

# Five Castles Regatta

Friday 19<sup>th</sup>

June 19<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of June 2015

## Frequently asked questions (FAQs)

**Q1: What is it?**

**A:** The Five Castles Regatta is a schools sailing event (formerly known as the Dumfries & Galloway Regional Schools' Regatta) held every year to promote and encourage sailing and watersports to schools from our region. Normally held over one day, this year will extend over an entire weekend beginning Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015

**Q2: Who runs the event and what experience/qualifications do they have?**

**A:** The Five Castles Regatta is an Annandale Sailing Club initiative, supported and partnered by Galloway Activity Centre and The Solway Yacht Club all of whom, for this specific event, give of their time and equipment voluntarily and on a not for profit basis. We also receive generous cash sponsorship from All personnel are highly experienced, highly competent, RYA qualified individuals.

**Q3: Where and when is the event held?**

**A:** Galloway Activity Centre, Loch Ken, New Galloway. Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June, Saturday 20<sup>st</sup> June, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014 Arrive: No later than 9:00 am on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June briefing: 9:25 am

Please note: The closing date for entries is **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June** and all forms and payment must be received by that date. Directions and a map can be found on

<http://fivecastlesregatta.org.uk/contact-us>

**Q4: What if we don't know how to sail a boat?**

**A:** The event covers all bases in that regard: For experienced dinghy sailors it's a top-flight competitive event. For those who can't sail or just beginning to learn or maybe would just like to have a try, we have a 'Tasters' section run by experienced instructors providing a programme of on the water activities in purpose built 'Fun Boats'. In addition this year we have a brilliant weekend programme of coaching modules to choose from. See the main programme for more details.

**Q5: How much does it cost to participate?**

**A:** We give you the choice of a day ticket for Friday only £10 or a weekend ticket which covers the cost of the entire weekend. The full Weekend festival ticket at £45:00, is inclusive of activities and camping space though you will need your own tent i.e. coaching, food and Festival Disco Party.

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**Q6: Are there any other possible costs?**

**A:** Only on the Friday, there is an optional Laser Quest and BBQ party for an additional £5:00 per participant, (This fee does not apply to those who are attending the full festival weekend).

**Q7: What about weekend food and accommodation?**

**A:** For Friday you need to fetch a packed lunch or alternatively fetch some lunch money to purchase food from the canteen. If you have a weekend ticket then your food for Friday evening and for the rest of the weekend is included in the ticket price. Accommodation will be camping so fetch your tent and stuff.

**Q8: How many teams can we enter?**

**A:** Each school may enter a maximum of 2 Teams of 3 sailors for the main race regatta on Friday and up to a further 6 individuals for the taster fleet or to act as reserves/subs. If you are coming for the whole weekend there is no limit but you should know it is first come first serve and the venue does have limits on its capacity.

**Q9: What level of experience is necessary?**

**A:** The festival is open to all experience levels, including absolute beginners (in fact we positively encourage as many beginners as possible). The main race fleet entrants should be reasonably competent sailors with at least some race experience. The Taster fleet requires no previous knowledge of sailing what so ever - it is aimed at enthusiastic beginners with an interest in sailing/watersports or perhaps you simply love the outdoors.

**Q10: How does team racing differ from regular racing?**

**A:** In team racing it's the overall score of the team, rather than the individual, which counts. e.g. here 2 teams of 3 boats sail against each other. So, the total number of points on offer is the sum of all the positions i.e 6th+5th+4th+3rd+2nd+ 1st= 21 points. The team with the lowest overall score wins so, if your team's score adds up to 10 or less you've won the race. But say during a race your team was lying 1st, 5th & 6th ? Clearly your score adds up to 12 and you are going to lose; your first place is not doing you any real good. To win, your top placed sailor must sail down the fleet and try to improve the position of his team mates.

**Q11: Any ideas on how we might organise ourselves?**

**A:** Yes; you might like to appoint Fleet Captains to help co-ordinate your activities and perhaps help with team selection. Also get someone to coach your team ahead of the regatta - the top teams all do this!

**Q12: Do we have to bring our own boats?**

**A:** No, all boats will be supplied by us: Laser Picos for the 'Race Fleet' and Laser Fun Boats for the 'Taster Fleet'.

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**Q13: What about clothing, will I get wet?**

**A:** Yes you will!

Experienced sailors should bring all their own equipment including the usual stuff: Change of clothing, Wet-suit, spray gear, buoyancy aid, gloves, caps etc. Those without their own sailing gear should bring at least the following for sailing purposes:

- Change of clothes
- Old pair of trainers and socks
- Lightweight trousers or similar
- A fleece
- Waterproofs (top and bottoms)
- A hat or cap
- Sun Screen
- A towel
- A pair of cycling, goalie gloves or similar are also handy but not essential.

Supplied:

- Buoyancy aids will be supplied (but bring your own if you have one).
- A limited number of wetsuits will also be available.
- Dependent on weather conditions helmets can be supplied for sailors competing in racing.

**Q14: Can we bring supporters/cheer leaders /mums & dads?**

**A:** Absolutely! Bring as many as you like: They can all cheer for their schools and even join in the fun. There is a refreshment area within the clubhouse if they get a bit hoarse or hungry.

**Q15: Who do we contact if we have any further queries?**

**A:** You can either ring the regatta principal, Jim Holland Mb: [07446 953000](tel:07446953000) or e-mail him at [info@fivecastlesregatta.org.uk](mailto:info@fivecastlesregatta.org.uk)

Dumfries & Galloway regional  
Schools Regatta