RYC Race Committee Guidelines

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Table of Contents

Goals of the Race Committee

Back in the day the Race Committee was surrounded in a shroud of secrecy. Many sailors grow up thinking that Race Committee work is top secret. Now a days that myth has been shattered. Now most Race Committees over communicate. I suggest you error on the side of over communication.

- Run a fair race!
  - Setup square courses
  - Let the racers know what is going on
  - If you make a mistake, fix!
    - Most problems can be resolved by going into a General Recall or Postponement and correcting the problem

Run a fair race!

- Set a square course
  - Why is a square starting line so important?
    - On a square line all points on that line are virtually equidistant from the first mark.
    - Reduces crowding at the RC boat or Pin
    - Allows racers to spread out along the starting line without being at a disadvantage
- Why windward-leeward courses?
  - PHRF ratings are based on a boat's upwind and downwind sailing performance
  - Boats with similar waterline lengths will reach at the same speed
    - Assuming similar sail plan
- Communicate your intentions!
- If you make a mistake, fix!
  - You can resolve most problems with a Postponement or General Recall
- Competitors would prefer to have it right rather than on time

General Guidelines

- Plan to have at least 3 committee members 4 or more is recommended
- Avoid using government marks for the pin end of the line (especially **BIG** ones)
- If one of the RYC predefined marks doesn't line up for a square course, you may just need to drop the Mobile Mark!
- The pin end should **always** be on the **port** side of the committee boat.
- The course board should be displayed on the starboard side of the RC boat
- Radio communications from the racers should be kept to a minimum
- The starting line should be long enough for all of the boats to fit on the line plus 25 - 30%
- The starting line shall be square to the wind
  - Check the wind direction with a compass, calculate the bearing to the starting pin.
    - The pin should be 90 +/- from the wind direction when lined up with the starting flag on the RC boat.

How to setup the race course

- Get out on the water early
- Go to the general area on the bay where you want to set the course
- Figure out if you can use one of the RYC defined marks for the weather mark
- Use the Mobile marke when needed
- Chose a location in that area where the wind is steady
- Do a Wind Check:
  - Stop the race committee boat facing up wind
  - Once the RC boat is no longer making way, using a wind vain, compass and/or hand bearing compass to determine the wind direction
  - Write this number down. Let's say it is 90° (east), then the turning mark/ starting line will be N nautical miles @270° (west)
- Pick a government mark or drop a mobile mark in a place where:
  - There is enough wind for the boats to sail and maneuver (6+ knots)
  - There is plenty of navigable water for all the boats on the course
  - There are no obstructions on or near the course (as best you can)
- From the weather mark the starting area will be N nautical miles bearing 270° downwind
  - Drive the RC boat 270° for N nautical miles from the weather mark
  - If you have a tablet, drop a pin where you set the mark and then drop another pin @ 270° & N nautical miles away. This will be your starting area.
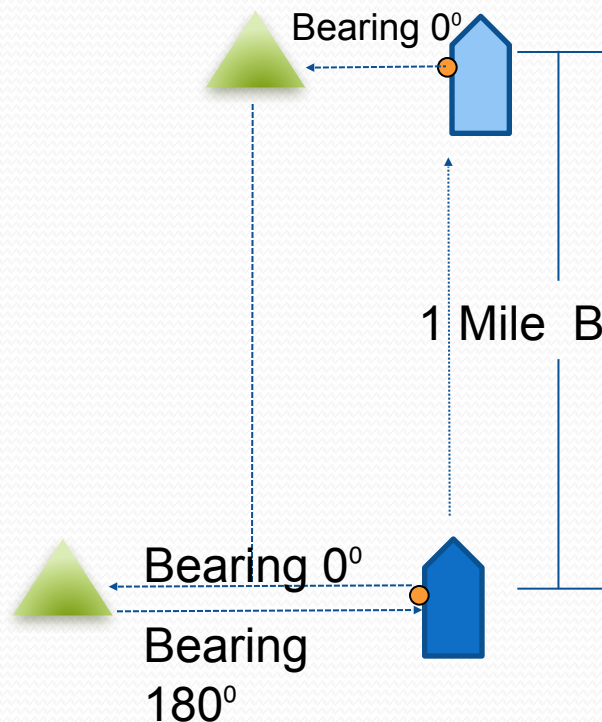
Windward-leeward Course

- Windward-leeward leeward course with a down wind finish (Even number of legs)
- **Works from any wind direction**
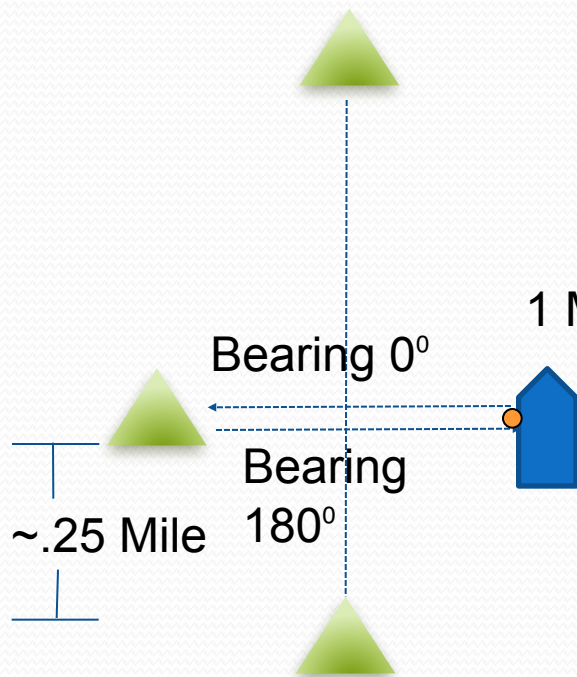- Committee boat stays on station
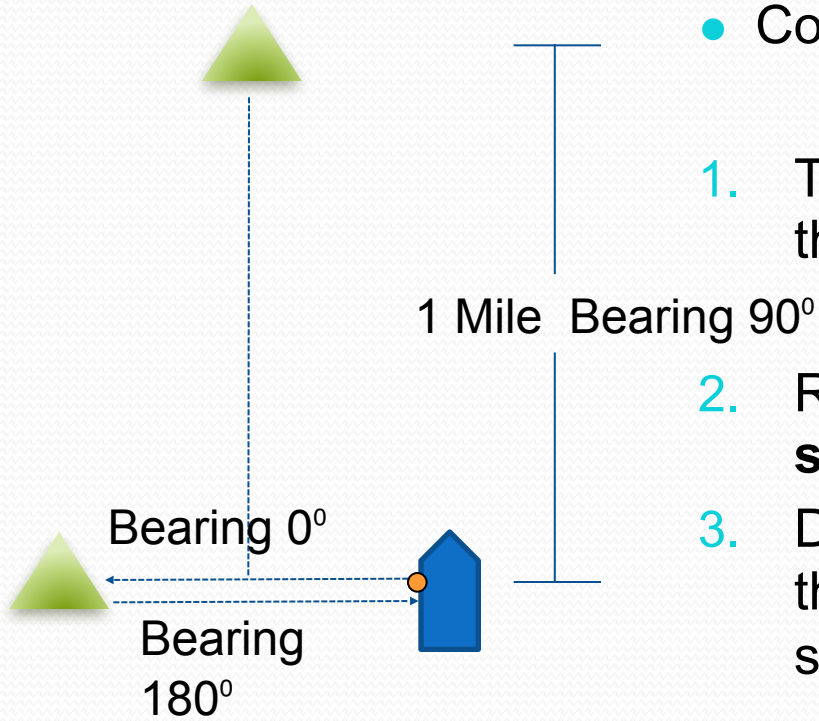
1. The pin should be dropped so it will be the **port** end of the line

1 Mile Bearing 90^0

2. RC Boat should ALWAYS setup on the **starboard** side of the starting line

Bearing 0^0

3. Drop the anchor and let out scope until the pin reads 0^0 when lined up with the starting flag on the RC boat

Bearing 180^0

Windward-leeward with upwind finish

Bearing 0^{0}

1 Mile   Bearing 90^{0}

Bearing 0^{0}

Bearing 180^{0}

- Windward-leeward leeward course with an upwind finish (Odd Number of legs)
- **Best when the wind is bearing WSW, W or WNW**
- RC moves the RC boat and anchor to starboard of the weather Mark

1. The pin should be dropped, so it will be the **port** end of the line
2. RC Boat should **ALWAYS** sets up on the starboard side of the starting line
3. Drop the anchor and let out scope until the pin reads 0^{0} when lined up with the starting flag on the RC boat
4. After the last start the RC boat is moved and anchored on the starboard side of the weather mark

Modified Windward-leeward

- Windward-leeward leeward course with an upwind finish
- Works from any wind direction
- **More challenging to setup and for the competitors to sail**
- Committee boat stays on station

1 Mile Bearing 90^0

Bearing 0^0

Bearing 180^0

~.25 Mile

1. The pin should be dropped so it will be the **port** end of the line
2. RC Boat should **ALWAYS** setup on the starboard side of the starting line
3. Drop the anchor and let out scope until the pin reads 0^0 when lined up with the starting flag on the RC boat

When the course isn't square

True Wind
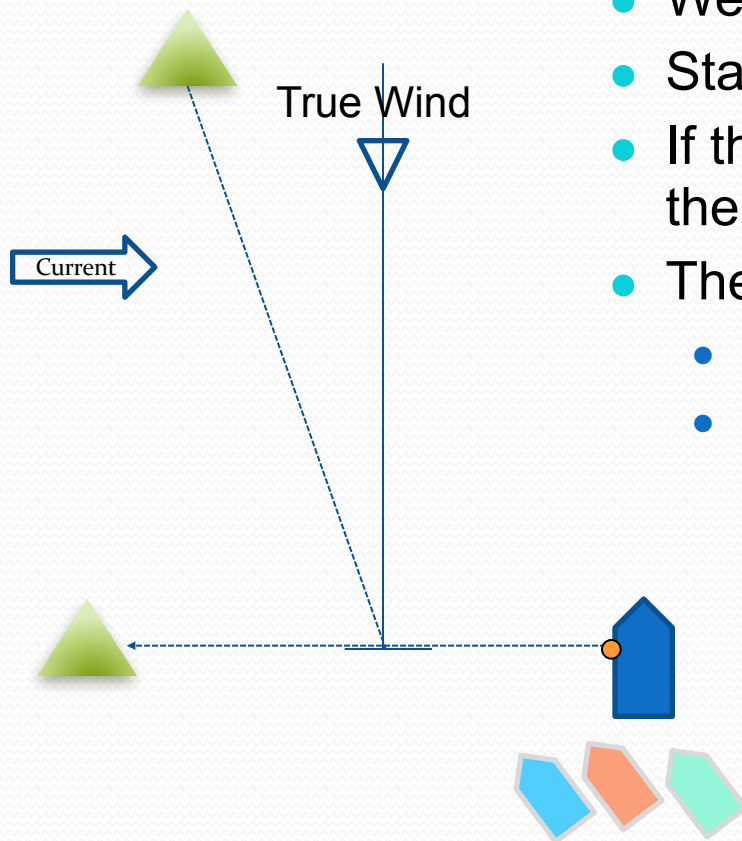
Current

- Weather mark is too far left
- Starting boats will pile up at the RC boat
- If there is a cross current boats that win the start may not even need to tack
- The downwind leg will be a reach
  - No Gybing!
  - No Passing Lanes

? Is this a fair course

Race Committee boat favored starting line

- Weather mark is upwind, but line is skewed
- Starting boats will pile up at the RC boat
- Boats at the port end of the line are further from the first mark

? Is this a fair course
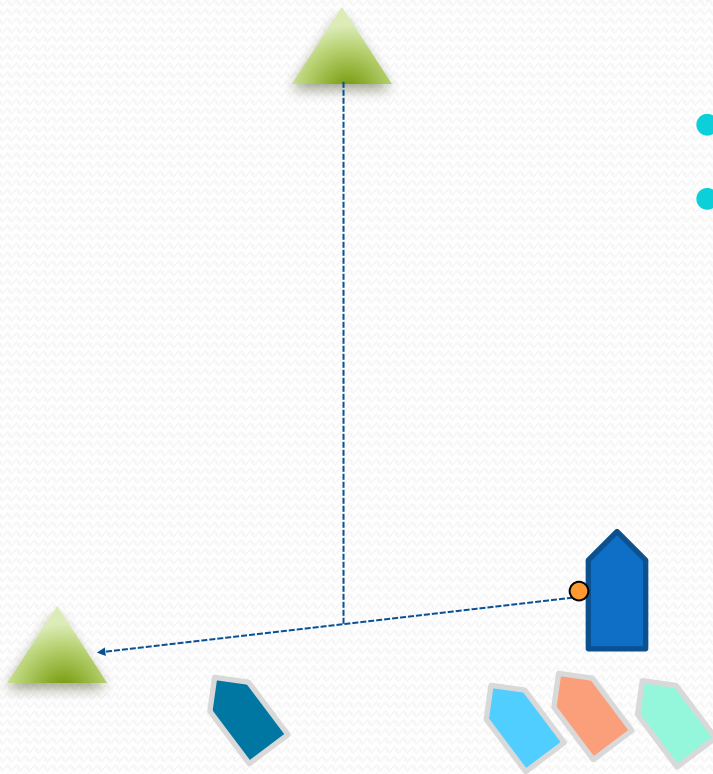
Pin favored starting line

- Weather mark is upwind, but line is skewed
- Starting boats will pile up at the pin
- Boats at the starboard end of the line are further from the first mark
- Starboard tack boats may not be able to cross the line

? Is this a fair course
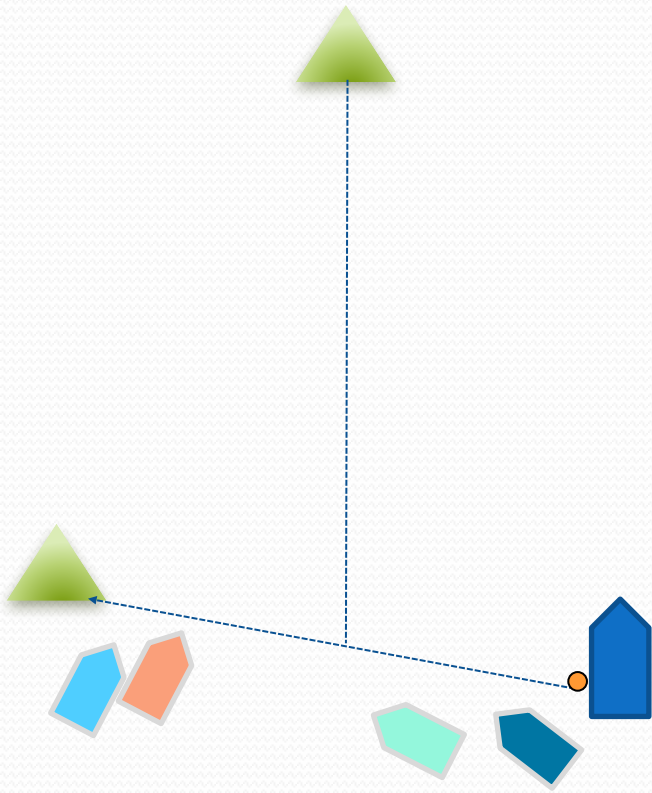
Preparing for the start

- After the course is set:
  - Check in all competing yachts
  - Verify the class they will be sailing in
  - On each scratch sheet write document
    - The course
    - Distance
    - Direction and strength of the wind
    - Bearing to the first mark
    - Tide direction and strength
    - Day & Time of the start
- Anticipate
  - If the wind is blowing from the W, WSW or WNW and the tide is flooding, there is a good chance boats will be over early.
  - If the starting line isn't square, prepare to fend off.
    - A square line is the Race Committees best friend.
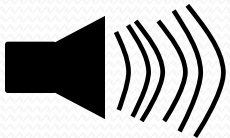
The starting sequence

- One minute before the first signal do a series of 5 hornes indicating the first gun will be in 1 minutes
- There is a sound system on the committee boat programmed for rolling starts
  - 1st Sequence:
    - B Class flag is raised with 1 horn
      - Only the Class flag is up
      - B - 5 minutes to start
    - 1 minute later preparatory signal. P flag raised 1 horn
      - Both the class flag and P flag are flying
      - B - 4 minutes to start
    - Three minutes later Preparatory signal. P flag is lowered 1 long horn
      - Only the Class flag is up
      - B - 1 minute to start
    - B Class flag is lowered, A's Class flag is raised with 1 horn
      - Only the A's Class flag is up
      - B - Started
      - A - 5 Minute to start
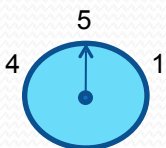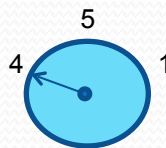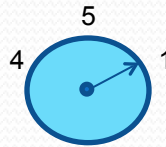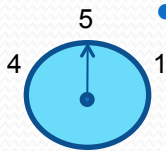
The starting sequence

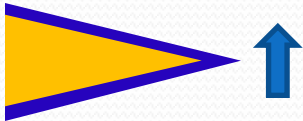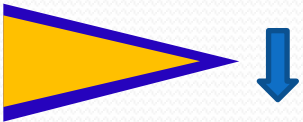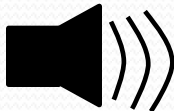| Visible Flags	Sound when Raised	Sound when lowered	Description
B Class Flag ⬆	🔊		Warning Signal. 5 minutes to race start when class flag raised.
B Class Flag ⬆	🔊		Preparatory signal. 4 minutes to start when P flag raised.
B Class Flag ⬇		🔊	Preparatory signal. P flag removed 1 minute before start.
B Class Flag ⬇ A Class Flag ⬆		🔊	Start Signal. Race starts and the starting class's flag is dropped.

Individual Recall

- When to use an individual recall
  - All of the boats over can be identified
  - One or more boats did not start correctly and must return back and do a proper start. The X flag is displayed immediately and remains flying until: All boats over early have restarted correctly, **or** until one minute before the next start.

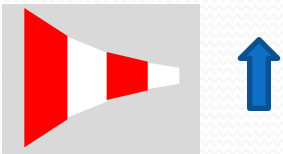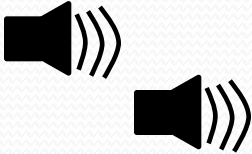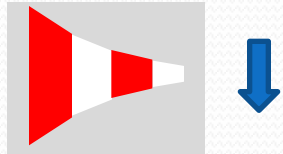| Visible Flags	Sound when Raised	Sound when lowered	Description
			The sound signal is in addition to the start sound signal
		No Sound signal when lowered	

General Recall

- When to use an general recall
  - RC cannot identify all of the boats over early
  - To fix an RC timing error, flag error, significant wind shift, pin floating away, etc.
  - The new warning signal for the **next** class will be made 1 minute after the 1st substitute is lowered.
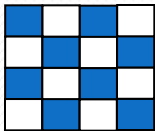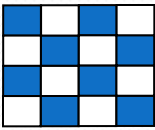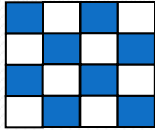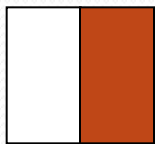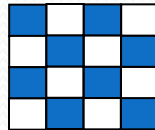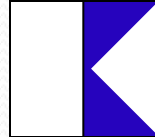
Visible Flags	Sound when Raised	Sound when lowered	Description
			The sound signal is in addition to the start sound signal

Starting after a %$#%$

- Should the RC decided to stop a sequence when a class is within their starting sequence… The RC can go into postponement.
  - Why
    - To fix an RC timing error, flag error, significant wind shift, pin is floating away, etc.
  - The class starting sequence will start one minute after the postponement flag is lowered

Visible Flags	Sound when Raised	Sound when lowered	Description
			The sound signal is in addition to the start sound signal
			follow the starting sequence form here.

Abandonments & Procedures

Visible Flags	Sound when Raised	Sound when lowered	Description
			All races are abandoned. Return to the starting area. The first warning signal will be made 1 minute after N is removed.
			All races are abandoned. Further signals will be made ashore.
			All races are abandoned. No more racing today.

Finishing

- Finishing a race is arguable harder than starting one, because boats from all classes can and will be finishing together.
- If you setup course B, the weather mark should be on the port side of the committee boat.
  - In a windward-leeward race the competitors are thinking all marks to port.
  - Get on station early
  - The finish line should be square just like the starting line.
    - Take another wind shot before you anchor the committee boat
    - Calculate the bearing to the pin and adjust the anchor rode accordingly
- Take the finish time of every boat that crosses the finish line no matter what.
- Have two people writing down boat names along with their finishing times.
  - If possible make an audio recording of the finishes.
- Suggestions;
  - Before boats start finishing, fill in:
    - Boat Name, Skipper, Sail Number, Rating and each boat's Allowance for the race

Calculating Results

Date: 5/19/10 Race or Series: <u>Macan Race 1</u> Division: <u>A2</u> Time of 1st gun: <u>1 pm</u>
Course: <u>M-T-M-T-M-T</u> Distance: <u>5 miles</u> Wind Speed <u>10 Knots</u> Wind Direction <u>286</u>

Boat Name	Skipper	Sail #	Rating	Elapsed Time (HH:MM:SS)	Elapsed Time (sec)	Allowance Distance X Rating	Corrected Time (Elapsed Time - Allowance)	Finish Place	Points
Sold	Bob	123	114	1:00:00	3600	570	3030	1	
Burnt J	Bill	5565	111	1:05:04	3904	555	3349	4	
Bad Cow	Harry	283	111	1:01:30	3690	555	3135	3	
Spiny	Sally	8345	117	1:00:28	3628	585	3043	2	

- The first boat to finish for the day, gets an elapsed time of 1 hr. or 3600 seconds
  - All subsequent boats to finish get the elapsed time from the first boat to finish
  - Sold finished first Spiny finished 28 seconds behind
- All calculations are in seconds

Appendix A
2021-2024 Definition Change

- A boat starts when her hull, having been entirely on the pre-start side of the starting line at or after her starting signal, and having complied with rule 30.1 if it applies, any part of her hull, crew or equipment crosses the starting line from the pre-start side to the course side in the direction of the first mark."

- Rationale and Impact

- Eliminating crew and equipment from the definition makes it easier for the RC to identify boats that are over. Equipment such as bow sprits are harder to correlate with a specific boat.

- "Hull" is not defined, but is likely to be interpreted in accordance with the Equipment Rules for Sailing.

- The same change is made for the definition of *finish* and rules 29 and 30 regarding recalls and starting penalties.

Appendix B

- Why windward-leeward Course?
- Does the number of legs matter?
- Why should the pin ALWAYS be the leeward end of the line?
- What is the next class to start after a General Recall?
- How can you change the race course without a support boat?
- How can you shorten a race course without a support boat?
- What should be taken into account when setting up a race course.

Appendix B

- Why windward-leeward Course?
  - PHRF ratings are based on a boats upwind & downwind performance. Also all boats with the same waterline length will reach at the same speed.
- Does the number of legs matter?
  - Yes some boats sail slower upwind but much faster downwind. If you have 2 upwind legs and 1 down wind leg these boats are at a disadvantage.
- Why should the pin ALWAYS be the leeward end of the line?
  - It is easier to run the line and duck a pin (smaller object) than a 26 foot RC boat.
- What is the next class to start after a General Recall?
  - The recalled class starts after the remaining classes have started.
- How can you change the race course without a support boat?
  - You cannot!
- How can you shorten the race course without a support boat?
  - You cannot change the race course, but you can finish a race at one of the mark.
- What should be taken into account when setting up a race course.
  - Wind speed, Current, Time of year