

Blackwater Joint Racing Committee

GUIDANCE TO RACE OFFICERS 2020



Prior to Race Day

1. **Notice of Race** -- issued by Chairman to owners and RO
2. **Race Timing Record Sheet** - sent by Chairman to RO
3. **Course Card, Chartlet** – on website
4. **Discussion** -- with Chairman on likely issues and changes (phone or email)
5. **Weather** -- monitor conditions to establish likely courses in discussion with BJRC club representative
6. **Read the Sailing Instructions** - all of them
7. **Relay Boat** – Contact a suitable boat, one likely to be at or near the front of the fleet with a masthead aerial, and seek the skipper's agreement to being the Relay Boat. Obtain a mobile phone number for the Relay Boat.

Race Day

1. **Have hard copies of Race Timing Record Sheet, Course Card, Chartlet and this document to hand**
2. **Choosing the course** -- the choice of course should be a joint decision by the RO and the committee member for the sponsoring club.
3. **Choice of course - Wind direction.** Each set of conditions covers a 45 degree range, so check which end of the range you are dealing with, and have a look at the adjacent possibilities. Ideally, check the beats on a chart - see the RO course list.
4. **Choice of course - Wind strength** All the courses except A, J, 17, 18, X, and Z, assume a minimum of F3 for most of the race, especially for the long estuary courses featuring WSP or W3. If light, less than F3, at the start play very safe on the Outward courses – if in doubt choose J to get the fleet quickly out to where there might be more wind, without early cross tide legs. If calm before the start and a committee boat is in use, consider moving the start line down to WM12, with a revised start time - this constitutes an Auxiliary Sailing Instruction, and must be given at least 15 minutes before the scheduled start time (SI 1.4 (b)). Alternatively postpone the race for at least 30mins. In stronger winds choose a longer course to delay arrival at the outer mark - NE, WSP, or W3.

RACE DAY – FINAL HOUR

- Announce the name of the VHF Relay Boat for the race (SI 6.1.2).
- **45 Minutes Before Start** – Announce any additions or amendments to the Sailing Instructions (SI 1.4 (b)) and announce open to receive entries - Boat name, Sail number, and number of persons on board (SI 4.4).
- **20 Minutes Before Start** -- Announce the course at least 15 minutes before the start (SI 6.1.3)

- Check that all boats are flying Code Flag 5 from the backstay (SI 4.3.2).

RACE DAY – THE START

- Follow the signal sequence in SIs 6.1 - 6.1.7. All our starts are down tide, and frequently down wind, so be prepared for the need for recalls. Don't hesitate to signal a General Recall if several (to be deleted) unidentifiable boats are OCS.
- Advise all OCS boats by listing them on VHF. In the event that an OCS boat fails to return they should be separately called and a response sought.

In light weather be very active in assessing conditions throughout the race, and make appropriate decisions about altering or shortening the course in good time. Call or phone the VHF Relay Boat if necessary.

RACE DAY – AFTER THE START

Monitor VHF Channel 77 during the whole race

Note the time and content of any overheard conversations between BJRC boats.

Emergencies during the race

If you hear of any serious incident - MOB, serious damage, initially only monitor signals - those nearest and in sight are better able to take appropriate action. Record all conversations, and call Coastguard if requested.

Altering the course after the start

All courses except 1 and 3 have a listed shortening option in the RO version of the course card, with the point before which an instruction must be given. The VHF Relay Boat must be instructed to notify the RO of her arrival at the mark prior to the one where the instruction to shorten must be given.

Announce the Course Alteration before the leading boat reaches what will be the last mark of the unaffected course.

Acknowledgement of the altered course should be obtained from all boats. The RO must advise the Relay Boat of all boats which have not acknowledged the change and request that the Relay Boat to seek the outstanding acknowledgements. (SI 6.2.5)

Shortening course - Finishing at a mark of the course

One boat must finish within 8 hours of the start time for the race to be valid (SI 6.2.3). The RO should try by all means to achieve a valid result.

Consider moving the Finish Line down river - to Thirslet, WM3 or WM12. A Committee Boat could move to the new position if there is time but if not boats will have to be instructed to self time their finish on a stated alignment - eg: 'Finish to the South of WM 12, timed when the mark bears due North' (SI6.2.4).

Finish times

Please keep your original Boat Timing List. Photograph it after all finishing times have been entered and send it to Steve Sharpe as soon as practicable.

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