

# National Schools' Regatta 2021 - Changes



## Introduction

After an extensive period of consultation the National Schools' Committee is delighted to announce the 2021 NSR Race Event structure.

The National Schools' Regatta is proud to be the UK's premiere rowing event for juniors in the UK and Ireland and we want to ensure this continues. The design of this new race format has incorporated feedback from extensive discussions with coaches from clubs and schools across the country. We would like to thank everyone who has engaged so positively in the process. We believe the format will enable NSR to continue to deliver a world class event for every competitor, coach and spectator.

We recognise the events offered do impact on how schools and clubs organise their teams over the year, we hope the balance of events on each day will give racing opportunity to the youngest whilst also offering performance progression. Friday remains dedicated to our youngest and first time competitors, with the Junior 14 and 15 crews racing. Saturday and Sunday will continue as a two day Championship Regatta for the Junior 16 to Junior 18 elite level competitors.

We remain committed to offering events for Second crews, staying true to our founder, Desmond Hill OBE's wishes to organise a regatta '*to provide wider experience and competition for juniors in school.*'

However due to the annual growth in race entries and the need to organise a safe regatta there will be NO DOUBLING UP. We believe more juniors will have the opportunity to race in different boat types and we hope NSR will continue to provide clubs and schools with the opportunity to showcase the racing performances of more junior rowers.

In 2021 we will run a similar progression system with time-trials for all events. For those crews that qualify for side-by-side racing they will be offered at least one race, with most getting two races.

We wish you every success with your training and racing over the coming 7 months and we look forward to welcoming you to Dorney Lake in May 2021.

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## Our Strategy

The driver for the change was both a need to address the regatta management due to the ever increasing entry numbers and a desire to reflect the needs of clubs and schools.

- Gender parity of events. The time has come to offer the same number of events for boys and girls. We also wanted to bring the rules for events to parity.
- Alignment between the number of sculling and rowing events offered. To reflect the distribution of our entries we have added sculling events.
- Increase racing opportunity. No doubling up.
- Balance the number of crews racing each day
- Continue to offer a world class racing experience - Reduce the hours of racing on Saturday and Sunday to ensure event management remains first class.
- To simplify the rules and qualification for each event.

Entries in 2019 were close to parity.

- Boys - 647 (55.5%)
- Girls - 518 (44.5%)

NSR also has more sculling entries than rowing ones (even if you remove the J14 8x+).

- Sweep - 421 (J16 and up – 304) (36.1%)
- Sculling - 744 (J16 and up – 430) (66.4%)

NSR has an almost equal number of schools and clubs entering the regatta. It is also worth noting that compared to boys, the junior girls tend to row in smaller numbers at more clubs, resulting in more girls racing in small boat types.

25 Hours of racing over 3 days.

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## List of New Events

Friday		Saturday		Sunday	
Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls	Boys	Girls
J15 4x+	J15 4x+	Ch 8+	Ch 8+	Ch 4-	Ch 4-
J15 4+	J15 4+	Ch 4+	Ch 4+	Ch 2-	Ch 2-
J15 2nd 4x+	J15 2nd 4x+	Ch4x	Ch 4x	Ch 2x	Ch 2x
				Ch 1x	Ch 1x
J14 8x+	J14 8x+	2nd 8+	2nd 8+		
J14 4x	J14 4x	2nd 4x	2nd 4x		
J14 2nd 8x+	J14 2nd 8x+	3rd 8+			
		J16 8+	J16 8+	J16 4x	J16 4x
		J16 4+	J16 4+	J16 2x	J16 2x
		J16 2nd 8+	J16 2nd 8+	J16 2nd 4x	J16 2nd 4x
		J15 8+	J15 8+		
		J15 2nd 8+	J15 2nd 8+		

## Some Rules:

1. Time Trials for each event.
2. No doubling up (except J15s who row in the 4x on Friday may compete in the VIII's on Saturday)
3. To enter a 2nd event you must have a crew in the Championship tier of the same event.
4. To enter 3rd VIIIs you must have a crew in both Championship and 2nd VIII's.
5. Only 1 entry per Championship event. Except Ch1x where 2 entries are permitted.
6. No more than 2 crews in any 2nd event.

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## Thank you

This is the outline of the regatta that we plan to run in 2021. We are very happy to hear from people what they think. After the 2021 regatta we will have a full review to see how the changes worked and make further improvements as we iterate after this considerable change.

We appreciate you working with us, and we hope you respect that we have consulted widely and discussed these changes thoroughly. Plus given you a whole season to plan for the changes. We have not made these changes lightly, these feel like the best changes we could make to keep the event moving forward. National Schools' has come a long way from a one day regatta for 3rd VIII and Colts. But we still keep to our founding values, which are to provide much needed racing for school age rowers and scullers.

As for the logistics of running the event in 2021 we will be keeping abreast of all the government guidelines and keeping a close eye on how the rowing events progress between now and then. Safety and fairness is important to us and we will be looking to act in the best interest of the competitors and the long term sustainability of the event.

If you wish to be kept up to date on how things are developing please sign up to our Newsletter. (click the link below).

[Get more information](#)

Committee  
National Schools Regatta  
12th September 2020