



Which Fleet?

From the 2023 Early Summer Championships, sailors competing in IOCA(UK) Championship weekends will be offered the choice of competing in three fleets: Main, Intermediate and Regatta. The fleets available at the National Championships will remain unchanged. To help sailors choose which is the most suitable fleet for them we have prepared the following guidance.

Main Fleet

The Main Fleet will generally be scheduled to spend longer on the water than other fleets, with up to 4 races per day and a target time for the winning boat of 45 minutes. Sailors should expect to be on the water for around 5 hours. In addition, races may run in challenging conditions - the guidance for PROs includes a maximum average wind speed for racing of 25 knots. By entering the Main Fleet a sailor is accepting a challenge to test their skills not only against the best sailors at the event but also the conditions, which may be variable and physically demanding.

Intermediate Fleet

The Intermediate Fleet is intended to provide a full race experience for developing sailors without the physical demands of Main Fleet. The Intermediate Fleet will generally be scheduled to sail up to 3 races on any day, with a target time of 40 minutes for the winning boat and a maximum average wind threshold of approximately 20 knots. Sailors should expect to be on the water for 3-4 hours. The Rolling Ranking will continue on after the Main fleet into the Intermediate Fleet, with the sailor placed first in Intermediate Fleet receiving a ranking score +1 after the last placed sailor in Main Fleet.

Who should think about entering the Intermediate Fleet?

1. Developing sailors (of any age) who have raced in Main Fleet before and have consistently finished in the back 25%.
2. Perhaps consider the best Optimist sailors at your Club and think about whether you are able to finish within 10 minutes of them in all wind conditions, in particular very light (<6 kts) or heavy (>18 kts), if not then maybe Intermediate Fleet would give a better experience.
3. Emerging sailors who have sailed in the Regatta Fleet at other regattas and are ready to move up.
4. Younger sailors who may be more experienced but find the long days in Main Fleet too demanding.

Regatta Fleet

Regatta Fleet is where our junior sailors start their big-regatta experience. The Regatta Fleet is intended for less experienced sailors, generally in their first year of travelling to events. All children start sailing at different ages and progress at different levels so there are no age limits. The aim is to provide lots of short races, with up to six races a day and a target time of 20 minutes for the winning boat. Sailors will usually come in for lunch and more support will be provided. The total time on the water will be around three hours per day and the maximum average wind threshold approximately 15 knots. The Regatta Fleet is not included in the Rolling Ranking.

Further detailed information can be found in the [Major Event Instructions](#) and in the [IOCA\(UK\) Race Management Policies](#).