

**Safety: See advice on wind strength (page 2), the risk statement in the NoR and the Safety Briefing card.**

- 1. In circumstances where racing is inadvisable** cancel or abandon racing. Advice may be sought from the Flag Officers, Racing Secretary, fleet captains or experienced skippers. You may decide to cancel racing at the club, or out in the Committee Boat.
- 2. Check Dart Harbour website News tab** for any events that may affect racing (e.g Cruise Ships)
- 3. Personal Buoyancy.** You should fly Flag Y (Personal Buoyancy must be worn) in Force 5 and above. Keelboat sailors and BRAVO crew are required to wear personal buoyancy at all times
- 4. Select the course** from the choice in the Courses section of the Sailing Programme. Follow the wind and class advice. Go out and check wind/tide.
- 5. Contact Froward Point on VHF 65**
- 6. Start the race** using the Starting Sequence on the sheet supplied. Record all starters and any OCS.
- 7. Finish the race and record finishing times** on the Recorder Sheet provided.
- 8. Return the results sheets** to the Sailing Office. Complete and return a result sheet even if the race is abandoned, cancelled or there are no finishers (see 6 above).
- 9. Calculate the results** on the computer help is available if needed, normally either Rear Commodore Sailing or Racing Secretary.)
- 10. Announce the results** in the main bar as soon as possible after the race.
- 11. Return the equipment** to the Sailing Office. Replace VHF radios in their chargers. If there are any defects or missing items please leave a note with the results sheet, reset the alarm and lock the sailing office door (coded door lock). Door Code is \*\*\*\*5, alarm code \*\*\*0 to unset, \*\*\*0FULL to set. Melinda, RCS or RS will tell you what numbers \*\*\* represent.

## Before the Start

**Check** the electric hooter and have the air horn to hand. If a sound signal is not made, then the visual signal counts.

**Position the CB** with a mark (or tetrahedral) to give a start, square to the wind and a length of 150-200 metres. That is longer than you think. Give bias if one end is favoured.

**Allocate Jobs - Prepare Flags:** - on poles

**Signal the Course.** Announce the course on VHF preferably at least 15 minutes before the first start and, at the absolute latest, before the Preparatory signal.

## Starting Sequence

**Prepare Start sheet – and then** cross off each minute.

Use the time from 18:00 (on a Wednesday Evening) until 1826 to check everything: Flags and hooter, OCS flag, boats over line, clock, weather, other vessels.

**VHF Radio:** Give a time check at 18:10 and announce the course over VHF. So - **Warn everyone 1 minute before announcements so they are ready.** Give VHF countdown before each signal.

Standard timing is 1 min, 30 secs, 20 secs. 10, 5,4,3,2,1 Go

During the last minute, warn potential OCS boats that they may be over the line.

**Errors:** time -If you get it badly wrong, then fly AP with 2 hoots. Rewrite times on start sheet. Remove the AP with one hoot one minute before the new warning signal. A minor error can be corrected, perhaps with a call over VHF Radio.

## The Finish

**The start and finish** is between the mainmast of the committee boat and the adjacent mark and from the direction of the last mark (ie NEVER a hook finish).

**Record** both lap times and finishing times for all yachts as a sequential list as they round and as they cross the finish line.

**Shortening Course:** Target race length is approx. 55 mins for the first boat, 75 mins for the last. If first lap is slow, the fleet has spread out too much or the wind is fading, consider shortening.

**Fly the S Flag** with the appropriate Class flags (or just S flag if all Classes shortened) with two hoots as the leading boat begins the last leg. You can shorten course by motoring out to any mark and anchoring (watch depth). Don't be late for the first boat finishing. Check the direction that the boats will approach from and try and get the line as square on as possible. If only one Class is shortened this may involve a compromise or a move. **Better than losing a race is to tell boats to take their time at a specified mark.**

**Time Limits.** See *Time Limits* in the sailing programme.

**Abandoning a race.** Hoist flag N, three hoots and broadcast on VHF Channel M1 (Ch 37)

**Do not return to the river until ALL boats are known to be safely across the finish and under power into the river.** "Count them all out and count them all back in."

## Problems

**Poor Visibility and Approaching Weather.** Cancel all racing if visibility is less than the width of the river at the start line. Take a look to windward to see what is coming before making your decisions.

**Strong Winds.** The shipping forecast and inshore waters forecast will be available from the Sailing Office computer as will Froward Point Live Weather (usually). Froward Point tel: 07976 505649.

*If you have any doubts at all, please contact the Racing Secretary or Rear Commodore Sailing who will make an overall decision.*

An approximate guide (based on wind gust forecast) would be:

- **Above 17kn** Personal Buoyancy to be worn (Flag Y).
- **17kn to 22kn** Consider moving Class 3 and/or Class 2 to the river.
- **22-30kn** Class 2 & 3 in the river, Class 1 at sea using E/F courses with self-timing.
- **30 to 33kn** All classes in the river
- **Above 33kn** Abandon all racing.
- **Sea Condition** Offshore winds may allow racing at sea in stronger winds, onshore conditions may require the opposite

**Communication when a boat is in trouble.** If a boat appears to be in trouble Use the VHF (Ch 37 or 16) to contact the boat if possible and other boats that may be able to assist. If appropriate alert the coastguard (VHF Ch 16 or 67, Pan Pan if urgent, Mayday Relay if life in danger) or mobile phone (dial 999 and ask for Coastguard). Keep the club informed as they may be able to help or coordinate reception of any casualty.

## Useful Telephone Numbers

Rear Commodore Sailing (Rosemary Tomison)	07976 687921
RDYC Main Office	01803 752496
RDYC Bar	01803 752272
Falmouth Coastguard	01326 317575 or 999
RDYC Sailing Office	01803 752704
Froward Point NCI VHF Ch 65)	07976 505649

**RDYC Wednesday Starting Sheet.**

Date:

Race Officer:

Time	Actual time		Action	Gunner	VHF	OCS Numbers
1809					Countdown to Time Check at 1810	
1815		-15			Transmit Courses	Class 3 OCS
1820		-10	ORANGE UP	Long Hoot	Repeat Courses	
1824		-6			Countdown to Warning	
1825		-5	Squib flag up	Hoot		
1825:30		-4:30			Countdown to Prep	
1826		-4	Prep up	Hoot		
1827		-3				
1828		-2				
1829		-1	Prep down	Long Hoot		
1829:30		-0:30			Countdown to Start	
1830		0/-5	Squib down. Class 2 up	Hoot		
1830:30		-4:30			Countdown to Prep	Class 2 OCS
1831		-4	Prep up	Hoot		
1832		-3				
1833		-2			Countdown to Prep down	
1834		-1	Prep down	Long Hoot		
1834:30		-0:30			Countdown to Start	
1835		0/-5	Class 2 down. class 1 up	Hoot		
1835:30		-4:30			Countdown to Prep	Class 1 OCS
1836		-4	Prep up	Hoot		
1837		-3				
1838		-2			Countdown to Prep down	
1839		-1	Prep down	Long Hoot		
1839:30		-0:30			Countdown to Start	
1840		0	Class 1 down	Hoot		

If there are OCS yachts, fly Xray flag immediately. removing flag without a hoot after 4 mins.

If Postponement (AP) or General Recall (First Sub) used, remove 1 min before Warning Signal and re-write times for crossing off again.

### Equipment List

<b>Toolbox, check has the following</b>	<b>You will also need</b>
Race Officer Summary	Timer (kept near window to update)
<i>Changes to the Sailing Instructions, if any</i>	Battery Hooter on bosun's worktop on charge
Sailing Programme + Committee Boat Courses Sheet	Two Portable VHF radio, Set to Ch 37 (M1)
Racing Rules of Sailing,	Committee Boat Flag Poles
Results Recording Sheets and Pens,	Flag Mast
Spare Gas Hooter	Orange Tetra Buoy + ground tackle
Binoculars (essential for sail numbers)	Safety Briefing card
Note: Course boards no longer used	

### Team Organisation

<b>Role</b>	<b>Responsibilities</b>
Race Officer	Overall controller Makes VHF announcements Calls OCS boats on Start Line Calls 'Now' as boats finish
Time Keeper	Initiates all time-critical activities Operates hooter
Recorder	Completes Start and Finish Sheets
Sail No. Spotter	In charge of flags Feeds sail numbers of finishing boats to recorder