# GP14 Ireland - Guidance for Operating Fleets and Leagues

## INTRODUCTION

The management of the GP14 Ireland Fleet allocations and GP14 Ireland Leagues will be the responsibility of the GP14 Ireland Committee (Committee) through the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee.

Fleet & Leagues Sub-Committee for 2017 Season

Should include at least one member of each fleet at least one of whom should be a member of the GP14 Ireland Committee.

* JP McCaldin (convener), David Cooke, Michel Cox & Alan Blay

## FLEET ALLOCATION GUIDANCE

The following fleet allocation guidance is to assist current GP14 sailors and particularly newcomers to the GP14 Ireland class in deciding what is the most appropriate fleet to be placed into.

**GOLD** - A competitor who regularly finishes in the top third of the fleet at events or who has competed regularly in the gold fleet of other classes. They would be expected to finish in the top 33% of the Irish GP14 fleet.

**SILVER** - An experienced competitor with expectations of finishing in top 66% of the Irish GP14 fleet at events.

**BRONZE** - A bronze fleet competitor is likely to have a track record of finishing in the bottom half of the fleet at events or be new to dinghy racing or events.

It will also be used as a guide for promotion (**\***) when the fleets are being decided for the following season.

(**\***) - Demotion is not automatic and will be decided by the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee in conjunction with the competitor.

The fleet allocation will be published on the GP14 Ireland website listing all active helms for the season.

## OPERATION OF THE LEAGUES

The season’s fleet allocation will be used for the GP14 Ireland leagues. Unlisted entrants to the leagues throughout the season will also use the same guidance above for initial placement into the league.

A returning competitor should initially assume their previous fleet and league allocation unless a request for demotion is submitted to the Committee.

If a new competitor consistently scores above their initial league placement e.g. finishing top 3 in the league above in two or more events the Committee may, at its discretion, promote the competitor to a higher league in consultation with the competitor.

QUALIFYING EVENTS

The following 6 events will qualify towards the Leagues:

1. Purcell Trophy
2. Ulster Championship
3. Leinster Championship
4. Championship of Ireland
5. Autumn Open
6. Hot Toddy

Competitors will accumulate points for their finishing position in their respective League at each of the above events throughout the season.

NON-QUALIFYING EVENTS

The following events DO NOT qualify towards the Leagues:

* O’Tiarnaigh Challenge
* Youth Championship

DISCARDS

A discard system will operate as follows:

* Gold Fleet – 1 discard across all events
* Silver Fleet – 2 discards across all events
* Bronze Fleet – 3 discards across all events

Discards will be applied after 4 events sailed.

A DNS will apply to those competitors who did not compete in an event. DNS = number of competitors at the event in their respective league + 1.

## MAINTAINING THE LEAGUE TABLES

The League tables will be maintained by the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee. The updated tables will be published on the Class website as soon as possible after each qualifying event.

PROMOTION & DEMOTION

1. Competitors will maintain their assigned fleet/league position throughout the season with the following exceptions:
	1. A competitor may decide to move up if they feel their performance is at a level well above their current allocation. They must notify the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee and must maintain their new allocation for the duration of the season.
	2. If a new competitor consistently scores above their initial fleet/league placement e.g. finishing top 3 in the league above in two or more events, or an outright event win, the Committee may, at its discretion promote, the competitor to a higher league.
2. The winners of Bronze & Silver league will be automatically promoted one fleet/league for the following year.
3. Demotion is not automatic and will be decided by the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee following consultation with those competitors.
4. In considering which competitors to move the Sub-Committee will look to ensure a fair and balanced league allocation is maintained.
5. When allocating a sailor to a Fleet at an event, the Fleet & Leagues Sub-Committee and/or the event race management team will use the official GP14 Ireland Fleet list irrespective of Fleet entered on the Event entry form by the competitor.
6. In the event the sailor is entering a GP14 Ireland event for the first time, the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee will use the guidance contained above in '*Fleet Allocation Guidance''* in consultation with the sailor to decide on initial Fleet placement.
7. Self-demotion is not permitted. Request for demotion will be considered and decided on by the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee taking into account the relevant factors.

AWARD OF PRIZES

The GP14 Class Association Committee will seek to secure a sponsor for the Leagues and sponsored prizes will be awarded for the winners of each league at the Hot Toddy.