

SO YOU

THINK YOU CAN RACE?



Yes? Then carry on reading for the ultimate guide to becoming the next British Champion!



Photo Credit: Lee Durkin

JSRA RACING GUIDE



Jet Sport Racing Association of Great Britain

All types of people take up Jetsport racing, for all types of reasons. Some are super-competitive and go on to win numerous titles at national and international levels. Others just like to have fun with friends and family in a controlled environment. But whatever rocks your boat there's a class for everyone from Junior to Veterans, with small and large budgets - it's just a matter of choosing what's right for you! This guide is all about taking the first steps in racing, we won't be going into great technical details we'll just be looking at how to get started. We hope you will enjoy reading it and maybe it will whet your appetite to try something new with your watercraft this summer!

The Jetsport Racing Association (JSRA) is the national governing body for all watercraft racing in the UK. The JSRA is affiliated to the IJSBA (international Jetsport boating association). Before you can even start to think about racing, you need to own a watercraft and be a proficient rider. Proficient means showing good control around a buoyed course (left and right turns) and being able to remount in deep water. Most lakes around the UK have practice buoys and this is a great place to start honing your skills!

You will then need to apply for Race licence/membership to the Jetsport Racing Association Of Great Britain (JSRA for short), The JSRA will then issue you with an JSRA race licence which includes 3rd party liability insurance whilst competing. You will also be issued with JSRA induction booklet and race number. The induction booklet is especially important, as it contains all the basic rules and regulations of the association, explains the JSRA's health and safety policy and lists the mandatory safety gear required when taking part in any JSRA controlled event.

Mandatory safety gear

- Wetsuit or Drysuit
- Back Protector
- Approved Lifevest
- Approved Safety helmet (motocross type)
- Footwear
- Approved Upper & lower leg guards (runabout, Spark & sport only)

Applicants must then pass a 20 question multiple-choice test based on the information within the induction booklet. Don't worry it is very straightforward and help is on hand to guide you through. If an annual race licence is taken out, then a basic medical will also be required. Again this is not a problem as the JSRA arranges for doctors to attend at the first event of the year so for a minimal fee you can take your medical.

Approved helmets must be worn



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You Tube JSRA British Jetsport Championships

www.jsra.co.uk

JSRA Race licence fee's
 Freestyle £200pa
 Junior £200pa
 Novice £250pa
 Expert £300pa
 Vintage only £200pa

Event Licences available at £150
 (max 3 per person per season)

Plus race entry fees



Photo Credit: Lee Durkin

The BIG Day

Finally the big day arrives so when you arrive at the race site find yourself a good place to park within the pit area. Then head for the Signing-on tent and ask for the race secretary. She will help you with signing-on and any other questions you may have. Racers under the age of 18 will need a parent or guardian to sign on for them. She will also introduce you to the JSRA safety officer of the day, who will take you through the JSRA induction process as explained earlier in the article. You will then be required to pick a numbered card, which will determine your place on the start grid.

After signing-on take your watercraft to the technical inspection area.

Technical Inspection means getting your ski inspected for safety hazards. This will only take a few minutes and the scrutineer will let you know of any irregularities such as a sharp bond rail that might be hazardous to a 3rd party. You will need to rectify any hazards before being allowed to race. The inspection is not for checking out the legality of your ski, that is saved for the end of the meeting. The technical inspector will also check over your safety gear.

Race Numbers: Can be organised before the race meeting, but if not, numbers are available from the race secretary on race day. Make sure your race numbers are the correct size, at least 7 inches high with enough space around the outside to see your correct background corresponding to your class. Novices are required to runblack numbers with a yellow background.

The Riders meeting is called at least half an hour before official practice. This is where you'll find out the do's and don'ts of the venue, the flag rules and any other miscellaneous information pertaining to the event. A water marshal will also ride a demo lap of the course. Novices will be given special attention, and taken through how to navigate the course properly and shown how to take the deviation when a buoy is missed etc. Most of this information has already been learned through the induction booklet but it's important to learn the practical too. If at this point you don't understand don't be afraid to ask.

Race Categories

So with the paperwork complete and all tests done it's time to hit the water, but what category should you apply for?

Well there are three different categories of watercraft racing:

- Ski (standup)
- Runabout (sitdown)
- Sport/Spark/X2 (single seater)

These three classes are then broken down into Novice and Expert divisions.

Novice classes are for new riders; or riders with minimal experience, and expert classes are for seasoned racers.

As a new rider with no former race experience you will be classified as a Novice and will be eligible to ride in any Novice class. Once you find your feet and prove your proficiency you will also be allowed to take part in Expert events too.

Also worth noting at this point. The JSRA also has strict rules regarding the use of high powered runabouts by Adolescence riders (14yrs for some models & 17yrs and under for others). You can find a breakdown of this on our website.

Novice racing takes place in both the JSRA Winter Series and the JSRA British Jetsport Championships. Your Novice Licence is valid for both.

With classes chosen you are now ready to race and by becoming a member of the JSRA you will receive event information, entry forms and itineraries through the website.

If you pre-pay your event entry fees you can take advantage of the pre-pay bundle discount but if you forget or it's a last minute decision you can pay on the day at a slightly higher fee.

Race Fees

Pay on The Day Entry Costs Per Round
 (non package prices)
 Junior/Vintage- £200
 Novice/Expert- £250
 Medical- £70
 Camping Fees-cost per night subject to venue

2024 Package Deals

Bronze- Expert/Novice £1,950
 Bronze- Junior/Vintage £1,600
 7xRounds Entry for two classes
 Race Licence
 Medical
 Camping Fees

Silver-£2,500
 7xRounds Entry for two classes
 Race Licence
 Medical
 Camping Fees
 2x Associate Memberships
 **option to upgrade to associate sponsor for additional £500

Gold-£3,500
 7xRounds Entry for two classes
 Race Licence
 Medical
 Camping Fees
 2x Associate Memberships
 Premium reserved parking
 Pre race tech at pit area
 Arrival anytime Friday
 **option to upgrade to associate sponsor for additional £500



Photo Credit: Lee Durkin

Freestyle Categories

- 800cc
- 900cc
- 1200cc



The 10 most common items that prevent a watercraft from passing inspection are...

- Handlebar grips not secure.
- Proper-sized numbers and backgrounds not displayed on both sides of the watercraft.
- JSRA decals not displayed.
- Lanyard stop switch not working properly.
- Flexible tow loop on bow eye not installed.
- Battery not connected or charged.
- Air filters not installed and fuel lines not secured with tie wraps.
- Intake grate extending more than 12mm below the bottom of the hull.
- Sponsons too deep or too sharp.
- Throttle cable housing not secured to an aftermarket throttle lever.

After signing-on take your watercraft to the technical inspection area.



Photo Credit: Lisa Gilbert

The technical inspector will check your safety gear.

Now it's time for official practice. This is your chance to practice the course before your race. Each class will be guided around the course behind a marshal boat before running several laps on their own. Novices will be given special attention and during practice will be assessed for competence. If you are still unsure of the course, please ask the Race Director to go through it with you again. A good tip is to watch all the practice sessions before yours.

The races are broken down into motos, you can run anything from two to three motos a day with points accumulated for all to give an overall score. The races are timed for consistency and can be anything from 8 to 14 minutes long. Initially they can seem quite gruelling, but over time your body adjusts and the more you put in the better your overall performance.

The race crew pride themselves on keeping time, so make sure you have an itinerary to hand and keep an ear open for announcements from the Commentators. If the itinerary changes you will be told and issued with a new one at the riders meeting. There is an information board at every event, make this your friend and check it before and after your race for updates.

When your race is nearing the commentators will call you to pre-grid, this is a pre-staging area where waiting racers are held before their lining up on the start line. Once in pre-grid you must stay put so if you want to warm up your engine make sure you do it before being called to pre-grid. There is an official practice area for you to do this.

The startline is split into two sections, the inside holeshot and outer holeshot. The number you picked at signing on will determine your position, and a crew member will tell you where to go.

You will be required to pick a numbered card at pre grid which will determine your order to pick your place on the start grid.



Photo Credit: Lee Durkin



You can have one holder for Ski classes (exception of juniors who can have two) and two for Runabout.

Photo Credit: Lisa Gilbert

Once on the startline the official start marshal will take over. The start can be signalled by either the use of lights or by a bungee rope or both. He will signal for you to start your engines, at which point you will be given up to 20 seconds to prepare before he points at the furthest ski on the line and brings his finger back down the grid. He will then point to the lights, once they go to red, the elastic will release at the same time and it's Go Go.

To help with your start procedure you can ask for the help of Holders'. You can have one holder for the Ski classes and two holders for the Sport and Runabout classes. Make an effort know who your holders will be before you go to the start line. If you do not have a holder or enough holders ask some of the other racers if they will hold for you. If you have problems finding a holder, ask the commentator before your race and he will put a call out for one.

Photo Credit: Lee Durkin



The race and your successes are down to you, but remember to keep breathing and most of all to have fun!

The results are usually available on the day but will be also be posted on the JSRA website within the week.

We can't cover everything in this article but we hope to have whetted your appetite just a little bit. The best thing to do is to come along to a race meeting, have a chat with some of the racers and find out for your self what a great time can be had by all. Jetsport is a family based sport: mum, dad and the kids can all take part because there's a class for everyone.

Check out the JSRA's website for details on How to get started, further info on Equipment & links to rules for spec's of each class.

www.jsra.co.uk

Watch for the lights!
See you on the start line!

The British Jetsport Championships
The Home of British Jet Ski Racing

Don't forget to like and follow us on Facebook/Twitter & Instagram. Or check out our video's on the JSRA YouTube channel.

Top Tips

Knowledge is everything, know the signing on times and locations, how to get to the race site, deadlines and get your entry in early to avoid paying late fees. If you do not show up on time, you will not be allowed to race - so plan ahead!

Information and directions to each event can be found on the JSRA website www.jsra.co.uk.

This is your best source of information and is constantly updated so check it regularly!

Don't leave home without tools, fuel, oil, wet gear, spare parts, drinks and food, etc. Make a checklist of all items and equipment you will need for the race and then use it.

Other nice things to have, but not required at the races is an EZ-Up tent or something for rain/shade, a watercraft tote. If you haven't got a tote ask around most will be happy to help you launch.

Get plenty of rest the night before. You will have a long busy day at your first event. Leave the 'partying' to those you want to beat.

Get to know the people around your pit area. Do not be afraid to ask for assistance from other racers.

You will find that most racers are great people and are always willing to help out a first-timer. Do not forget to offer your help too.

2024 RACE DATES

Winter Round-April 6-7
Avos, Preston

Round 1-April 20-21
Church Wilne Watersports, Derby

Round 2-May 18-19
Ride Leisure Wyboston Lakes

Round 3-June 15-16
Crosby Adventure, Liverpool

Round 4-July 13-14
Fosse Hill Jet Ski Centre

Round 5-August 10-11
Rothervalley Country Park, Sheffield

Round 6-August 31- September 1
Bawsey Country Park, Kings Lynn

www.jsra.co.uk

All events are free to watch