“Join The Race Committee Team”

Introduction To Race Committee for new volunteers

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Agenda

- Introductions
- Who... our customers
- What .... standards and types of racing
- How.... committee roles, procedures and processes.
Introductions

A little about yourself!
Introduction to Racing

- As many different types of racing as there are types of sailing!
- Let’s look at some popular and common types..
• One Design
Mixed Fleet Handicap
Multi-hull
Match Racing – 1 on 1

Team Racing
–Sailboard
Radio control
–Small

–And …
Large
Able Body

Or.. handicapped
Sailing and sailboat racing excludes NO-ONE!!

These sailors are our customers.
Standards

THE RACING RULES OF SAILING
2005–2008
Including US SAILING Prescriptions
National Governing Body for “Sport of Sailing”
- Certification Programs
- Member of the International Sailing Federation
Race Usually Require Some
Type of Course, Set... by a
“Race Committee”

• Starting Line
  • Marks
• Finish
Wind ⊥ to line
Standard Start Line ⊥
240' line
[230' usable]

Boat lengths =
(30' + 30' + 26' +
30' +24' +24' +24')
= 188'
Line/BL = 1.3

163' effective line width
DANGER ZONE: On a normal line, SL would be in a great position. But here, it's too late to get luffing room from SM1, because SM1 would have to hail all the windward boats to head up before she could give SL room. SL will crash into the committee boat, foul its anchor, stall out and tack away, or fall off and miss the start, while SM1 would be exonerated by rule 15 if it can't luff. Expect: Some screaming and anger.

Pin instead of boat makes it easier for bargers to sneak in.
More Buoy’s or race marks!

Seal observer
A Typical Race Course

- Windward Mark
- Starting Buoy
- Leeward Mark
- Starting Line
- Finishing Line
- Race Committee Boat
- Wind
Triangle Course
Many different course configurations

- Most common- “Windward –Leeward”
- Triangle
- Geographical, like around island or point to point
- Trapezoid
- Olympic
The Race Committee Team

- Team Members
  - Principal Race Officer
  - Signaler
  - Timer
  - Sounder/Gunner
  - Line Sighter
  - Mark Setter
- Boat Operator
- Wind reader
- Finish Line Officer
- Finish recorder
- Mark rounding recorder
- Safety Boat Operator
Principal Race Officer (PRO)

- Overall responsible person on the water
- Makes major management decisions
- Works with and directs the “team”
- Represents the Committee in any “actions”
Signaller

Visual Signals are the official communications with the competitors

- Hoists and lowers starting flags on timers countdown
- Hoists and lowers other flags on PRO’s instructions and commands
- Hoists finish flags
The timer is the heartbeat of the Team.

- Know and practice with the timing equipment
- Call out clearly and precisely to the second
**Sounder/Gunner**

Sounder is in charge of sound signals (gun, horn or whistle) which draw the competitors attention to the signalers signals.

- Give sounds at timer’s command
- Give other sounds at PRO’s instructions
- Give finish sounds at line-sighter commands
- Secure equipment
Scorer

The scorer tabulates points for finishers and calculates handicaps with finish times if required.

- Lists all boats started (If on-board)
- Lists all finished boats (If on-board)
- Tabulate race results (Computer skills are valuable) Be prepared to adjust if necessary
Line Sighter

The Line Sighter watches the starting line to identify boats starting early and returning to start properly. He or she also sights the line at finishes.

- Great vision important
- Not easily rattled or distracted
Committee Boat Operator

The Boat operator runs the Race Committee boat and handles radio communications if directed by the PRO.

- Know the boat
- Be familiar with anchoring in adverse conditions
- Know the navigation equipment (GPS)
- Every decision based on safety
Mark Boat Operator

Operating from a mark boat, the mark setter works as directed to position, set and relocate marks or the course. He or she also reports on the wind on the course.

- Good small boat operation skills
- Know navigation equipment (GPS)
Recorder

- The spotter or recorder keeps the committee log. He or she logs committee activity, signals, starting, finishing times, numbers of boats.
Wind reader

The wind reader observes and records the wind direction before the start and during the race as directed by the PRO. May assist other committee members during starting sequences.
At events with large numbers of competitors, it’s not uncommon to have a separate boat taking finish’s. This team is responsible for accurately recording and documenting all action at the finish line.
Safety Boat

Watches completion, competitors and is aware of any potential safety issues, hopefully before they happen. Keeps a weather eye. Is aware of commercial traffic in proximity.

May have first aid, CPR skills, or expert aboard.
Safe, Fair, Fun!!!
In that order.
Race Committee in action!
Starting (Rule 26)

5 minute sequence.

- At 5 min to start – Class flag -UP with 1 sound
- At 4 min to start – Preparatory Flag-UP with 1 sound
- At 1 min to start – Preparatory Flag- DOWN with 1 LONG sound
- At Start – Class Flag DOWN with 1 sound
Sample Class Flag
Preparatory Flag (P) may be replaced by a penalty flag, of either the “I” Flag, The “Z” Flag or a “Black” flag at the direction of the PRO.
AP = Postponement
“RC’s best friend”
Rule 26 exercise
What to Bring… What do I need?

- Sun block (High # SPF)
- Warm clothing and foul weather gear
- A hat with a visor
- Sunglasses (with a lanyard)
- Personal equipment (tape recorder, compass, rulebook, etc)
- Life jacket (if on small boat)
- Seasick medication (if required)
- Food and beverages (most likely supplied…ASK!)