

# GUIDE TO DOING RACE COMMITTEE 4/2/2022

## KNOW THE WIND DIRECTION & VELOCITY

- **GET OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE LAKE** (beyond PYC mark) at least 30 minutes before the start time. Bring boat to a stand-still.
- Watch the cotton/vinyl telltales for at least 10 minutes so you know the average wind direction. Also watch any boats going upwind. Be aware the wind on Lake Chickamauga oscillates continually. It takes a while to determine the average direction. Once a race starts, continue to monitor the wind. If the wind has changed direction, you will be ready to change the course and your position quickly for the next start.
- Races should not be started in 0 to 2 mph winds.

## CHOOSING A COURSE

- The first and last leg of a race should be to windward if at all possible.
- For the most part: permanent Marks and Coast Guard buoys should be used for keelboat races while inflatable marks should be used for dinghy races. See the map of the lake for names of the permanent marks. The race course you choose is communicated to the competitors on the Course Board across the back of the pontoon boat.
- If you can get in three 45-minute Dinghy Races or two 1 to 1 1/2 hour Cruising Races in an afternoon that is a perfect day. Better to plan a long race and shorten it if the wind drops then to ending up with a 20-minute race.
- The competitors should be able to go right or left off the starting line. Putting the course parallel and real close to one shore will not allow this.

## SETTING THE MARKS

- If possible, start the races somewhere in the vicinity of the PYC Club to Booker T State Park so the travel time for competitors to the starting line is minimal.
- Set or choose the upwind mark based on wind direction. Use inflatable orange tetrahedrons (rather than the hippety-hops) as they are easier to see.
- When setting inflatable marks the anchor lines should be as short as possible. Once the anchor hits bottom, tie off the excess line on the take-up reels. This will prevent keels from snagging the mark. But in stronger winds, marks need more scope (longer line) to prevent dragging.

**USING A MODIFIED COURSE:** To minimize committee boat movement and set-up time the starting and finish line are in the middle of the upwind leg.

- Drop the upwind mark and go to the position where you think the downwind mark should be.
- Re-check the wind. Are you exactly downwind? Or do you need to move right or left?
- Motor straight toward the upwind mark. When you are about 30% to 50% of the distance to the upwind mark, set your starting line.

**SETTING THE STARTING LINE: Favor the pin end (Upwind by 5 degrees)** this spreads the fleet down the line. If the committee boat end is favored everyone will try to start there, creating congestion and collisions. The same is true if you over favor the pin end.



This is a proper starting line favoring the pin end. The committee boat should always be on the starboard end of the line. Letting out or taking in anchor line allows you to achieve the 5-degree advantage. Add extra line if you need too.

- The length of the line should be 1 to 1.5 the length of the boats racing times the number of boats. Five Flying Scots, at 19 ft. need a 95-to-143-foot line. In light winds the you can have a shorter line but in strong winds a longer line helps prevent collisions.
- The committee boat is very heavy and the anchor line should have plenty of scope or it will drag the anchor. Set out 2 anchors if needed.
- **Avoid using channel nuns as the pin end. If a competitor hits a nun it will do damage.** The pin or port end of the line should be a hippity-hop (ball) or a tall round inflatable mark

#### **THE START**

- Put up Orange Flag in the Aluminum holder attached to the rail near the Race cabinet. Layout the all the start flags including recall flags before you start the sequence. Have your crew raised and lowered the flags smartly and exactly on time. The flag not the horn is the critical indicator of time.
- Warn the competitors that the sequence is about to begin with FOUR short blasts of the air horn with no flag. Start on time, if possible. Record exact HH: MM: SS start on finishes sheet. Use the 5 minute sequence with the auto race horn timer. Turn timer “off” after start to avoid any unwanted horns.

#### **RECORDING THE RACE**

- As you set the line and proceed with the start, record all the boat numbers in the vicinity of the starting line. Example **867, 15332, 20800. Note other details of any boats with duplicate numbers.**
- Most of our races are **handicapped**. Therefore, you must record the actual race start time and then the finish time of each competitor. Do not use stop watch for elapsed time.
- After racing the score sheets must be place in the mail box holder just to the right of the club front door.

**The finish line is between the blue flag and the pin end buoy. It no longer uses the orange flag.**