

HOW TO BE THE RACE COMMITTEE BOAT AND SCORER

1. Using your GPS, set the “A” mark at the coordinates 32°40’00 and 117°09’00.
2. After dropping the “A” Mark, head directly downwind from the “A” mark for 0.8 mile. This is where the starting line should be set.
3. Drop the pin buoy. Travel perpendicular to the “A” mark about 300 feet or whatever distance seems appropriate for the number of boats racing (always give more than less when making a starting line). Head directly up into the wind and set your anchor. The starting line should be perpendicular to the wind and directly downwind from the “A” mark.

4. To start the race, you will need the following items:

Course Placards

Course Placard Holder (usually placed on top of the cabin)

The Black Preparatory Flag

The Yellow Class Flag

The start line flag that indicates committee boat end of start line (striped pole with orange flag)

Your GPS

A score sheet

A horn or gun

5. There are two stanchion mounted flag holders in the supply box. You may attach these to your boat to hold the flags as they are presented. If you have enough people on your boat – they may not be needed. Tie the Start line flag onto a stanchion – you will use this to sight across the finish line as the boats finish.

6. Looking at the racecourse chart, determine the best course for the race. The courses are set up depending on wind conditions. This is noted in the right hand column of the course sheet. The course placards should be displayed no later than 10 minutes prior to the start.

7. It is easiest to use the time on your GPS to start the race and to score the results. Determine what time you want the race to start. If, for instance, the race is to start at noon. You could write the following in the comments section of the race scoring sheet:

11:54:00	Beep Beep Beep	One minute warning to let the racers know you are about the start the sequence.
11:55:00	5 minutes to start	Yellow Class Flag up – One Horn Blast
11:56:00	4 minutes to start	Black Preparatory Flag up – One Horn Blast
11:59:00	1 minute to start	Black Flag down – One Horn Blast
12:00:00	Start	Class flag down – One Horn Blast (or gun)

The times can be modified as required for subsequent starts

With two people on the boat, one person can watch the time, count down to the flags and blow the horn. The other person can make sure the flag comes up exactly at the right time. We've found it easier to count down the last ten seconds as follows:

"10 seconds to Class Flag up" "5, 4, 3, 2, 1..Class Flag up!" and so on.

If you are short handed on the boat, don't worry about taking the Class Flag down at the start – it would be more important to watch for over early starters.

If a boat is over early, it is their responsibility to re-start. You signal them by calling out the boat name.

8. Enjoy the race!

9. As the boats finish, sight from the striped pole to the pin. Again – use your GPS as the official time. The easiest way to record the times is to first write the seconds, then the minutes and then the hour. The seconds are most important and the minutes won't change as fast – so this will make it easier when recording. Each boat should get a horn at their finish. If you have two people on the boat – one person can sight the line and blow the horn – the other can record the time. It is best for the horn person to announce the finish by saying something like "READY" (as they near the line) and then....."MARK!" (as they cross) and sound the horn. If using a gun – it is only fired for the first place finisher in each class (or race). Subsequent finishers get a horn.

10. The first boat to finish in the last race should pick up the "A" mark and return it to the dock. You will need to retrieve the starting line pin and take it back to the dock after the race.