

## Starling Green Fleet

The following are guidelines for the Starling Green fleet

The Starling is generally considered to be a bridging class between the learn to sail programmes in Optimists and the formal Youth classes. However not all sailors work through these programmes and many join the sport at an age or weight when sailing an Optimist is no longer appropriate. For those sailors who therefore have not yet developed the skills of more experienced sailors but who wish to participate in some of the bigger events we have introduced the Green Fleet.

Rather than be specific about the number of years you have sailed or the number of regattas you have sailed in we want the sailor to make the decision as to whether to sail in Green Fleet or step up. You may even choose to sail sometimes in Green fleet and sometimes in the main fleet depending on the venue and the weather.

What we do not want to happen is for a sailor to become proficient at sailing their Starling but choose to continue to sail in the Green Fleet because it's easier to do well. We would like you to become more proud of being good enough to sail in the main fleet than winning a Green Fleet competition.

As a result we would recommend that if you have finished in the top three in a Green Fleet competition, then you should move on. Once you are confident to sail in the main fleet you will benefit from being amongst other sailors from whom you can learn new techniques and skills and make new friendships. That's what Starling sailing is all about.