



As Chair of this year's Combined Clubs Committee, I am pleased to present the draft Sailing Program for the 2024-25 season. We are gearing up for an exciting year on the water, with not only the Combined Clubs events, but with the prestigious Australian Yachting Championships returning to Hobart in January. The final Sailing Program is scheduled to be released by the end of August 2024.

This is the first in a series of updates outlining the program, with more details to follow as Sailing Instructions are developed. Your feedback and engagement are invaluable. For further discussion, please reach out to your Sailing Manager.

We have been closely monitoring participation data in the traditional Saturday racing program and engaging with skippers through forums, sailing committees, and discussions within the Combined Clubs Committee. This communication is to address the current challenges and present proposed solutions to enhance our Combined Clubs racing series for the 2024-25 season.

Our analysis has revealed several key issues:

1. Participation Data:

- While there is support for the Long Series, there is a need for innovation to encourage more skippers to participate.
- The traditional Harbour Series is experiencing a significant decline in participation. We need to change the past offering and provide a more interesting and engaging format.

2. Feedback from Skippers:

- There is a need to regroup and make better use of boats that have invested in rating certificates to ensure fair and competitive all-points-of-sailing courses.
- A significant number of Division 2 boats have expressed a desire for closer racing. The current round-the-harbour courses tend to spread the fleet too thin, diminishing the excitement and competitiveness.

In response to these issues, we propose the following adjustments to our Saturday racing program:

1. Long Series Adjustments:

- Maintain the core structure of the Long Series but introduce an early afternoon starting times for 3 of the 6 races to avoid the morning doldrums. This adjustment will also provide more family time for our sailors.
- Combine the 3 afternoon long races to count towards both the Long Race Series and Harbour Series, allowing boats that prefer fewer racing weekends to participate without compromising their standing in either series.

2. Harbour Series Enhancements:

- Update the Harbour courses to include a mixture of fixed and laid marks, with start and finish lines mid-river. This will encourage closer racing on all points of the wind across each division, particularly for Division 2 boats.
- Division 3 Harbour races will still feature long Harbour courses to accommodate those who prefer this format.

3. New CC Calendar:

- The new calendar will feature a total of 9 race weekends, providing ample time for other non-CC events. This structure ensures equal race management responsibilities across three clubs, promoting fairness and collaboration.

Please refer to the diagram below for a detailed view of how 9 race days and events are distributed throughout the upcoming 2024-25 season for the Combined Clubs Saturday racing program.



We believe these changes will address the current challenges and enhance the overall racing experience for all participants. Thank you for your attention and ongoing support. We look forward to a competitive racing season ahead.

Dr. Steve Chau
Vice Commodore Derwent Sailing Squadron
On behalf of the Combined Clubs Committee

15 July 2024