee at 9 pm on a Wednesday evening!

Times change and the sailing committee could decide that it is time to make the event more formal. Before doing this they should be made aware that there are difficulties with writing a set of SI's that cover all the things that Race Officers get up to on Wednesday evenings. For example, do we allow the use of the towers as turning marks and do we allow starts from the pontoon? Also what happens when the RO gets the start sequence wrong or doesn't display the course both in the wet bar and on the committee boat? If the sailing committee wants to change the tradition of not having SI's for Wednesday evenings they must be prepared for a good few hours of discussion to sort out all these issues.

2. Why don't we use a 3-minute Start Sequence on Wednesday Evenings?

One reason for this is that we don't have a set of Sailing Instructions for Wednesday Evenings as explained in 1 above. The Racing Rules of Sailing state that the start sequence has a warning signal five minutes before the start signal (Rule 26). In order to change this you need to write something in your Sailing Instructions, which is a problem if there aren't any.

Another reason is that there is no need to change from this standard sequence. On Sundays it was felt necessary to make the change in order to speed up the turnaround of races. With the four starts the sequence now lasts 12 minutes rather than 20. Now sailors on the first start are requesting that they are given an extra 3 minutes of warning by the RO raising the on station flag with a horn, 3 minutes before the fleet flag. The Rule 26 start sequence gives around about the same total warning time without making the RO's job more complex with extra flags.

The commonly expressed reason to change to 3 minutes appears to be that club sailors have difficulty changing the countdown on their watches. They should remember that the sailors who attend open meetings and then sail on Wednesday would have a similar issue if we changed to 3 minutes. Most open meetings use the standard Rule 26 five minute sequence.