Beaconsfield Yacht club

Race Committee Duties - GNS Series 2015

Rules, tips and guidelines. Updated, May 31st, 2015



Skippers who race regularly will be scheduled to perform race committee duties (RCD) at some time during the racing season. The schedule will be published at the beginning of the season, at least two weeks before the first RCD scheduled. To ensure that races run smoothly, we ask skippers and crew members to participate so that we ensure there is enough people on the RC Boat. It is also a great way for skipper and crew to view racing from a different tactical and strategic perspective. Each team must have the following duties covered:

• Time keeping, Recorder, Flags and sounds, Line judge.

The BYC RC Boat Driver for "Flying Trapeze", Chloé Beaudoin, will be responsible to conduct the races and act as the Race Committee Office (RCO). This includes boat position, course and marks setting, start procedure, and any decision that should be made during the race (shortened course, abandoned race, recalls, etc). Identifying O.C.S. (On Course Side) boats at the start, may be delegated by the RCO to the line judge.

1 One week before the race day

The skipper confirms by emailing BYC sailing chair (cbourbeau@live.fr) that she (he) will attend with sufficient number of people to cover all duties. Racing members should be familiar with sailing instructions (available at the BYC website) and be familiar with the Racing Rules of Sailing. The skipper will designate crew to different tasks (Time keeper, recorder, flags and sound, line judge) and ensure every one understands his (her) role on the committee.

2 The day before the race

Skippers and team should check weather forecast for the duration of the planned race. (General wind direction, wind speed and overall forecast, at http://www.byc.qc.ca/eng/index.html or http://www.slvyra.ca/weather). Make sure you will be properly dressed for the conditions, have something to eat, to drink, safety vest, etc), and that each member knows what he (she) will be doing on the boat.

3 On Race Day

Be at the dock ready to leave one hour before the first start. The boat driver shall ensure equipment is on board:

- · Clocks, GPS, rangefinder, wind meter, wind stick, and stop watches are on site and working;
- Recording sheets, pencils or pins are also on the boat as well as one smartphone,

The RCO will ensure that marks are inflated, flags are present and accounted for. The RCO should check and record weather forecast. (General wind direction, wind speed and overall forecast for the duration of the race). The RCO will decide if conditions are appropriate to race. Consultations may happen with others on the dock before the final decision is made. The decision to race should be taken after 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 RCO. The skipper and the crew (Time keeper, recorder, flags and sound, line judge) will maintain record of events and results. The boat driver will:

- Sound the horn as the boat leaves the harbour as a courtesy warning to the racers;
- Conduct radio check with mark boat channel 68;
- · Make sure appropriate communication channel is established with mark setting boat drivers.

4 Setting the Course and preparing the start

Depending on wind direction, the Driver will position the boat safely and stop it after taking preliminary wind directions and speed readings. She will set anchor and send mark boat upwind (Crew members may be asked to help for setting the anchor). The driver will then plan the course, making sure the course is well clear of any possible hazards, and that the targeted time will match for all classes. Considering wind direction and shifts, the driver will set marks and establish a start line.

- The committee should record wind directions and wind speed every 5 min and at significant wind shits.
- The targeted time for the race is approx. 15 to 20 minutes per circuit for a total race of approximately one (1) hour.

5 Mark and course setting

- Set the jibe mark to have a triangular course (see Sailing Instruction's courses diagrams);
- Set the starting line square to the wind;
- The starting line should be too long rather than too short. The recommended length is 1.5 times the total boat length of the largest fleet. A line of
- The RCO should set the start line for the largest class, as they will not normally be adjusting the length during the rolling sequence;
- Record sail numbers classes and boat names as boats register at the race committee boat.

6 Ready class flags

- 1 Purple Etchells , J24, PHRF 1, 2
- 2 Green Tanzer 22 Shark . PHRF3
- 3 Orange Fireball 29er Lightning, Misc. Centerboards, Lightings, Laser
- 4 White White Sail boats Catamarans

7 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 (1) minute later start the class sequence with one sound signal.

8 Starting Sequence

The start sequence is a 5 minutes countdown:

- At 5 minutes prior to start raise first fleet's 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 of the first class) and simultaneously raise the class flag for the next fleet's 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.
 - 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), raise general recall flag (First substitutes) with two sound signals;

The warning flag for the new start shall be one (1) minute after the First Substitute flag is lowered (one sound). The start for succeeding classes will follow the new start sequence.

8 During the race

- Time, count and record lead boat roundings during the race so that you know when to finish each fleet.
- Watch and record red protest flags. Record any infractions you observe.

Shortening after the start:

• After the starting signal race committee may shorten the course (display S flag with two sounds) or;

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 shortened course shall be signaled before the first boat crosses the finish line.

Abandoning after the start:

Abandon race (display flag N with three sounds) as appropriate. Many reasons can motivate this decision:

- · 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.

9 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 time keeper calling time, call sail number and as the boats cross the line, the recorder writes it down.
- Example: "Sail 007" and "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 and all other notes and scratch sheets promptly for scoring to BYC Bar or Mail Cubby of the Sailing Chair.
- The skipper's boat not racing shall receive average points for the race as outlined on the sailing instructions.

10 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 shall take direction and benefit from their knowledge and experience and help the races to run smoothly, be fair, and fun for our fellow skippers.

