



Committee Boat Information

The Committee Boat for Friday Night races has the responsibility to set the course, start the race and record the finishing results. Necessary equipment is provided in the Race Committee bag.

Race Committee Bag Equipment List:

- Racing Marks Boards
 - A,B,C,D,F,G,H,J,#2
- Flags: White, Blue, Red, Yellow
- Flag: Race Committee Flag
- Horn
- Race Committee Binder with scoring sheets

Volunteering boat should provide:

- VHF Radio
- Binoculars

Setup for the Race:

Note: the committee boat should monitor channel 72 during the entire race. All racing boats should check in with you and also monitor channel 72 for any announcements you need to make. During the race you should answer to "Race Committee boat" and your own boats name. Boats without radios should at least check in verbally

1. Leave the pier in time to get to the start buoy by 6:30PM and determine the wind speed and direction.
2. Anchor at the appropriate mark in a position for a **windward** start. Most races **should** start at "J" or "B" as that is where the racing boats will be looking for you. The starting line should be at right angles to the wind and long enough (at least 300 feet) to avoid crowding at the start.
3. Set the course based on wind speed. The race should take about an hour for the average boat. Tables (1), (2), and (3) have the mark positions, distances between marks, and magnetic courses between marks.
4. Ideally a course should have a upwind leg, a downwind leg and a reaching leg. By doing this every boat has a chance of excelling at that designs strong point.
5. Raise the Race Committee Flag. Attach the **Yellow Start and Finish Line** Flag to the shroud on the buoy side

6. Put out the Racing Marks boards for the course. Remember **Red Letters** for port rounding, **Green Letters** for starboard rounding. Port roundings are safer as boats can round on the starboard tack. Hang the boards on life lines **opposite** the starting line.
7. The finish line and starting line is the line between the **Yellow** flag and the finish mark (usually the "J" buoy).
8. Fill out the heading information on the race sheet, including the names of the boats that are participating.

Starting Procedure:

7. Locate and prepare the race flags for raising to start the race.
 - Ten Minutes before Start: Raise White flag and sound horn
 - Six Minutes before Start: *Lower White Flag*
 - Five Minutes before Start: Raise **Blue** Flag and sound horn
 - One Minutes before Start: *Lower Blue Flag*
 - Start: Raise **Red** flag and sound horn to start the Race
8. If the weather looks bad, or the wind is very light, you probably should cancel the race, but don't be hasty: we like to get at least 12 races during the season. Keep in mind not all of our members have lights on their boats.
If you cancel the race due to lack of wind you are encouraged to organize an impromptu 'raft up', perhaps off the crabbing pier.
9. If any boats are over early (by less than 15 seconds) let them know - they do not have to restart but will get a two minute penalty applied. Note on the race sheet if this happens. If they are more than 15 seconds early and the line is clear tell them to exit the course and start over.
10. If the wind goes light during the race, you may want to shorten the race. Do this by moving sounding **two long blasts** on the horn then moving the committee boat to the new finish line, before any of the racers get there. You should also announce the change on channel 72.

Finishing Procedure:

11. The finish line is the line between the yellow flag and the finish mark (usually the "J" buoy).
12. Sighting along the finish line
 - For the first boat only, sound the horn, for all other boats call "over" as they finish.
 - Take each boat's time to the second, and log on the race sheet as they finish.
13. After the last boat has finished, pull up anchor and go home.
 - Email results to score keeper at race.committee@yccsc.org

Race committee volunteers coordinate with each other to transfer the equipment on a timely basis.