

## **ISS Event Format – 2010 Season**

The ISS (Irish Slalom Series) document was developed to inform the EO (Event Organiser) and OOD (Officer Of the Day) of the format of racing which must be met in order to host a ranked round of the ISS. The document was developed to ensure consistency between each round of the national series.

### **Briefing**

The following points should be mentioned during the briefing for each fleet. These points are on top of any opening speeches that the organiser wants to give. A general briefing that includes all fleets can be given as long as each fleet is addressed individually on these points;

1. Course description to be given, i.e. will they be sailing a downwind course or figure of 8, is the course close to shore, etc.
2. If it is a figure of 8 course how many laps (see fleet description for ISS recommended laps), if the course is downwind how many legs (see fleet description for ISS recommended laps).
3. Describe the race start sequence and the different colour flags, recommended time and flags are as follows;
  - Approximately 4 minutes before start, warning to be given by waving the Green flag horizontally,
  - At 3 minutes to go – Raise the Orange flag and sound hooter,
  - 15 seconds before the 1 minute warning flag (Green flag) the orange flag should be taken down,
  - At 1 minute to go – Raise Green Flag + sound hooter,
  - Race Start – Green Flag Down + hooter,
  - If too many competitors are over early - Green flag is to be raised and continuously waved with repeated short blasts of the hooter. Official race starter is to allow enough time for competitors to return to the start line after the General Recall has been given, once they are happy to proceed with the start sequence and should be started again.

NOTE: IN ALL RACE START SIGNALS THE FLAG SIGNALS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER THE HOOTER. THEREFORE COMPETITORS SHOULD BE INFORMED AT ALL BRIEFINGS TO SYNCHRONIZE THEIR TIMES WITH THE FLAGS.

4. Inform competitors that it is their responsibility to ensure that the race crew taking results can easily make out their bib/sail number for scoring and if they don't have a bib they will not get a result.
5. If required have a Fun flag ready to show at briefing, if this is raised the race is fun. This is only required under particular circumstances and may vary from event to event, consultation with the ISS crew prior to event can clarify this.
6. Minimum notice before a race is to be 30 minutes.

7. Will competitors have time to return to the beach? Yes as start line will be shared between gold and silver fleet.
8. Let competitor know of any dangers/hazards on the water i.e. rocks, lobster pot lines, mooring lines or tidal affects.
9. If possible let the competitors know the plan of action for the day i.e. how many races are you hoping to complete before lunch for each fleet. Also let them know that you will have a quick briefing after lunch to recap.
10. Let Silver and Bronze fleets know about the Buddy system, ask at briefing for any new competitors and assign them a Gold fleet Buddy. The ISS crew at the event can assist with this if required.
11. If possible have a volunteer take up position of Beach Master; they will need to be able to communicate between the race crew on the water and the competitors on the beach. They will need to be informed of all plans and changes throughout the day so that they can relay the changes and plans to the competitors.
12. Mention to competitors that they should take note of who finishes before and after them in each race in case they need to query any results recorded on the results sheets at the end of each day of competition.
13. Notify competitors that we will be racing according to the latest IFCA rules.
14. And finally ask competitors if they have any questions.

### **Fleets in General**

- Avoid changing fleets during the year at all costs
- Competitors should pick their fleets to maximise their time and fun on the water.
- Competitors should pick a fleet which will test their current ability and therefore provide an opportunity improve their sailing ability.
- All competitors are encouraged to use a watch.

Competitors must be an IWA member to take part in all events. Should the case arise where the event organiser arranges his/ her own insurance then the IWA membership constraint maybe removed? However, non IWA members will not be included in the end of year ranked results.

### **Fleet Description**

**Gold** - racing that will push you to the limit and challenge you at every opportunity.

- Can only race on equipment that complies to ISS rules, i.e. no sail bigger then 10.0m<sup>2</sup> and no board wider then 85cm wide.
- Ideally Gold fleet to start separate from any other fleet, if fleet numbers are not high enough they may be included with the Silver fleet. This can also apply for master blasters.

- Course is to be set to maximise time on water, if figure of 8 course is set Gold fleet should at least complete one more lap than the next fleet down (usually Silver) or if downwind course is set than Gold fleet should complete at least 2 more legs.
- Competitors planning to compete in Gold fleet should meet the following standards;
  - Have a watch to ensure they cross the start line on/just after the starting hooter.
  - Be able to at least make 60% of their gybes without falling in. Ideally plane out of their gybes.
- Benefits;
  - Most competitive fleet in the country (National Irish Slalom Champion), national ranking for future international competitions,
  - More exposure at events,
  - Maximised time on the water,
  - Guaranteed to improve your sailing standard whilst sailing with the country's top slalom sailors,
  - Invited to ISS Invitational Events, which will be to improve the ISS publicity and giving competitors more exposure to fun racing.
  - Should a PWA Slalom Event take part in the country, ISS Gold Fleet Sailors will be considered for wild card entries.

## Silver

- The ISS rules on equipment should be used as a guideline for Silver fleet competitors. Silver fleet competitors should be aiming to progress up into the Gold fleet. Equipment emphasis more on the free-ride and free-sailing standards of sails and boards.
- Ideally Silver fleet to start separate from any other fleet, if fleet numbers are not high enough they may be included with the Gold fleet. This can also apply for master blasters.
- Course is to be set to maximise time on water, if figure of 8 course is set. Silver fleet at a minimum should complete one less lap than the Gold fleet or at least 2 less legs of a downwind course.
- Competitors planning to compete in Silver fleet should meet the following standards;
  - It is advised that they have a watch, it will make timing their starts easier and give them an advantage if they cross the line at full speed and on the hooter/just after it. And improve their overall level of racing.
  - Attempting fully planning gybes or at least completing 50% of their Flarve gybes (Flarve – cross between carve and flare gybe).
- Silver fleet racers should be aiming to progress their level of windsurfing and make it into the Gold fleet. If applicable the Overall winners in the different age categories will be requested to be promoted to the Gold fleet for the next season, if they decline the offer they will be given a handicap to stay in the Silver fleet. This is to ensure that the same competitors are not always winning and will also push them to improve even if they stay in the Silver fleet,

- Benefits;
  - Emphasis on fun, giving sailors the opportunity to compete against their mates in a race environment,
  - Competitive fleet with points going to national titles at the end of the year,
  - Gold fleet buddies if required/requested and if conditions not suited to ranked racing free coaching and tips from the top National and the odd international competitors in the Gold fleet,
  - Courses will be set with safety in mind and to ensure that the course is challenging yet manageable but at the same time help improve the standards of the competitors that compete in it.
  - Gear emphasis more on free-ride standards, you don't need the best equipment to compete or win,

## **Bronze**

- Simple one mark course, starting and finishing from the beach (straight out and back in),
- Safe and sheltered course a priority, try to set the course in an area with flat water if possible,
- Separate race crew for this fleet, it is important to get the balance right between as many races as possible within a short period and ensure competitors get enough of a break between races. Stop for lunch and the back out again to fit in as many short races as possible with time between races for a break. This is to ensure that they don't spend too much time standing around and getting bored/cold,
- The more helpers the better to give competitors as much encouragement as possible the better,
- Competitors should be able to sail in a straight line, steer their board and also turn comfortably.
- Race crew should be aware of the rules of racing and teach the competitors of the simple rights of way while windsurfing i.e. the starboard rule, not to turn in front of somebody and always look before you attempt anything,
- Benefits;
  - A great fun and relaxed introduction to racing with some great prizes, major emphasis on the social side of the sport,
  - Gold fleet buddies and if conditions not suited to ranked racing free coaching and tips from the top National and the odd internal competitors in the Gold fleet,
  - Sail with likeminded people which will help improve your overall level of windsurfing,
  - The use of any equipment available to you, whether you borrowed, begged or stole it (preferably one of the first two).

## Age Categories

<b>Senior 55</b>	or over on 31st Dec 2009	
<b>Grand Master 45</b>	or over on 31st Dec 2009	
<b>Master 35</b>	or over on 31st Dec 2009	
<b>Men/Ladies Under 35</b>	on 31st Dec 2009	
<b>U-20 (Youth) Under 20</b>	on 31st Dec 2009	<b>Buoyancy aid compulsory</b>
<b>U-17 (Youth) Under 17</b>	on 31st Dec 2009	<b>Buoyancy aid compulsory</b>
<b>U-14 (Youth) Under 14</b>	on 31st Dec 2009	<b>Buoyancy aid compulsory</b>
<b>U-12 (Junior) Under 12</b>	on 31st Dec 2009	<b>Buoyancy aid compulsory</b>
<b>U-10 (Junior) Under 10</b>	on 31st Dec 2009	<b>Buoyancy aid compulsory</b>
<b>U-8 (Junior) Under 8</b>	on 31st Dec 2009	<b>Buoyancy aid compulsory</b>
<b>U-6 (Junior) Under 6</b>	on 31st Dec 2009	<b>Buoyancy aid compulsory</b>

**Note:** To generate a fleet in any category there must be at least 3 competitors.

## Prizes

Prizes shall at a minimum be awarded for the above categories as follows;

- 3 competitors required to make up a fleet, in this case only 1<sup>st</sup> place to be awarded a prize,
- 5 competitors, 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> place to be awarded a prize,
- 7 competitors or more, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> places to be awarded a prize,

This will be the same for the end of year results. Event organizer can award more prizes as they feel appropriate but as a rule should follow the above guidelines as a minimum requirement.

## Scoring

All event races will go towards the event results and decide the winners in each category. It is important that the race officer notes any races that the wind drops below 12knots as defined in the ISS rules or that 50% of the fleet don't plane for at least 75% of the course, final decision is with the OOD.

If required the ISS can assist race organiser with compiling the race results at the end of each days racing.