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# Qualifying Series and Managing Flights

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- What is a ‘Qualifying Series’?
  - Usually invoked when boats registered for a class exceed a “manageable” number for that class and it is necessary to `split` the fleet.
- What is a “Manageable number”
  - Lasers                      Radials
  - Optimist                      Club 420
  - 29'er                      49'er
- Usually coordinated with the Class.



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- Should be stated in the Notice of Race
- Appendix K :  
**6 QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES**  
The regatta will consist of a qualifying series and a final series.  
(note that it is not required by Appendix J1.1)
- Must be spelled out in the Sailing Instructions. (RRS J2.1)



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- **Sailing Instruction examples:**
- **Dutch Youth Regatta Workum 2011**
- **5 QUALIFYING SERIES AND FINAL SERIES (RACE FORMAT)**
- 5.1 The regatta may consist of a qualifying series (round robin) and a final series for the Optimist, Optimist Benjamin and Splash classes if more than 75 boats have registered in each class. For the 29er class the regatta may consist of a qualifying series and a final series if more than 50 boats have registered in that class.
- 5.2 The maximum number of boats in a starting group of the qualifier or round robin series will be 75.
- 5.3 The fleet will be split into final series fleets when 5 or more valid races have been sailed by Saturday evening 4 June and after the last protest of that day. If less than 5 valid races have been sailed, the fleet will continue sailing the round robin.
- 5.4 When the last qualifying or round robin race of a series is not valid for all starting groups, the race shall be abandoned for all concerned starting groups (addition to RRS 32.1).
- 5.5 Scores in the qualifying series are carried forward to the final series.
- 5.6 The right of appeal is denied in the qualification rounds. The RNYU has given permission to do so as required under rule 70.5 (a) and the prescriptions of the RNYU.



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- **Miami OCR 2012**
- Qualifying Series:
- 22.3.1 Boats will be assigned to fleets Yellow, Blue, Red, Green, etc. of, as nearly as possible, equal size and ability. Initial assignments will be made by a seeding committee appointed by the race committee. Those assignments will be posted by 2100 on the day before the first scheduled race for each event.
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- 22.3.2 Boats will be reassigned to fleets after each day of racing, except if on the first day fewer than two races are completed by all fleets. If all fleets have completed the same number of races, boats will be reassigned on the basis of their ranks in the series. If all fleets have not completed the same number of races, the series scores for reassignment will be calculated for those races, numbered in order of completion, completed by all fleets. For four fleets, and similarly for any other number, reassignments will be made as follows:



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- *Rank in series*      *Fleet assignment*
- First                      Yellow
- Second                    Blue
- Third                      Red
- Fourth                    Green
- Fifth                      Green
- Sixth                      Red
- Seventh                  Blue
- Eighth                    Yellow
- and so on

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- If two or more boats have the same rank, they will be entered in the left column in the order of fleets in SI 22.3.1.
- 22.3.3 Assignments will be based on the ranking available at 2100 that day regardless of protests or requests for redress not yet decided.
- 22.3.4 If all fleets have not completed the same number of races by the end of a day, the fleets with fewer races will continue racing the following day until all fleets have completed the same number of races. All boats will thereafter race in the new fleets.



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- **International Laser Class:**

- **FORMAT OF RACING**

6.1. The Laser Standard, Laser Radial and Laser 4.7 fleets will have separate starts. For the Laser Standard, Laser Radial and Laser 4.7 fleets, the regatta may consist of a single series or may be split. Whether a fleet is split or not shall be specified in the Local Sailing Instructions.

6.2. Competition Format (for Split Fleets – Groups).

(a) The organising authority will divide the boats in the split fleet(s) into 4 groups of, as nearly as possible, equal size. The groups are called Yellow, Blue, Red and Green, and will sail as follows, for each split fleet:

**1st Start 2nd Start**

Day 1 Yellow & Blue Red & Green

Day 2 Blue & Red Yellow & Green

Day 3 Green & Blue Yellow & Red

Day 4 Red & Green Yellow & Blue (at 4 day events only)

(b) (i) If all groups of a split fleet have not completed the same number of races by the end of a day, the groups with fewer races will continue racing the following day until all groups have completed the same number of races. All boats will thereafter race in the new group combinations.

(ii) If at the end of the regatta some groups of a split fleet have more race scores than others, scores for the most recent race(s) will be excluded so that all groups of that fleet have the same number of race scores.



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- ISSUES

- The work of the Seeding Committee is very important to the success of the Qualifiers.
- The seeding criteria must be based on known and consistent factors i.e., ISAF rankings, known results in major events etc.
- Scoring is critical and must be accurate and done without any delays.





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- ISSUES (continued)
  - The Pressure is on the RC to get the required number of races in.
  - Accurate finish information is also of the utmost importance. Errors can cause great hardship to the competitors.
  - Protests, OCS and Black Flags can contribute to the stress the RC must deal with. This is especially true if no ``drop`` races are allowed.



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- **DEALING WITH PROTESTS**

- It is imperative that the RO check with the Protest Desk to determine if any of the protests underway will have an impact on the Qualifier Races.
- It will be important to make sure that the PC deals with those issues that may impact a race being allowed to stand **as a priority**. Otherwise the time limit for posting a new schedule or to change the start time for the next days racing may be lost due to a time constraint usually imposed by the Sailing Instructions.



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- **BLACK FLAGS**

- Is a boat BFD in an abandoned race allowed to sail in the next race during the Qualifiers?

- **DISCUSSION**

- Normally the answer is NO however in a qualifier:

- If the next race is a resail of the abandoned race with the same participants-
    - No
    - If the next race does not have the same participants it is NOT a ``resailed`` race within the meaning of RRS 30.3 –
    - YES (*source: Int. Jury CORK 2011*)