

UKLA Laser Masters – Standard and Radial Rigs.

Rolling Thunder Series.

Format, Event Scoring and Ranking – January 2019.

Introduction

Rolling Thunder is the UKLA Laser Masters' sailing perpetual racing ladder that just keeps on rolling. You can use it to keep tabs on whether you are beating your clubmate who borrowed your towel without asking, or, to work out if you are getting even better as you get older. It is also used to rank sailors for international restricted entry events. Rolling Thunder starts for the 2019 season.

2019 Rolling Thunder Events

In 2019 Rolling Thunder will consist of the following events:

- 23-24 March: Nottinghamshire County SC
- 18-19 May: Pevensey Bay SC
- 5-7 July: Masters' Nationals, Royal Torbay YC (2020 Worlds entry may open after this event)
- 26-27 October: Hayling Island SC (UKLA Masters & Non-Masters mixed fleet)
- 16-17 November: Rutland SC

Changes will be posted on the UKLA website at least one month prior to any planned event.

Rolling Thunder Ranking

A sailor's best two event ranking points will be summed from the previous five events. Ranking starts from the first event. When only two, three or four events have been sailed then two events will count. The ranking will roll into the subsequent year rather than be reset.

Rolling Thunder Event Ranking Points:

Ranking scores are awarded according to the number of starters at each event, with the highest scores for the top finishers. A maximum of 40 ranking points is available to each sailor at any single event. Sailors placing lower than 40th place at any event will not earn ranking points.

Example: Event with 50 starters

- 1st overall = 40 series ranking pts (maximum)
- 2nd overall = 39 pts
- 40th overall = 1 pt
- 41st overall onwards including DNC = 0 pts

Should less than 40 sailors start any event then the maximum ranking points available to the winner of the event would be the number of starters at that event. So, if 30 sailors started an event the sailor who was placed first overall in the event would score 30 ranking points.

International sailors' positions will be treated the same as any other sailor for the purposes of final positions at that event and for Rolling Thunder ranking.

On occasions where Masters and non-Masters race at a mixed Rolling Thunder event then the Masters final results will be extracted from the *final* event placings and event ranking points allocated as if only Masters had raced. The points awarded to the Masters would reflect the

Masters finishing order at the conclusion of the event. So, if 25 Masters raced amongst a fleet of 100 Masters and non-Masters the first Master would be awarded 25 points no matter where he/she finished in the overall fleet, and so on.

Rolling Thunder Scoring Ties

If two sailors should score equal ranking points on the summation of their best 2 events, they will be ranked in favour of the sailor with the best single event ranking points for the same 2 events. If a tie still exists, then they will be placed in favour of the sailor with the best event ranking points discard. If a tie still exists, then the placing will favour the sailor with the best ranking points at the most recent event.

Restricted Entry Events (International Events)

The following ranking rules are applicable for the 2020 Masters' Worlds and Europeans. The 2019 Masters' Worlds and Europeans entry will be governed by the ranking rules laid out in the existing "2018 Laser Masters Super Series, Format, Event Scoring and Ranking" document.

At restricted entry events the following rules will apply with respect to the allocation of places at any gate, such as initial allocation date:

- A Rolling Ranking snapshot will be taken on the date when entry opens for the restricted entry event. However, the UKLA committee reserves the right to determine and publish an earlier snapshot date in exceptional circumstances.
- Sailors will be ranked as per their Rolling Thunder Ranking points.
- Sailors who have no ranking points (ie sailors who have not participated in the last five Rolling Thunder events) will be ranked below sailors with ranking points.
- Sailors who have no ranking points, who have applied earlier will be ranked above sailors who have no ranking points who have applied later.
- All sailors must be current members of the UKLA.
- All sailors must be able to provide evidence that they are competent sailors through participation in a previous Rolling Thunder (or Super Series) event, other national level Laser event, or by providing a written statement by a flag officer of their sailing club.

Where uncertainty still remains after the application of these rules, places will be allocated as determined by the UKLA committee.

Prizes

Standard Rig: 1st, 2nd, 3rd overall. 1st Apprentice, Master, Grand Master & Great Grand Master.
Radial Rig: 1st, 2nd, 3rd overall. 1st Apprentice, Master, Grand Master, Great Grand Master, Legend, Woman. Special prizes will be awarded at the Masters' Nationals.

Within each age category, additional prizes will be awarded depending upon the number of category entrants:

- 4+ entrants = additional 2nd prize.
- 8+ entrants = additional 2nd and 3rd prizes.
- 14+ entrants = additional 2nd, 3rd and 4th prizes.

More importantly:

- Spot prizes may be awarded for entertaining performances in the boat park or on the water.
- Prize draws may be used to encourage early sign-up and to award sailing holidays.

FAQs

Q. This all looks very serious and complicated. I am worried that I won't be good enough. Will I?

A. The Masters make a special effort to welcome new oldies into our fleet. So, if you know that a Laser has a pointy end and you've done a club race or two, you are very, very welcome. Who cares who wins?

Q. Why are we doing this rolling thing now and what was wrong with the old way?

A. The rolling thing allows people to be ranked at any point in time which is especially useful when the Masters' Worlds occurs earlier in the year. It is also nice and simple to understand and allows for "Top of Pops" style commentary to keep things fresh as sailors rise and fall.

Q. Can I switch between Radial and Standard rigs and still take part in the Rolling Ranking?

A. Yes, although results from Radial and Standard cannot be combined into a single ranking. You would be ranked in the standard and radial series, taking your best 2 results in each rig.

Q. Masters & Non-Masters racing together!? Has the world gone mad!?

A. It is a struggle to fit 5 events into the year that don't clash with other events and holidays. When a clash happens, turn out suffers. We are giving it a crack to bring the Laser class together. Let's see how it goes.

Q. I once heard that Masters sailors sometimes get served beer on the beach when they come off the water. Is it true?

A. Yes.

Q. I used to be fast in the 1980/90s but I have grey hair now and am overweight. Will I be welcome?

A. Yes, you'll fit right in. The fleet is very polite, and most people won't even tell you that they don't believe your stories about having been fast in the olden days.

Q. I have never really won any races, but I have grey hair and am overweight. Will I be welcome?

A. Of course! Just make stories up about having been fast.

Q. I have arrived at the bottom of the page and can't remember anything. What's the summary?

A. Turn up, two out of five count, and the fun keeps rolling.

See you on the water!