

DWSC Winter Race Series Briefing 2025-2026

As we head into the Winter race series there are only minor changes upcoming compared to our Summer series and last Winter that our racing members should be aware of, these are outlined below. As always if anything is unclear please ask!

The series starts on the 26th of October, this is the morning after the clocks change – don't forget!

I look forward to seeing you all on the water this winter!

Simon Odling, Rear Commodore Sailing

Start Sequence & Schedule

This is the most important update for everyone to make a note of. The Split of Fast and Slow fleet has changed to GL above and below 1100. This means boats like the Vareo, Blaze and RS200 now start on the first Sunday start with the Fast Fleet.

The signing on sheets are updated – check your GL when you sign on!

Signing On Penalties

There have been many requests for better discipline on signing on. Whilst errors occur there is a request for me to consider a Tally or Signing on penalty of 30% for those who do not sign on. Usually boats who have not signed on still get a result from the scorers/fleet captains, but it makes the OD's job much more difficult to publish complete the results sheets after the race and these are all volunteers.

Everyone using the water must sign on for safety – if not racing there is still a requirement to sign on – it's not just about race results.

I am looking at this and will make an update to the SI's once approved by the committee.

No penalty system applies from the start of the winter series, but please try and sign on correctly, with the right sail number for the day and your series sail number if you are not sailing with your usual sail.

Please do not sail with blank sails without numbers – even one digit is enough!

Missed fleet starts

If for any reason a fleet does not start on its allotted start time it must not start with or in between another fleet's start. This has been an issue during the summer.

The fleet should send a representative to the OD boat, taking care to avoid interfering with any other starts to request that they start at the back of the sequence. Where no General Recall has happened, this would be on start 6 after the Slow Menagerie fleet have started.

The same applies to any fleet planning on starting after the main sequence for any reason – speak to the OD beforehand and let them know your plans.

If this does happen please also be courteous to the slower boats ahead of you, you probably aren't actually racing them and most of the time it's faster to avoid each other!