



# Instructions for Race Committee

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Buoy Zone is an app created to help the Race Committee (RC) and support boats create race courses efficiently and accurately. The app allows us to set a course from the R/C boat, push it to the support boats, and they, using GPS guidance, can accurately and quickly drop marks where they need to be. Hopefully eliminating the fuss of guiding marks to what direction they need to be, and what distance, based on an eyeball figure. This should also make it much easier and less anxiety building for those new to RC duty.

These instructions will be for setting up a basic course, an "M" in this case, but these instructions apply for all course shapes at SLSC.

We'll start with the flat-top, as they are in charge of course shape, size, and plotting it in the app for the other boats.

# Flat-Top

Once pre-race preparation (loading marks, anchors, setting flags, etc.) is complete, motor and anchor the flat top as you normally would in the lake for course setup. Once the anchor is set and holding, from this point is where we will build out our course.

1. Open up the Buoy Zone application on the tablet.
1. As you are working on the flat top, you are in charge of managing the race course. Therefore, you will click the **“MANAGE A COURSE”** button on the home screen.
2. On the course selection screen, you can either select one on the main list, or, for simplicity's sake, click the **“+”** button in the lower right hand corner.
3. On this screen, you will be prompted to set a course code. The default is the club initials with the date in Y/M/DD format. You can use this, or create one of your own.  
**NOTE: Be aware that what you title it as is what your support boats will be looking for when joining the course.**
4. Select from the “Club Course Template” drop down the course shape you will be setting that day. In this example, we will be setting an “M” course.
5. On the “Course Settings” screen, this is where we will be putting in the parameters for our course.
  - a. **Course Axis** - your wind direction heading.
  - b. **Course Size** - The default is **0.8 NM**, as this gives us the best usability for the size of Saratoga Lake. This may be adjusted for wind speed, boat size (such as Sunfish regattas vs. Thistle regattas), or if you're doing multiple laps (Such as an M2) and want to shorten/lengthen it.
  - c. **Start Line Length** - This is based off of the Length multiplied by the number of boats, plus one boat. In multiclass racing, it is advise to add up the total length of the boats of each fleet, and whichever fleet is longest, use that number plus one of that boat type. You may adjust this between divisions if you so choose.
  - d. **D. Start Pin Bias** - Five Degrees (+5\*) is advised for start pin bias. This helps to keep the fleet clear of the flat-top during starts.

Feel free to select either +5\* of bias, or -5\* of bias depending on conditions, or what tack you want to favor!

- e. **Start Boat Location** - From the drop down menu, select **“update with my location”** if it is not already selected.
6. Once all the parameters are set, Press the orange **“SET COURSE”** button.
  - a. The course will then be displayed on the map with the RC boat in the center.
7. If the course looks correct, and does not need to be edited or changed, press the **“SHARE COURSE”** button at the top of the map.
  - a. If the course needs to be changed or edited, hit the back button in the upper left hand corner of the screen, select the course name, and adjust as necessary, and hit **“SET COURSE”** again.

**NOTE: This may be done during racing in cases of wind shift, course lengthening/shortening, etc. The updated course parameters will be automatically sent to the support boats. Be sure to announce to the support boats the changes, and that they should update their assigned marks as necessary.**
8. Radio to the support boats **“MARK BOATS, COURSE IS SET”** **TWICE**.
  - a. The Support boats will join the course, select which mark they are assigned to, and drop the marks in their designated area.
9. Once the support boats have finished dropping their marks, and the pin has been placed, start the race start sequence as you normally would!

## **Congratulations! You have set up your race course!**

**When racing is done for the day, go back to the course selection screen, and hit the trash can to the right of the course name.**

**If you would like to Leave the template for another day:**

1. **select the course**
2. **go to “ADVANCED”**
3. **scroll to the bottom of the parameters, and uncheck the “Share with Club” box.**

4. Press “SET COURSE”. The template will then be saved on the main screen, and the course will be closed to the support boats.

# Support Boats

The support boat's job is to drop the marks in their designated spots, dictated by the Race Committee ("RC") on the flat-top. The RC will set the course from the flat-top's position on the water once anchored in place.

1. Once the RC has created the course, they will radio to the support boats,  
**"MARK BOATS, COURSE IS SET"**
2. Open up the Buoy Zone app on your phone or tablet
3. Press the **"JOIN COURSE"** button.
4. Look for the course name for that day and press it on the list. It should in theory be the only one on the list. If it is not, confirm with the RC the course name.
5. Select which boat you are on and enter your Name.
  - a. If your vessel is not listed, select **"ADD NEW"**
  - b. In the **"Join as"** drop down, select which type (Mark vessel, safety, etc.)
  - c. Under the **"Vessel name"** drop down, enter the vessel you are in (Outrage, Whaler, Montauk).
  - d. Add your name
  - e. You may enter your phone number in case of radio failure, but it is not required.
  - f. Press the Orange **"JOIN"**
6. Once joined, you will see the course layout on the map, with your position in the center as a blue dot.
7. Select which mark you are assigned to set, and follow the arrow and distance to the location.
8. Drop the mark at the indicated position. Once the mark is set, move to the next mark by repeated steps 7 and 8 if you are setting the pin, or another mark.

**NOTE: If the RC changes the course (lengthen, shorten, direction, etc.) They will announce it on the radio once they have made the changes. Your map will automatically update the course, and you will then proceed to adjust your marks as necessary.**

**Congratulations! You have set up the  
course!**