

A simple guide to Racing at DWSC.

Racing is a "natural progression" from your basic learning to sail course as someone tells you where to sail to, much like your Instructor did throughout your course.

The purpose of this guide is to debug the myths!

There are some very simple steps to getting started in racing;

1. Buy map of the marks and a china graph pencil from the Shop or Office.
2. Stick this to somewhere you can see it when you're helming.
3. Sign on to the race by the door into the club house and find out who will be starting before you (if in doubt ask any of the Training or OD teams).
4. Also have a look on your start sheet to see who will be starting with you!
5. Rig your boat and launch with plenty of time to spare and sail towards the start line, which is usually one of the white fishing boats.
6. On the way to the line get used to the boat and the wind, get some practice tacks and gybes in to make sure that everything is rigged properly.
7. Sail to the back of the Committee boat and using your china graph pencil write the course on the map.
8. Move away from the start line until it is your start.
9. The starts are 3 minutes apart and denoted by blasts from the horn (there are flags too but don't worry about them at this stage).
10. When it's not your start it is a good idea to keep well clear as various boats have different starting techniques... a good place to go and hide is upwind of the starboard (right) end of the line.
11. When you see the boats who are starting before you start then you should drop down to the line as you will be starting in 3 minutes.
12. Then the horn sounds and you're off to sail the course that OD team has set.
13. Think about the 5 essentials, don't forget the rules of the road and see how you do.
14. If you are left behind then feel free to cut a corner, you know where everyone else is going so cut the corner and get back with the rest of the boats that started with you.
15. Continue round the course thinking all the time about the 5 Essentials and rules of the road, you may have to do several laps but keep sailing until someone tells you that you've finished.
16. This is usually by a blast of the horn as you go across the line between the club house and the OL mark.
17. Return to shore, make your boat safe and sign off.

That is all there is to it.

When you're starting out copy what everyone is doing around you.

If you're in one of the larger Fleets (Solos, Lasers, Flying 15s) then find out who is good and watch them, if they go round a mark and lift their Centre Board $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way then when you go round the mark you lift yours $\frac{1}{4}$.

Remember the basic rules of the road but be aware there are rules of racing but don't worry too much about them, a good tip is that if someone who looks like they know what they're doing calls for room/water then give it to them even if you don't understand why, they're probably in the right.

BUT, after the race go and find them and ask them why they were right....

Finally, don't forget; a smile, a wave and an apology goes a long way when you get it wrong!