

Guide to attending a Welsh Dragon Series event

The Welsh Dragon Series consists of 3-5 events hosted by different clubs within each region of Wales (North, West & South). If you compete in 3 out of 4 events in the North and West, you will qualify for the overall series and get a free Welsh Dragon t-shirt! For the South you need to compete in 2 out of 3 events to qualify. Each event will have prizes for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in each fleet and category and the overall series prizes will be awarded at the OnBoard Festival in Bala on 30-31st August. The events provide fun, quality racing for sailors who are attending their very first event all the way up to Welsh National Squad sailors.

What category am I?

Sailors will be split into categories to help cater for their ability and experience. The categories can be found below. As you progress through the year you may find that you move up a category, if this happens it will affect your series score.

Gold	Racing for Welsh National Squad sailors.
Silver	Racing for sailors who are aspiring to gain a place in next year's Welsh National Squad and have been taking part in open training or have attended another Welsh Sailing event.
Training	Racing and training provided for less experienced sailors. Those taking part in their first few events or not yet ready for main fleet racing or who have come from the RYA OnBoard scheme.

Racing will be done in three fleets:

General Handicap: 420s, 29ers, ILCA 4, 6 & 7, RS Feva, and any other double hander boat (gold & silver)

Junior Handicap: Optimist, Tera Sport & Pro, Topper 4.2 & 5.3 (gold & silver)

Training Handicap: Any class of boat. This fleet is for sailors who are taking part in their first few events.

If a class has 10 entries or more, they will race as a separate fleet.

Sailing Instructions and Notice of Race

- Sailing Instructions (SI's) and the Notice of Race (NOR's) can look very complicated – the main information you need to know is:
 - Where to register?
 - What time does the racing start?
 - What is the course? And what colour are the marks?
 - What is my fleet's flag?
 - How many races are there?
 - Do I need to tally on and off?
 - What do I do if someone breaks a rule?
- Supplementary Sailing Instructions (SSI's) will be prepared by each club which will tell you specific information about the club and if there are any changes to the SI's.

Arrival at the club

- At registration (time and place in the SSI's) check your sail number and class of boat-especially if you are borrowing a boat!
- Check that you are in the right fleet and if you change fleet, you understand the effects.
- Briefing - at the competitor briefing (time and place in the SSI's) you will be introduced to the

race officer and the coaches who will show and explain the course, what flags will be used and timings for the day. This is a good chance for you to ask any questions you might have.

- The coaches will be around to help you rig and answer any questions.
- The “Beach Master” will let you know when to launch and to tally if that system is being used.

On the water

- Racing should be fun!
- Courses will be clearly displayed on the committee boat, if in doubt ask a coach or the Race Officer.
- There is usually a break for lunch.
- There will be coaches on the water to help you sail your best.
- If you have anything you need access to on the water, please ask one of the safety boats to carry it (top tip: try to remember which safety boat!).

Back Ashore

- Return your tally band as soon as you get ashore if that system is being used- this way the event organisers know that everyone has returned to shore safely.
- If you think somebody has broken a rule or if you are unsure of a rule, a coach will be around to answer questions. There is a time limit for protests which will be posted on the notice board.
- Each boat’s event score will be the total of her race scores with her worst score discarded if 3 or more races have been completed. Draws are broken using using a count back system.
- There will be a prize giving at the end of the day with some spot prizes decided by the race committee- so don’t run off home in case you get a prize!
- Enjoy socialising with sailors from other clubs.

If you have any questions on attending a Welsh Dragon Event, please get in touch with:

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