

NOTTINGHAM SAILING CLUB

PURSUIT RACING DURING THE COV-19 EPIDEMIC

PREPARATION

- Raise the Club flag up the flag pole (it should be with the Starting Equipment in the Start Box - NOT in the store under the Start Box)
- Check there is power by switching on the Start Box internal light
 - If not – the clubhouse alarm is probably still active. Go to the clubhouse and disable the alarm and the clubhouse (and Start Box) power will turn on. Wash your hands before returning to the start box in case someone else has touched the keypad.
- Plug in the pursuit box (also referred to below as the start box) - turn on power.
- Find flags H, P and the Recall flag. Hook them onto the flagpole outside rear window.
- Take out a Pursuit Race Form and fill in the date etc. Then sign on any helms hailing from the front window.
- Take out a pursuit starting order reminder sheet – tick off any classes that have signed on.
- Check wind conditions and decide on the race area (see notes in the folder Pursuit Folder)
 - Note: for very strong winds, or very strong currents, you may consider there will be too high a risk to the safety boat crew to manage the race. If this is the case – consider ABANDONING the race - for this year, personal distancing safety in the safety boat is a higher priority than those willing to “have a go”.
- Discuss with your safety boat crew where you want the buoys (Buoys 2 and 4 only are likely to be in the safety boat for the first few months).
- Set the line colour board, direction board, and race course buoy number boards onto the front of the start box. Note: pursuit racing does allow the race to be remote. However, it will be difficult for you to monitor the race and guess at the finishing order if the course does not cross the start line each lap.
- At about 10 minutes before the scheduled start time, raise flag H and make a sound signal (manual horn).

- At 5 minutes before the scheduled start time, if the buoys are in place, check that all boats have signed on and add any that are missing.
- Set up the start box timer (instructions are written on the timer).
 - Set it to 30s counts.
 - From the pursuit starting order list, find the slowest boat (highest pursuit number). Add on 6 to the number and set that number on the start box timer. (This gives a time of 3 minutes before the first boat start).
 - Turn the horn to ON.
 - If the slowest boat is on the water near to the start line and the time is three minutes or less to the scheduled start time, you are ready to start.

START

- Write down the start box timer starting number on the pursuit race sheet.
- When you push the start button, (NOT YET), the start box timer will start the race and continue until the end. Please write down the time, on the pursuit sign on sheet, that you push the start button (Use your own watch or the clock in the start box). This is important because if the start box timer dies for any reason, you will have to finish the race manually and will need to know when to sound the finish horn.
 - Divide the start number by 2 and add that many minutes onto the start time you have written down.
 - E.g. start number 140 / 2 = 70. Start time = 15:00 (3 o'clock).
 - Add 70 minutes onto 15:00 => 16:10.
 - If, and ONLY IF, the start box timer has failed and you have had to restart it during the race, use the manual horn to finish the race, in this case at 16:10.
 - If the pursuit start box timer is working correctly during the race, (99.99% it does so this should be the norm), the box will automatically blow the horn at the end of the race – you WILL NOT have to do anything (even if the horn is switched off).
- Push start.
- Once you have started the race timer, it will blow the horn every 30 seconds. If there are large gaps between starting classes, you can turn off the horn on the race timer, (NOT THE POWER switch), but remember to turn it back on again before the next class start.

- Please check that the classes start at the correct time – they can start as soon as the start box number equals their start time. Any over the line should be called back with a second horn (use the manual horn button), and raise the recall flag for 20 seconds (make sure you bring it down before the next fleet starts). You can try and hail the boat that is over the line, but if you are too busy, or they started at an earlier sound signal, it is their responsibility to return and re-cross the line – just write down any that fail to come back. Normally the Race Officer will shout “clear” at any boat who has come back across the line so that they know they can turn and start again.
- Add any boats who have not been signed on as they start.
- When all boats have started
 - turn the horn to OFF.
 - lower flag H.

DURING THE RACE

- If you don’t move any buoys, there is now nothing for you to do until the end of the race **apart from marking down the order of boats crossing the start line each lap**. This helps us checking for lapped boats etc at the end and gives a good idea towards the finish order.

FINISH

- When the count on the start box timer gets down to around 5 or 6, it’s a good time to try and write down the order of the boats, as best you can, on the course. It is the helms responsibility to tell you later where they were at the finish, but it doesn’t hurt to have the Race Officer and safety boat crew’s view as the race comes to an end.
- The horn will automatically sound (long beep) as the count changes to 0.
 - Raise flag P.
 - This is the end of the race and the finishing order is how the boats are positioned on the river at that moment. Note that boats next to each other should consider a perpendicular line across the river to determine who is in front – this is occasionally different than who is closest to the next buoy.
- As boats come in, they effectively sign off by telling you who was immediately behind them, and in front of them, at the race finish. Write this down on the pursuit sign on sheet and highlight any differences in view between helms, or what you have noted yourself.

RESULTS

- Once the sign on sheet is complete with the finishing positions – please check
 - that it is readable and that the finish order can be calculated.
 - if not – please talk to the helms concerned.
- If you have a camera on your phone and can photograph the race sheet, please send it to the sailingsecretary@nottinghamsailing.club – it will save me coming up to the start box at the end of the day if I'm there, or will mean a swifter update to the results if I'm not.
 - Make sure the photograph(s) is clear before sending!
- Then place any race sheet into the folder on the Start Box wall below the clock (knee height). They will be collected at a later date.
- Lower flag P and power down and put away the Race Equipment (Do NOT take it down to the lower store, leave it in the Start Box).
- Take down the Club flag and leave it in the Start Box with the Start Box equipment.
- Turn off the Start Box power by setting the clubhouse alarm. If people are still using the toilets in the clubhouse, that's OK as the toilet lighting will remain active with the alarm ON.

Please feel free to help us improve any of these documents by e-mailing comments to the secretary@nottinghamsailing.club, or catch us at the Club.

Chris Abbott

Hon Sailing Secretary

Last updated: 28 JUNE 2020