

SETTING A RACECOURSE & RUNNING THE RACE

KNOW THE WIND DIRECTION & VELOCITY

- **GET OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAKE** at least 30 minutes before the start time. Bring the boat to a stand-still.
- Watch the cotton/vinyl telltales or windex for at least 10 minutes so you know the average wind direction. Also watch any boats going upwind. Be aware the wind on the lake oscillates continually. It takes a while to determine the average direction. Once a race starts, continue to monitor the wind. If the wind has changed direction, you will be ready to change the course and your position quickly for the next start.
- Races should not be started in 0 to 2 mph winds.

CHOOSING A COURSE

- The first and last leg of each race should be too windward if possible.
- The racecourse you choose needs to be communicated to the competitors on the Course Board across the side of the pontoon boat.
- Use the inflatable Triangle marks to better achieve an up-wind leg. The racecourse you choose needs to be communicated to the competitors on the pontoon boat.
- If you can get in three 45-minute races in an afternoon that is a perfect day. Any more is “icing on the cake.” Better to plan a long race and shorten it if the wind drops, then ending up with a 20-minute race.
- The competitors should be able to go right or left off the starting line. Putting the course parallel and real close to one shore will not allow this.

PUTTING OUT THE MARKS

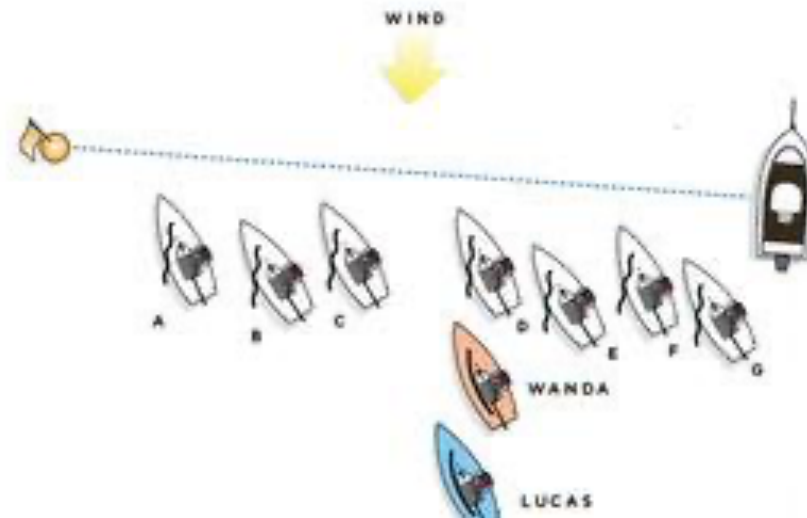
- If possible, start the races somewhere in the vicinity of the BCSA Club so the travel time to the starting line is minimal.
- Set the upwind mark based on wind direction. Use inflatable orange tetrahedrons (rather than the hippity-hops (ball)) as they are easier to see.
- The mark anchor lines should be as short as possible. Once the anchor hits bottom, tie off the excess line on the take-up reels. This will prevent keels from snagging the mark. But in strong winds, marks need more scope (longer line) to prevent dragging.

SETTING A MODIFIED COURSE: A course with the committee boat in the middle of the upwind leg

- Drop the up-wind mark and go to the position where you think the downwind mark should be.
- Re-check the wind. Are you exactly downwind? Or do you need to move right or left?
- Motor straight toward the upwind mark. When you are about 30% to 50% of the distance to the upwind mark, set your starting line.

SETTING THE STARTING LINE

- **Favor the pin end (Upwind by 5 degrees)** this spreads the fleet down the line. If the committee boat end is favored everyone will try to start there, creating congestion and collisions.



- This is a proper starting line favoring the pin end. The committee boat should be on the starboard end of the line. Letting out the anchor line allows you to achieve the 5-degree advantage. Add an extra line if you need too.
- The length of the line should be 1 to 1.5 times the length of the boats times the number of boats. Five Flying Scots, at 19 ft. OAL, need a 95 to 143 foot line. In light winds you can have a shorter line and in strong winds a longer line helps prevent collisions.
- The committee boat is very heavy, and the anchor line should have plenty of scope or it will drag the anchor. Set out 2 anchors if needed.
- **Avoid using channel nuns as the pin end.** The pin or port end of the line should be a hippity-hop (ball) or the tall inflatable mark

THE START

- Layout the start flags including recall flags plus the air horn and a stopwatch timer. The flags, not the sound, are the most important. Have your crew raised and lowered them smartly and exactly on time. The flag not the horn is the critical indicator of time. Put out the orange flag.
- Warn the competitors that the sequence is about to begin with FIVE short blasts of the air horn with no flag. Start on time, if possible. Record exact HH: MM: SS start on finishes sheet. Use the 5-minute sequence with the auto race horn timer.

RECORDING THE RACE

- As you set the line and proceed with the start, record all the boat numbers in the vicinity of the starting line. Example 867, 15332, 20800. Note other details of any boats with duplicate numbers.
- Most of our races are handicapped. Therefore, you must record the actual race start time and then the finish time of each competitor. Do not use stopwatch for elapsed time.
- After racing, Score Sheets should be posted on the billboard in the club. Also, **please take a picture of the results sheet and email them to race@brownscreeksailingassociation.org** . The Race Chair will calculate the results and post them on the BCSA website within a week.