



FAQs

Do you have to be a member of NCYC to participate in Tackers?

No, one of the great things about Tackers is you don't have to be a member of our club to participate. In fact, kids receive an honorary junior club membership during their participation in the program. Parents can take up our 2-month Introductory Membership for only \$20 and enjoy a free drink whilst watching their children sail!

Do kids need to be able to swim to participate in Tackers?

A competent standard of swimming ability is desirable, however the children will be wearing lifejackets at all times whilst on or over the water. In the first few sessions, the instructors supervise the group in a 50m swim with their lifejackets on. Parents/guardians, you are encouraged to talk to our Sailing Academy Manager (sailingacademy@ncyc.net.au) or the Tackers Leader if you have any concerns.

My child is almost 7 years old, can they participate?

The 7-12 year age range is offered as a guide. We can take 6 year olds on the program if parents feel their child will manage – are they water-confident, able to handle long days, good at concentrating and resilient? It is important that all children listen to and can carry out instructions during the course. It is also very important that all children are respectful to the instructors and the other children on the course.

What type of boats will the kids be sailing?

The Tackers program is only delivered in a boat called an Ozi Opti. This boat was specifically designed for the program and is an ideal introduction to dinghy sailing. The boats allow two kids to sail together in *Tackers 1* and as they gain confidence and move up to *Tackers 2*, they are able to sail the boat alone. These boats provide a much greater opportunity for the kids to develop skills more quickly. This is because the children are in control of the boat themselves and the boats not being too big as to be overwhelming.

Are the kids out sailing on their own?

When kids start sailing in *Tackers 1* they will be sailing in pairs. Once they progress to *Tackers 2* and *Tackers 3*, they will sail the boat themselves. There are usually 6-10 boats in a group and there will be an Instructor and an Assistant Instructor in a safety boat supervising the group. The safety boat stays on the water all the time the kids are sailing.

Where will the children be sailing?

As part of their course, the children need to learn to be towed behind a safety boat, so each lesson we tow the kids up-river, under the bridge and we coordinate the lessons from the beach at Carrington. It is a safe area with very little other aquatic traffic. Towards the end of *Tackers 3* the kids may sail east of the Club into a protected area of the Harbour called The Basin.

Do the kids need any special clothing to participate in Tackers?

No, there is no special clothing needed. We recommend kids wear clothes and shoes that they don't mind getting wet – swimmers, boardshorts, rash shirts, maybe a wetsuit if you have one and a pair of old sandshoes or slip on wet-shoes. Those \$5 canvas shoes from Kmart or BigW are ideal! Always remember to bring a hat & apply sun cream for sun protection. The kids can bring a towel and a change of clothes for after the course as we have change room facilities in the main clubhouse, including showers.

Do the kids move straight through Tackers 1, 2 and 3 or can my child do a course again?

We do not limit the number of times a child completes a particular course level; in fact we encourage children to spend as much time as they need at each level rather than just the minimum 20 hours prescribed. Each child is different and picks up skills and develops confidence at different rates. We have many children do a certain level a few times until they feel ready to move on. We want the children to feel confident so it may take several sailing seasons to complete all levels of Tackers confidently.

www.ncyc.net.au/sailing-academy/kids-learn-to-sail/tackers

Kids + Boats = FUN