



CHALLENGER CLASS ASSOCIATION

CHALLENGER RACING FLEETS



The Challenger Class Association recognises four fleets: gold, silver, syndicate or bronze. Not all fleets are represented at every event and smaller events may not recognise these fleets at all.

In events where fleets are recognised, item 10.4 in the Standard Sailing Instructions states "Gold, Silver and Bronze fleet results shall be extracted from overall results and not scored separately."¹.

If, after reading this document, a sailor is unsure or concerned about their fleet allocation they should talk to a committee member or email challenger.class.association@gmail.com.

The fleets are defined as follows:

1 Bronze

- Bronze fleet sailors **must** race with a buddy onboard.
- The bronze fleet is limited to sailors who are unable to sail the boat alone either due to their disability or a lack of experience.
- The buddy shall either use a buddy seat or sit within the main hull. Trampolines are not allowed.

2 Syndicate

- In the syndicate fleet, sailors share a boat during an event and sail as part of the silver fleet.
- The races must be distributed as equally as possible between the members of the syndicate.
- A single entry is made for the boat, but if possible it should include the names of all members of the syndicate. All members of the syndicate must register at the event.
- The series score is that of the boat. Members of the syndicate will share any prize.

3 Silver

- The silver fleet is for less experienced racers.
- Most sailors competing in their first Challenger event will race in the silver fleet.

4 Gold

- The gold fleet is for more experienced racers.

5 Moving between fleets

- Sailors are allocated to the **bronze** and **syndicate** fleets on an event by event basis because:
 - A bronze fleet sailor may opt to sail a light wind event in the silver fleet. At a later event they may revert back to the bronze fleet because they need a buddy in stronger winds.
 - A sailor may be part of a syndicate for one event and sail another in the gold or silver fleet.
- **Gold** and **silver** fleet sailors usually remain in the same fleet for the entire season.

5.1 Promotion from silver to gold

- A silver fleet sailor is promoted to the gold fleet if, in the previous two seasons, they were placed first in the silver fleet in three or more events. For a "win" to count there must be at least four sailors in the silver fleet.
- After competing in their first Challenger event in the silver fleet, a sailor **may**, after discussion with a committee member, be promoted to the gold fleet. They would then remain in the gold fleet for the rest of the season.

5.2 Moving from gold to silver

On discussion with a committee member a sailor may drop from the gold to the silver fleet if:

- In the previous two seasons they have been consistently close to the bottom of the gold fleet and usually placed below the leading silver fleet sailor.
- They are returning to Challenger racing after a substantial absence.

¹ Section 2 states that syndicate boats race as part of the silver fleet not as their own fleet.