

Team Racing

This module will be managed by Alex Barry.

It will be followed by team racing sessions and events for people to partake in.

Team Racing is a popular form of dinghy or yacht racing where only two teams compete against each other in a race. A team consists of 2, 3 or 4 matched boats from the same class, often identified by sail & boat colours and numbers alternatively the helmsman may be wearing coloured bibs. Using the low points scoring system, a combination of a team's results decides the winner. i.e. 1st = 1 point, 2nd = 2 points and so on. The team with the least points wins.

Team Racing is an ideal way to retain youth sailors after they leave the structured environs of youth classes or Irish Sailing programmes. Team Racing is very sociable as whilst there are a lot of races against different teams, there are also times where team members will be waiting on their next race in change over boats, pontoons or ashore. This allows teams to mix, chat and socialize. It also adds the dimension of practicing and racing as part of a team. The more you practice and work together, the more successful you become.

Each race lasts around 10 minutes and multiple races can be run at the same time using the same course.

As Team Racing uses Umpires, it reduces the ability for people to shout and scare opponents. This is often frowned upon, so reduces attempted Male dominance. It also has less reliance on physical strength, with more reliance on strategy, communication, rules knowledge and tactics making it a much more attractive sport to females. Umpiring speeds up the process of protests allowing for immediate on water decisions, which in turn ensures that results are quickly updated.

Team racing can take place in a variety of boats and for this module we intend to utilise the double handed Firefly dinghy and separately, optimists. We will utilise the UCC and CIT fleets plus Irish Sailing have a fleet of six fireflys which we may seek to use.

We will hold a number of evenings throughout the summer, open to all. We may also travel to Schull to utilise the experience and facilities of the Fastnet Marine & Outdoor Education Centre who have 4 fleets of boats, a purpose built building and onsite accommodation. If sailors are ready, they can take part in a number of events including the Sutton Book and the Irish Team Racing Championships which will both take place in Cork in 2021 plus travel to events such as the 'Elmo' in the Royal St. George.

This is a great opportunity for sailors of all sizes, ages and genders to mix and have fun on the water and ashore.

Please keep an eye on the club communications channels for further details in Spring 2021.