

Sunset Series 2024 Notice of Series

1 ORGANISING AUTHORITY

- 1.1 The Organising Authority is the Dabchicks Sailing Club. ("DSC")**

2 SERIES DESCRIPTION & OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 Sunset is a series of coached sailing sessions aimed at the DSC's cadet members. The emphasis is on providing fun learning through coached sailing exercises and some short course coached racing.**
- 2.2 The objective of Sunset is to help the DSC's cadet members have fun whilst learning to sail in order that they become enthusiastic, active and competent sailors.**

3 RULES

- 3.1 Sunset Series, sailing and racing will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)**
- 3.2 RRS 40.1 shall apply at all times – Sailors must wear personal floatation devices when on the water. Wetsuits and dry suits are not personal floatation devices.**
- 3.3 The relevant rules and byelaws of DSC will apply. A copy of these is available in the Downloads section of the DSC website.**

4 SCHEDULE

- 4.1 Sunset 2024 Sessions are planned to run on Wednesday evenings from beginning of May through to the end of July. However, it should be noted that availability of voluntary coaching and safety resources and sailor numbers may necessitate changes to these planned schedules. Sailors and parents must check the Sailing Programme and Sunset Pages on the DSC website for the latest updates to the schedule.**
- 4.2 Sessions will normally be expected to start with a briefing at 6pm.**
- 4.3 Our first-year beginner sailors in Diamond Fleet will be required to attend an initial weekend at the Mersea Boating Lake. This weekend**

session is fundamental to our coaching program for new joiners. Attendance is therefore mandatory for those sailors sailing as beginners in Diamond Fleet in 2024.

5 COMMUNICATION

- 5.1 Notices to cadet sailors and parents ('participants') will be posted on the Official Notice Board(s) located on the Dabchicks Sailing Club [website](#).
- 5.2 WhatsApp groups will be set up for Sunset and for each fleet. These will be advised at the pre-season briefing.

6 ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION FOR ENTRY

- 6.1 The number of entries will be limited based on the coaching and safety resources that we have available for the series. As the Organising Authority, DSC retains the sole right to limit the total entry numbers during the application process.
- 6.2 Any cadet member is eligible to apply to participate in Sunset Series.
- 6.3 For the purposes of Sunset Series 2024 a DSC member who will reach the age of 8 years by 31 August 2024 will be treated as an eligible cadet for Sunset. A sailor who is 19 years old or older by 31 August 2024 is not eligible for Sunset Series.
- 6.4 Cadets must apply to participate by completing the Sunset Series 2024 application form published on the DSC website. Applications open on 1 Mar 2024 and close on 31 March 2024.
- 6.5 Submission of the application does not guarantee a place in Sunset Series 2024. As the sessions are primarily coaching sessions, places are limited by the number of suitable coaches that we have available. The coaches are other DSC members who volunteer and the number varies from year to year. We will not know what coaching capacity is available until all applications have been received and reviewed. Based upon the volunteers we have available the number of places available in each fleet will be determined.
- 6.6 Sunset coaching is structured around cadets starting their sailing in Optimists, beginning at the age of 8 years. Priority for new joiners in the

Diamond fleet for 2024 will be given to those who reach the age of 8 in the 12 months to 31 August 2024 with secondary priority given to those who reach the age of 9 in the same period.

- 6.7 Where a cadet wishes to join Sunset for the first time in 2024 who will be 10 years old or older on 31 August 2024, the cadet will require prior sailing experience and/or training to enable them to join a more advanced fleet. Acceptance into a more advanced fleet will be subject to proof of prior ability, and coaching capacity within that fleet. Priority for fleets other than Diamond fleet will be given to applications from Sunset 2023 sailors.**

7 VOLUNTEERING

- 7.1 Running Sunset takes significant volunteer effort. It is a condition for participation in Sunset that at least one parent (or guardian) volunteers for every session in which their child takes part. Volunteer activities include coaching, safety support helm/crew, beach support and galley. The parent's volunteering duties must be pledged in the cadet's Sunset application. The allocation of volunteers to required duties will be performed to ensure that all required duties are covered for each session. This may mean that some parents **may** be asked to perform different volunteer duties to those that the parent has requested/pledged. Parents must attend and perform the agreed volunteer duties for each session as a condition for their child's participation in Sunset Series.**

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8 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 8.1 The Sunset Series 2024 Sailing Instructions will be available for all participants on the Sunset Page of the Club website one week before the first scheduled series session.**
- 8.2 All sailors and at least one parent/guardian MUST attend the pre-season Sunset Sailor briefing. Attendance is a condition for participation in the series. The location and final date and time for this briefing will be published on the Sunset page of the DSC Website.**

9 SAILING AREA & COURSES



- 9.1 Sunset is sailed in the Blackwater Estuary including the creeks surrounding Mersea and Salcott.**
- 9.2 Any other Sunset courses will be arranged by respective coaches and advised to sailors as part of their pre-session briefing.**

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10 SCORING & PRIZES

10.1 While informal races and race training may take place on any night during the season, the intention for Sunset 2024 is to run a series of full races on selected nights. Entry to racing will be by fleets and subject to the decision of the fleet leader and race officer.

10.2 Where a series of races is run and recorded as part of Sunset, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst scores from races completed, as follows:

Races Completed	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Scores Discarded	0	0	1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6

10.3 Sunset prizes will be awarded if a series of more than 3 races is completed. Prizes may be awarded by the coaches to cadets on merit for effort and attainment. The issue of prizes will be at the discretion of the Sunset Coaches/Committee.

11 SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

11.1 There will be support boats and safety boats for the series.

11.2 If you wish to volunteer as part of the safety fleet or support fleet you can indicate this when completing the Sunset 2024 application form.

11.3 Further specific safety boat instructions and support boat instructions will be explained at the Safety Briefing.

12 SAFETY – SIGNING ON & OFF AND TALLY ON & OFF

12.1 All sailors will be required to sign on before going afloat and sign off within 30 minutes of coming ashore. A tally system will also be in operation. Details for how sailors and parents will be required to sign on and off for each Sunset session and the process for the tally on and off the water will be set out in the Sunset Series 2022 Sailing Instructions.

13 BOAT INSPECTIONS

13.1 As part of the preparation for Sunset series each year, the coaches conduct specific but limited boat inspections for Optimist Fleets excluding Gold and Silver Fleets.

13.2 These inspections are performed to assist parents and sailors in preparing their boats and to help coaches with the smooth and effective running of each fleet on the water.

13.3 All boats in these fleets must pass these inspections and any issues identified must be resolved to the satisfaction of the relevant fleet coach before a sailor will be permitted to sail.

13.4 The dates for boat inspections will be published on the [DSC website](#).

13.5 These inspections are NOT intended to provide any assurance on the seaworthiness of the boat. It remains the exclusive responsibility of the sailor and their parent/guardian to ensure that their boat is seaworthy and in a safe working order.

14 DATA PROTECTION

14.1 By entering the Sunset Series, you agree to provide personal data to DSC. DSC will process your personal data for the purpose of administering the series, in accordance with DSC's Data privacy policy which may be found on the DSC website.

15 RISK STATEMENT & DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

15.1 Rule 4 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boats decision to participate in a race or to continue is hers alone." Where the sailor is a minor this responsibility remains with their parent or Guardian.

15.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the series, each participant agrees and acknowledges that:

- (a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;**
- (b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;**
- (c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;**
- (d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;**
- (e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats if any and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;**

15.3 It is the responsibility of participants to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this series drawn to their attention in any rules or information produced for the venue or series and to attend the Sailor & Parent and Safety briefings held for the series.

16 INSURANCE

16.1 Each Participating sailing boat and volunteer support boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of £3 million per event or equivalent.