

Race Committee Duties Tips and guidelines.

Skippers who race regularly shall be scheduled to race committee duties at some time during the racing season

- To ensure that races run smoothly and there is sufficient people on the RC Boat its strongly encouraged that crew members participate .Its also a great way for skipper and crew to view racing from a different tactical and strategic perspective
- Crew duties can be:
- Time keeping
- Recorder
- Flags and sounds
- Line judge.
- The skippers boat not racing shall receive average points for the race as outlined on the sailing instructions.

Tips and Checklist

Brief reminder

- Racing members should be familiar with sailing instructions (available at the BYC website) and be familiar with Racing Rules of Sailing.

On Race Day

Check weather forecast. (General wind direction , wind speed and overall forecast for the duration of the race).

Be at the dock ready to leave One Hour before the first start.

- Meet the driver and ensure equipment in on board
- Marks are inflated
- Flags are present and accounted for
- Clocks and stop watches are on site and working
- Recording sheets ,pencils or pins are also on the boat

Decide if conditions are appropriate to race. Consult with others on the dock before the final decision is made.

- The decision to race should be based considering the safety of all in the water and taking weather and wind conditions into account. The decision to race or cancel is up to the skipper.
- Designate crew to different tasks(e.g. Time keeper, recorder, flags, etc.) and maintain record of events and results.
- Sound the horn as you leave the harbour as a courtesy warning to the racers
- Conduct radio check with mark boat channel 68

• **Setting the Course**

- Depending on wind direction go approx.(One mile out.)
- Stop the boat and view course. Make sure the course is well clear of any possible hazards. Take into account the overall wind conditions and forecast. (is the wind stable or oscillating can you set a upwind mark at a median wind direction?)
- If winds are light you may opt for the short course (see sailing instructions)
 - Set anchor and send mark boat upwind. Monitor wind direction and shifts and set mark Aprox. ½ mile to windward.
 - Target approx. 15 to 20 minutes per circuit for a total race of approx. one hour.
 - Set the jibe mark to have a triangular course (see SI's) courses diagrams)
 - Set the starting line square to the wind
 - Rule of thumb for the starting line length is approx. 1.5 times the length of the boats time the number of the boats on that race (example ten sharks at 24 ft each make for a line of 240ft)
 - Record sail numbers classes and boat names as boats register at the race committee boat
 - Ready class flags

Class Flags

1 - **Purple** - Etchells PHRF 1, 2.

2-**Green** - Tanzer 22 Shark . PHRF3.

3- **Turquoise** - Fireball 29er Lightning, Misc. Centerboards.

4 -**White** - White Sail boats Catamarans.

The Race Start

- Start the first race on time. If delay is required due to weather or wind conditions raise postponement flag with two sound signals (AP)) 
- When ready to start lower(AP) flag with one sound signal
- One minute later start the class sequence with one sound signal

Starting Sequence

The start sequence is a 5 minute countdown

- At 5 minutes prior to start raise class flag with sound signal
- At 4 minutes prior to start raise preparatory (P) flag with sound signal 
- At 1 minute to start lower (P) flag with sound signal
- At 0 minutes lower class flag with one sound signal (this is the start) total elapsed time **Five Minutes**.

Immediately raise the class flag for the next start. And go thru the same timing sequence until all the classes are racing

- If problem arises during a sequence use postpone flag (AP)  to interrupt the sequence and then when ready restart with the proper time delay and sound signals

Record starting time on score sheets. If boats are over early –raise individual recall (x)  flag promptly with one sound signal and hail numbers of boats over early. Keep (x) flag up until all boats are clear or for 4 minutes, which ever comes first.

In case of a general recall, (too many boats over early)

the warning flag for the new start shall be one minute after the First Substitute flag  is lowered (one sound). The start for succeeding classes will follow the new start sequence.

- Count and record roundings during the race so that you know when to finish each fleet. You may wish to time them too
- Watch and record red protest flags .Record any infractions you observe.

Shortening or abandoning after the start.

After the starting signal race committee may shorten the course (display S flag  with two sounds) or abandon race (display flag N  with three sounds) as appropriate

Because of an error in starting procedure

Because of foul weather

Because of insufficient wind

Because a mark is missing or out of position

Any reason directly affecting the safety or fairness of the competition. However after one boat has sailed the course and finished within the time limit race committee shall not abandon the race without considering the consequences for all the boats in the race or series.

- If race committee signals a shorten course .the finish line shall be.
- At a rounding mark between the mark and a staff displaying the S flag
- At a line boats are required to cross at the end of each lap
- The shorten course shall be signalled before the first boat crosses the finish line.

At the Finish

- Raise the blue flag (In station) 
- Fire cannon for winner and hail sail numbers of other boats as they cross the line
- Record numbers and times on the score sheets in the order they finish. This may get busy, so work as a team. Have a timer keeper calling time, call sail number and as the boats cross the line the recorder writes it down. (Example sail 007) 7:57 and 12 seconds.
- Record any protests or protest flags observed.
- Returning to dock sound horn as you enter the harbour and note time. This signals the start of the time frame to receive protests.
- Return the score sheets promptly for scoring

Final Notes

- Race committee should be a gratifying experience an enjoyable way to view the race from a tactical different perspective and provide a unique view of the race course .
- BYC staff operating the RC boat are well rehearsed and experienced with the mechanics of setting up a race course and running races . Race Committee can take direction and benefit from their knowledge and experience and help the races to run smooth be fair and fun to our fellow skippers.