

Race Officers & Race Officer's Assistants 2012

If you are unable to make this date **it is your responsibility to arrange a swap** with someone on the rota and to amend Dutyman online and the list on the club notice board. If you need to swap and can't find anyone please contact your Fleet Captain or Fleet Secretary in the first instance.

Please ensure you are at the club by the time advised on the instructions below.

If you are the only assistant shown on the Starters Rota bring a friend!

Please note that the **Race Officer is empowered by the Sailing Committee when on duty to be responsible for all aspects relating to the Laying of Courses, Starting Procedure, Abandonment, Buoyancy etc and ultimately it is his final decision as to what actions to take.**

1. ARRIVAL

Arrive at the Club by 12 noon on Saturdays, 12:30 on Sunday afternoons (unless yachts are racing when 12 noon), 10 am Sunday mornings or 5.30 pm for evening races. This will give time to consult with the race officer about conditions on the lake & get a weather forecast- tel 0844 846 2444.

Consult the race officer about wind conditions on the lake, as he may already have been afloat.

2. DUTIES

The Race Officer is familiar with the starting procedures so please do as he instructs. Your task is to assist him in setting courses, laying marks, starting & finishing the races. In consultation with the Race Officer you will need to:-

- **ensure that a local weather forecast is available before the course meeting**
- **ensure that the necessary starting equipment is available**
- **ensure that your assistant(s) is/are present**

3. COURSE MEETING

Call the Course Meeting at 12:30 on Saturdays, 13:00 on Sundays unless the yachts are racing in which case 12:30.

There are generally Race Cards and Officers Logs on Retriever but please ensure they are there before leaving the club. John and Shona should be advised where the start line will be to help any members who may ring in.

The Commodore or the senior Flag Officer will chair the Course Meeting and ask you to read the weather forecast. Members of the Sailing Committee will then decide in which end of the lake to sail.

Each fleet may choose a course or ask the Race Officer to do so. The general starting area will be agreed at the course meeting.

4. FLAGS

Hoist the appropriate flags on the Club flagstaff. The race officer will be available to help you. They are as follows:

- a) End of Lake 'U', 'L' or 'C'.
- b) Buoyancy Flag 'Y' on a separate halyard.

5. SAFETY

RRS Fundamental Rule 4 states that a boat is solely responsible for deciding whether or not to start or to continue racing.

However, it is the duty of the Race Officer and starting team to do everything in their power to ensure the race is conducted safely. The club launches are at your disposal and if you think extra escort vessels are necessary you should enlist the help of class captains and club officers to provide crews for them. Escort boats must carry helm and assistant if possible, both crew must wear buoyancy aids. The club radios are available and should be carried in Retriever and any escort boats. **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENTS TO OUR SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

9 Personal Buoyancy

9.1 Personal flotation devices shall be worn by all competitors participating in club activities while afloat.

Code flag 'Y' from the Club flagstaff, the Start Line or Retriever can be flown to remind competitors of this requirement.

You may postpone racing **AT ANY TIME BEFORE THE START** by flying code flag 'AP' over 'A' from the Club flag staff, the start line or the Committee Boat, if you consider the conditions require it.

You may abandon racing **AT ANY TIME AFTER THE START** by flying code flag 'N' over 'A' from the start line or the Committee Boat, if you consider the conditions require it.

You may shorten a race after the start by flying code flag 'S' from Retriever, if you consider the conditions require it, and finish the race at any mark of the course. This is in addition to any predetermined shortening arrangements.

Any incident causing harm or injury to anyone participating in the Club's activities must be noted on the log, and reported to a club officer.

6. SPEED LIMIT

Please respect the speed limit at all times, 6 mph limit in the bay and the 10 nautical mph limit elsewhere. Please ensure you have adequate setting up time before the Start Time, **Do Not Speed when Laying Marks.** The only exemption from the speed limit is where Escort Craft need to respond in a Rescue situation or in an emergency in which life might be at risk. The Lake Wardens are genuinely supportive and helpful of the club's position but it is incumbent on us all not to abuse this privilege.

7. RESULTS

Every year members try to race, some who have not completed the formalities. Lists are on the fleet boards of those who have entered. If you find boats, which sail but have not entered please advise the fleet captains/ secretary that the result will not count and mark with asterisk on race result card.

Place all the cards in the slots provided on the Sailing Notice board ready for the attention of the class secretaries.

If the yachts are racing signal their finishing order on the Club burgee halyard by using the owners individual racing pennants which are kept in the flag locker. The Race Officer will assist you in this.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ABOUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES - CONTACT A CLUB OFFICER OR MEMBER OF THE SAILING COMMITTEE BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE CLUB HOUSE

Clare Houlihan
Hon. Sailing Secretary
March 2012