



2020 Starling Nationals – Competitor Update – 8th September 2020



Thank you to everyone who has got their entries in. We now have 53 sailors registered 😊

Here in Nelson, it really felt like spring today, with a glorious 12-14kt sea breeze out in the bay! We will expect to get a good variety of conditions at the end of September and there could always be another cold snap to come, so do come prepared for everything.

Covid-19

The continuing uncertainty around the Auckland Covid-19 cluster and national and regional alert levels is certainly keeping us on our toes. We appreciate that the increasingly short timeframe is not ideal for any of us. However, with the next government announcement due on the 14th September, we intend to provide more detail as soon as possible after that.

We are currently hoping and planning to run the event under Alert Level 2 restrictions. The overall number of people involved means that care will be needed to avoid gatherings of >100. This means that we will be relying on everyone involved to get 'on board' with the procedures and processes that we put in place to ensure everyone's safety.

If a significant number of participants are coming from a region in Alert Level 2, then we will be putting our Level 2 plan into action.

Some of the key points for a regatta under Level 2 are:

- We will be planning to create a North/South divide in the boat park and for ramp access to create two defined spaces.
- The changing rooms will be closed, so sailors will be expected to turn up changed and ready to sail. Conversely, heading back to accommodation for showers etc...
- There will be no facility to wash down competitors' boats.
- The social programme that we had planned has sadly been put to one side for now, including the sponsors and official's dinner which has been cancelled.
- The club's Penguin's Nest canteen will be operating a takeaway only service.
- Extra cleaning protocols will be in place.
- Gatherings such as the Briefing and Prize Giving will not take place or be modified.
- We will be using Team App to communicate updates and notices to competitors.
- All other public health advice around contact tracing, personal hygiene and physical distancing will of course be in place.

Most importantly, and under any alert level...

If you or any of your family are unwell do not travel to the event. You will be provided with a full refund of your entry fee*.

If all goes to plan, we'll look forward to some great action on the water!



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Team App

<https://2020starlingnationals.teamapp.com>



Please download the App and connect to the event ASAP (not on your way down to the regatta!) as we will be pushing out important info through it over the next couple of weeks. You can register as a Sailor, Official, Supporter or Volunteer.

This will enable us to send push notifications to everyone regarding the Race Committee's plans. We will also be making all information available through the App as well as the website, so things like arrival plans, maps, registration info etc... will be uploaded once finalised depending on the alert level.

Development Fleet

There are currently 5 in the Development Fleet. There may well be others currently registered in Open who will consider sailing in the Development Fleet based on how the weather forecast looks. To get fair racing, away from uneven tidal currents the racing area can sometimes be ~2nm from the club.

Gareth Moore will be coordinating and coaching the Development Fleet and will be taking a flexible approach depending on the forecast conditions and the sailors in the fleet, sailing inside or outside the harbour as appropriate.

*T-Shirts

The event T-shirts have now been ordered. This means that if we are forced to cancel the event at the last minute, the T-shirt charge of \$35 is now non-refundable. However, we will send you out the T-shirt – so you will have a limited-edition memento of the regatta that never happened! 😊

Clean Regatta Accreditation

We had been aiming to achieve Gold status for the regatta, but the impact of Covid-19 restrictions has made this significantly harder. Richard and the Green Team will be looking for support from everyone in making as much of a difference as we practically can. Everyone will be expected to bring sufficient water bottles for their day. There will be no plastic water bottles for sale in the Penguin's Nest.

Trophies

If you have a trophy, please contact us to confirm that you will be bringing it down to Nelson!

Any other questions, please get in touch: manager@nelsonyachtclub.org.nz