

RACE COMMITTEE PROCEDURE GUIDE

This document describes the most significant steps in preparation for conduct of a SBCC race by the Race Committee (RC). Please review the SBCC yearbook for more detailed instructions about courses and course changes. It is your responsibility to find a replacement for your assignment should the need to do so arise. Should you have any questions please call the regatta committee member assigned to your race. The person and contact information will be listed at www.sbccsail.org.

1 – Preparation Prior to Race Day

- Pick up the race gear from either John Davis' house, or from the prior race chairperson. Check the contents of the bag for completeness. Be certain to bring at least two orange marks.
- Print out copies of the Straight Sheet. This can be found at http://sbccsail.org/Documents/Straight_Sheet.pdf
- Be sure to bring a timing device (a GPS unit will also display accurate time), a sounding device (the Pro-Start system is a good option. Please download the instructions at www.phcsystems.com), a flashlight, copies of the straight sheet and extra pens or pencils.
- You are required to provide a vessel and have enough crew to manage its position, make changes in its position, and efficiently manage the races during your assignment. Three to four people should be sufficient.

2 – Pre-Race Activities

- Depart early enough to set the starting line one hour before the first warning gun. Begin monitoring VHF channel 72.
- Choose a course that will be appropriate for the observed conditions. Except for fixed courses (West Island and Foulke), the RC **shall not run a downwind start**. If necessary, use one of the orange marks at a windward mark, noting its position and bearing from what will be the established start line. There are several courses in the yearbook designed for such conditions.
- After arriving at the starting area, drop an orange mark (the pin) and move your vessel, anchoring it in a position where the distance between it and the pin is equal to or greater than the lengths of all the boats racing in the largest class. For instance, if ten C&C 25s are racing, and they represent the largest class, the starting line will be at least 250'. Also, be sure to set the boat in a position so the line is perpendicular to the imaginary line to the wind direction. An orange flag on your vessel will be set to establish the committee end of the line. If the line is not square to the wind boats will bunch up at either end.

- If you want to have boats come within hail for special course instructions or for any other reason fly code flag *Lima*:



Note: We try to start races on time whenever possible, However, if you need more time to set up, by all means take the time to do so. Just fly the AP flag with two blasts. When everything is set to go remove the AP flag, sound one blast, and begin the starting sequence at one minute after the AP flag comes down.

AP



3 – Start Sequence

- The starting procedure for the Club is a 5 minute sequence. If multiple classes are racing, a rolling start sequence is to be used. Official times are recorded when flags are displayed, not when the horn sounds.

REGULAR START:

To alert fleet to imminent start

11 minutes Sound Horn 4 or 5 times to alert fleet

Spinnaker Class

10 minutes Red Flag Up 1 Blast



9 minutes Prep Flag Up 1 Blast



6 minutes Prep Flag Down 1 Blast



5 minutes Red Flag Down 1 Blast
And Blue Flag Up (5min for No Spin class, below)

Non-Spinnaker Class

5 minutes Blue Flag Up 1 Blast



4 minutes Prep Flag Up 1 Blast



1 minute Prep Flag Down 1 Blast



0 minutes Blue Flag Down 1 Blast

NOSPIN START:

To alert fleet to imminent start

6 minutes Sound Horn 4 or 5 times to alert fleet

Non-Spinnaker Class

5 minutes Blue Flag Up 1 Blast



4 minutes Prep Flag Up 1 Blast



1 minute Prep Flag Down 1 Blast



0 minutes Blue Flag Down 1 Blast

- Have one of your crew have the *X-ray* flag ready. If a boat is over early be certain to fly it and sound one blast, calling out name or the sail number of the boat over VHF channel 72. If no boats are OCS, shout *All Clear* over the radio promptly after the start.

X-Ray



4 – Finishing

- Reposition the committee vessel for the finish, making sure the line is square to the last mark, and tightened so that the distance between the pin and vessel is such that all finishing boats can be identified. Replace the **orange line flag** with a **blue flag**. This will signify to racers that you are officially on station as the race committee for the finish. If you have shortened the course, the blue flag will be replaced by the **Sierra** flag, and two blasts of the horn will be made to direct attention to the fact that the course is shortened. Prior to the finish you shall notify racers that the course is shortened over VHF 72. The racers need no respond to this hail.

Sierra:



- A boat finishes a race when any part of her hull or equipment in normal position pierces the imaginary finish line. You shall award the first finisher of each class with a sound of the horn and the hail “MARK.” Subsequent finishers will only receive the hail “MARK” when they finish.
- Have a crew member ready with a watch, another with the straight sheet, and another watching the finish line. As boats prepare to finish the conversation should resemble as follows:

Line person says, “#51841 is approaching the finish line.”
Timekeeper says, “Ready.”
Recorder says, “Ready.”

Just as the most forward portion of the pulpit of #51841 crosses the finish line the Line person says, “51841 MARK,” while the timekeeper relays the finish time to the recorder. This process is repeated for every vessel until all are accounted for.

- Peruse the straight sheet for missing information. Call the Scorer for that race and give the class starting times, the boats, their class, and their finish times. Also report the area of the race, the course #, distance, average wind conditions, and protests or other incidents.
- Collect all of the committee gear and marks, and return to John Davis, or deliver to the next race chairperson.

Thank you for Volunteering!

Important Contacts Please refer to Officer’s Page for email contacts

Race Scorer http://sbccsail.org/Officers_page.htm

Equipment Custodian: John Davis 631 987 4753

Regatta Co-Chair:

A member of the regatta committee is assigned responsibility for this race. Please check the

website for contact information. This person will be available to answer questions or resolve conflicts prior to, during, and after your RC assignment.