

U14 Development Racing: Geoff Sanders Series

Changes to 20/21 Season:

Replace the current U12 lightning series (for the Geoff Sanders Trophy) with an U14 racing series. This new structure will give beginner U14 athletes of all ages and capabilities an opportunity to have an introduction to flat water racing. Progression through the divisions is based on speed and ability with athletes having the opportunity to race K1s and Mini K1s prior to being promoted into the Hasler divisions.

Aim:

Short term:

To give an entry into racing for any athletes who are U14 but not ready to race 4 miles in Div 9

To support the transition of athletes out of Lightnings and into K1 racing, bridging the gap to Div 9

Long term:

To remove Lightning specific classes by 2022

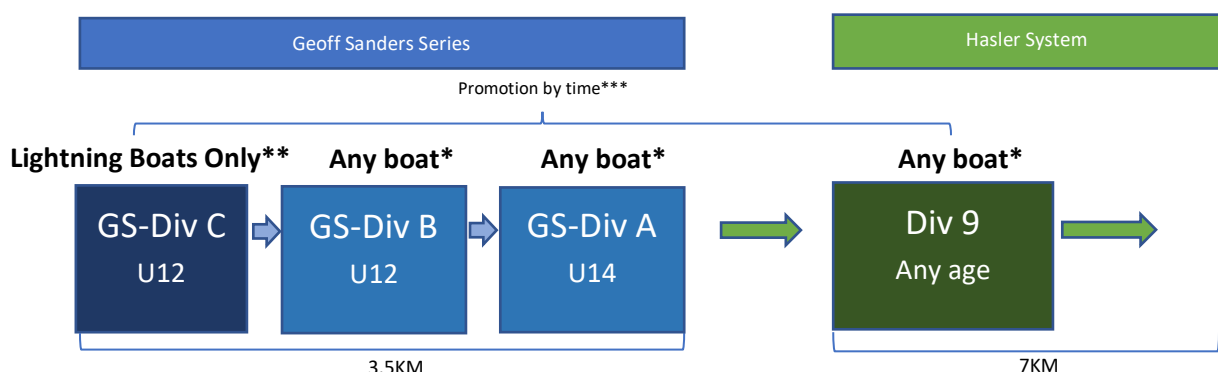
To bring more junior athletes into the sport and to retain them

To create more confident and capable J14 athletes

Overview:

- Remove the Hasler Div 10
- Replace Lightning classes with a three class structure over 2 miles mirroring the Hasler system
- Divisions (A, B & C) will be based on speed, not age or sex
- Division A will be open to U14 athletes who are novice and not ready for 4 miles
- Division B & C will be limited to U12 athletes only
- Division C will be limited Lightnings for 20/21 season, with A & B open to any craft including mini K1s.
- Organisers may offer GS K2 as per the current system. The K2 will also gain GS points.
- K2s will be split into two divisions:
 - o GS K2 Open (highest combined ranking of A&B)
 - o GS K2 Mini (highest combined ranking of B&C).
- Two Div A paddlers racing together will not be eligible for the GS K2 divisions. Instead they may enter Div 9. This is to encourage U14 athletes to experience racing over the longer distance.
- Any U14 paddlers (not yet in Div 9 or above) will be treated as Div9 in K2 for divisional calculation purposes. (Unless promoted above Div 9, the paddler will retain their GS K1 ranking).

Series Structure:



*Any boat that is normally permitted to race in Hasler races

** This is only for season 20/21. Then is expected to progress to any "Mini" K1.

***Promotions are on time, but will also be on advice from the paddler's club race captain

Rules:

01. Rules & Points:

- a. Racing in this series will be open to U14 paddlers (see b.) not previously promoted to Div 9 or higher
 - i. These races are intended as introductory races and team leaders are required to enter athletes in the division they believe to be most appropriate. There is no expectation to start at the bottom. Paddlers MUST enter the division that is most appropriate for their ability
- b. GS-DivB and GS-DivC will be for U12 paddlers only, GS-DivA is open to U14 paddlers.
 - i. GS-DivA is open to all paddlers U14, including faster U12 and U10 paddlers.
 - ii. Promotion through the divisions is based on speed not age
- c. Boat Type
 - i. Paddlers in GS-DivA or B races may use any craft that is eligible in a Hasler singles class (including lightnings and other mini K1's)
 - ii. Paddlers in GS-DivC races must use a lightning K1 (2020 /2021 season only, will be opened to any mini K1 after this).
- d. Starts will be in class and prizes to be given for the fastest three paddlers in each class.
 - i. Other discretionary prizes are actively encouraged. Some suggestions below; this list is not exhaustive and will be at the race organisers' discretion.
 1. First Female
 2. Fastest U10 Boy / Girl
 3. Fastest U12 Boy / Girl
- e. Starts can be combined, as appropriate.
 - i. This is actively encouraged where races are not quorate.
 - ii. It is acknowledged that larger races produce a better learning experience, and organisers may choose to combine starts that are quorate to increase the field size
 - iii. Where races are combined results will still be calculated separately

02. Promotions / Demotions

- a. Promotions are based on time. Promotions should be accepted unless in exceptional circumstances. If you feel a promotion is incorrect the Team Leader only should contact their RMA
- b. Promotion from GS-DivA will be restricted to Div 9 and no higher
- c. There will be no demotion back into GS-DivA from Div 9
- d. Demotion within these 3 divisions should be rare, no D notices will be issued. If a Team leader feels there is cause for an exception, the Team leader only should contact their RMA.
- e. It is expected that race captains will place their paddlers in the correct division in their first race. This is especially important for U14 paddlers as this is only for beginners and those not capable of racing Div 9. Any paddler placed in too low a division will be promoted following that race and contact will be made with the RMA. This is a system of trust and should not be abused.

03. Geoff Sanders K2 Class:

- a. Race organisers are encouraged but not required to offer GSK2 races
- b. Where possible it is preferred that these races are at a separate start time to allow GS paddlers to race both GSK1 and GSK2 at the same event. (NB a paddler may not race in both GS and Hasler races at the same event).
- c. GSK2 will be split into classes

- i. GSK2 (Open) - open for all U14 paddlers with a maximum crew ranking of GS-DivA and GS-DivB (twoGS- DivA paddlers should race Div9K2 – see section 4). Both miniK2's and standard K2s are allowed.
- ii. GSMiniK2 - open to U12 paddlers with crew rankings of GS-DivB with a GS-DivC or 2 GS-Div C paddlers. Only MiniK2's may be used
- iii. It is recognised that entries for these races will often be low and starts should be combined wherever possible.
- d. Where a GSK2 race is starting at the same time as GSK1's the organiser may combine starts as they deem best. For example, combining with GSK1 DivA with GSK2 Open
- e. There will be no promotions from GSK2 races

04. K2 in Hasler Divisions:

- a. Any U14 paddlers (not yet in Div 9 or above) will be treated as Div 9 in Hasler K2 for divisional calculation purposes.
 - i. Two GS paddlers may race together in Div 9 or with other paddlers as per normal Hasler Rules.
 - ii. Unless promoted, Paddlers retain their GS ranking for K1 racing.
 - iii. Two GS-DivA paddlers racing in Div 9 K2 is actively encouraged to enable them to gain experience over 4 miles.
 - iv. Promotions for Paddlers racing in Hasler K2's either with other GS paddlers or higher ranked paddlers will be as per normal Hasler race rules
 - v. Paddlers, Parents and Team Leaders are reminded that mixed division K2s often produce promotions. The likelihood of a promotion and the ability of the paddler to cope with one should be considered prior to entry.

05. Geoff Sanders Memorial Trophy

- a. Points will be scored towards the Geoff Sanders Trophy, with a paddlers 3 best scores in the season to be carried forwards to their club's total.
- b. In addition, a 40 point bonus will be awarded for any paddler promoted into the Hasler system
 - i. The RMA in conjunction with the ranking officer may withhold these bonus points if it is felt a paddler was entered into too low a class.
- c. Once in the Hasler Divisions, paddlers will not score points for the Geoff Sanders trophy but will in the Hasler system as per all Hasler paddlers

Transition from old system

Authors note - Trying to re-rank existing paddlers into the new classes would have been difficult but probably possible. However, with the Covid19 interruptions to racing it is felt a mass reranking would produce inconsistent results, as paddlers will have progressed at different rates. The below guidance should encourage a consistent approach for coaches and team leaders to rank their paddlers in the new divisions. If a paddler sits between classes please do what you think will produce the best learning experience for your athlete.

- These guidelines are based upon a study of average race time since 2010.
- The average race distance in this time period is unknown but times suggest it is towards the shorter end of the recommended 2 - 4km, significantly shorter than the 3.5km recommended in the Nationals rules

- The intention is for Promotion from GS-DivA to allow a paddler to be immediately comfortable in Div 9 (top third of the division).
- The promotion times identified have been selected to create an even split of the available athletes across the three divisions.
 - It is unknown what percentage of paddlers will choose to paddle K1 over mini K1 initially but it is expected that lightings will be raced in all 3 divisions. With speed-based divisions they should have a good racing experience regardless of boat choice.

Provisional recommended standards:

time to complete 3.5km	Recommended Division	
Faster than 24:30	Hasler Series (Division 9 or above)	faster than 07:00 per km
24:30 - 26:15 mins	GSK1 Div A	07:00 - 07:30 per km
26:15 - 28 mins	GSK1 Div B	07:30 - 08:00 per km
slower than 28 mins	GSK1 Div C	slower than 08:00 per km

These times will be under constant review and updated as required. Times are thought to be conservative and it is anticipated they will be revised faster as more data is generated.