

Guidance for Operating GP14 Ireland 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 through the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee.

FLEET & LEAGUES SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chair and members of the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee will be reviewed regularly by the Committee. The Sub-Committee should include at least one member from each of Gold, Silver & Bronze fleets. The members of the Sub-Committee will be displayed on the Club website.

FLEET ALLOCATION GUIDANCE

The following fleet allocation guidance is to assist the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee, current GP14 sailors (helms) and particularly newcomers to the GP14 Ireland class in deciding what is the most appropriate fleet a Helm should be placed into.

GOLD - A competitor (Helm) who regularly finishes in the top third of the fleet 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. Once promoted to the Gold Fleet there should ideally be no relegation allowed. However, a competitor that is placed in Gold by the Class rather than through promotion may request a review if their performance fails to satisfy the criteria for Gold. The review will be carried out at the discretion of the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee.

SILVER - An experienced competitor (Helm) with expectations of finishing in top 66% of the Irish GP14 fleet.

BRONZE - A bronze fleet competitor (Helm) 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.

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

(*) - Promotion will not be automatic on winning Silver or Bronze fleet but will also take into consideration higher fleet criteria. The decision to promote will be decided by the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee.

Note - All competitors (helms) must be a member of the GP14 Class.

Responsibility for allocating sailors within the Leagues ultimately lies with the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee and they will act as the final arbiter in any dispute relating to Fleet allocations.

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

OPERATION OF THE LEAGUES

The previous season's final fleet allocation will be used for the new season 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 promotion / relegation 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.

To ensure consistent application of the League for each event, we would encourage Clubs to not include a Fleet section in the entry forms.

The Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee will PROVIDE the organising Club with the most up to-date League tables prior to the event. Unlisted entrants at an event will be allocated using the above guidance in conjunction with a member of the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee or a member of the GP14 Ireland Committee.

QUALIFYING EVENTS

The following events will qualify towards the Leagues:

- Munster Championship incorporating the Purcell Trophy
- Ulster Championship
- Leinster Championship
- Championship of Ireland
- One of - Autumn Open / Summer Open / Spring Open
- Hot Toddy
- Other events agreed by GP14 Ireland Committee

Competitors will accumulate points for their finishing position in their respective League at each of the above events throughout the season. As further outlined below, points for non-attendees will ultimately be based on the number of attendees in that fleet across the season.

NON-QUALIFYING EVENTS

The following events DO NOT qualify towards the Leagues:

- O'Tiarnaigh Challenge (unless run as a normal event)
- 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 - 2 discards across all events

Discards will be applied after 4 events sailed.

Within the Leagues, a DNS will apply to those competitors who did not compete in an event. To ensure competitors are not penalised by attending events - DNS = number of competitors within the series in their respective league + 1. This obviously means positions could change based on attendance at later event.

MAINTAINING THE LEAGUE TABLES

The League tables will be maintained by the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee using an application and methodology developed and customised for use by the GP14 Class Association. The updated tables will be published on the Class website as soon as possible after each qualifying event.

The application and methodology can be and may at times be updated to cater for situations arising during our seasons racing. The decision to make changes to the application or methodology will be at the discretion of the Fleets & Leagues Sub-Committee. Any changes will be communicated to Class Association members via the Association website and/or Class email.

PROMOTION & RELEGATION

1. Competitors will maintain their assigned fleet/league position throughout the season with the following exceptions:
 - a. 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.
 - b. 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 the Committee may, at its discretion promote, the competitor to a higher league in consultation with the competitor.
2. The winners of Bronze & Silver league will be automatically promoted one fleet/league for the following year.
3. Relegation 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 (if available), to decide on initial Fleet placement.

7. Self-relegation is not permitted. Request for relegation 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 (Gold, Silver & Bronze) at the Hot Toddy or the final event of the season.