

GSC Junior Sailing Pathways

Introduction

Sailing is a great sport for young kids. They get outdoors, learn to help each other, get confidence in sailing a boat, keep physically and mentally fit, make friends, and – have fun.

GSC is accredited as a Discover Sailing Centre. This gives GSC access to the Australian Sailing Tackers and Dinghy Sailing Programs.

The GSC plan for Junior Sailing is:

Tackers Program

The Tackers Learn To Sail program has 3 levels.

- Tackers 1 – Having Fun
- Tackers 2 – Tricks and Techniques
- Tackers 3 – Sailing Fast

The boat shown in the picture is called a Tackers dinghy and is what we use for the Tackers program



Dinghy Sailing

Following Tackers, the Juniors graduate up to the Dinghy Green Fleet. The Green Fleet start to learn about racing, including starts, racing rules, rounding buoys, racing techniques etc.

But, just like Tackers, there is still an emphasis on having fun.

The first boat used in the Dinghy Green Fleet is an Optimist. It is similar to a Tacker, but a bit faster.

After gaining experience in the Optimist, there are a few different classes available. For single handed sailing the Open Skiff or Laser 4.7 are options. For two-up sailing either a Mirror or Flying 11 are possible.



GSC Junior Sailing Pathways

The pathways for junior sailors are based on the following timeline:

First Year

1. Tackers 1 – Having Fun

What: 3 day Learn To Sail Holiday Camp

When: Mon – Wed. 3rd or 4th week January

Age: 7-12 y.o.

Cost: \$400 (\$300 2nd child) non-members. \$200 (\$100 2nd child) members

2. Tackers 2 – Tips and Tricks

What: 2 hour sailing sessions on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 12:30

When: Feb-Apr.

Age: 7-12 y.o.

Cost: \$200 (\$150 2nd child) members. \$400 (\$300 2nd child) non-members.

Note: Includes use of Tacker dinghys.

3. Tackers 3 – Sailing Fast

What: 2 hour sailing sessions on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 12:30

When: Sep-Dec

Age: 7-12 y.o.

Cost: \$200 (\$150 2nd child) members. \$400 (300 2nd child) non-members.

Note: Includes use of Tacker dinghys.

Second Year/ongoing until ready to join afternoon club sailing/racing

4. Dinghy Green Fleet

What: 2 hour sailing sessions on Sunday mornings from 10:30 to 12:30

When: Sailing season

Age: 8 y.o plus

Cost: \$100 (\$50 2nd child) non-members. Free for members

What is expected of the parents?

Sunday Morning Sailing is run for the junior sailors and anyone else who prefers to sail at that time. GSC will often take-out adults who are interested in learning to sail. We always provide support boats to ensure the safety of the people on the water.

Some of the tasks required to run the Sunday Morning Sailing include:

- Ramp work – this involves launching and retrieving the dinghies.
- Safety Checks – checking the kids are wearing the correct gear and the boat is rigged correctly.
- Rigging / de-rigging dinghies – the kids are encouraged to rig and de-rig the boats they sailed, but parent help is always useful.
- RIB Launching – the RIBs (Rigid Inflatable Boats) need to be launched which requires a car with a tow bar and launching skill.
- Support Crew – occasionally a support person will be required for the support RIBs. This is a great way to help and to get close to the sailing action.

The LTS parents are expected to be involved to some extent with these tasks. We encourage all parents to volunteer. Depending on the numbers involved, GSC may create a roster to share the work around. When there is a good response to 'chipping in' there is often time to have a nice tea or coffee on the balcony.



GSC Contact Information

- **Website:** www.gsc.org.au. Take a look at the Racing Calendar, it has dates for sailing, dinners etc. You can also find information on the racing courses, racing results, GSC policies and Hall-Hire details.
- **GSC Newsletter:** GSC has a weekly newsletter sent out via email. It generally is posted on Fridays. It contains a wrap-up of the previous sailing and also has up-coming information. You should already be on the email list, but if not, contact the club to add your email address. Note: anyone is welcome to be added, including juniors, grand-parents, friends.
- **GSC Email and Phone:** gsc-enquiries@gsc.org.au, gsc-training@gsc.org.au, 0468 655 228