

Old Sigh Race Committee Duties and Hints for Person in Charge

1. During the morning before the race, check the weather forecast and tides. Based on the wind strength and direction, plan for possible courses.
2. Arrange for an assistant to join the race committee. BYC will provide the an operator for the committee boat but a third person will be very helpful for setting the starting mark, monitoring the start and recording finishes.
3. Bring a VHF radio, extra pens and pencils, a few markers, a good whistle, a copy of the sailing instructions, and two means of recording time to the second. The “Buzzard” will have the starting line mark, signal flags, start sequencer and forms to record the finish.
4. Meet the “Buzzard” at the Wings Neck dock before 1700. Check to insure that the starting mark is proper inflated and that other supplies are on board. Leave for the starting area promptly at 1700.
5. On the way to the starting area, pick a course that will allow the slowest boat to finish by 1930.
6. Set the starting line. The line should be perpendicular to the wind for windward starts or perpendicular to the first leg for non-windward starts. The line should be about 50’ long for each starter in the largest class. A handheld GPS will be very helpful in getting the direction and length of the line properly set.
7. Check to insure that the line is stable and that the mark and/or committee boat are not dragging. Try to complete by 1730.
8. By 1745 have the signal flags rigged, course posted and start sequencer set up. Announce course on VHF 78 and monitor the channel until the last yacht has finished.
9. Record all yachts in the starting area. Keep separate lists for cruising and racing classes.
10. Starting sequence for the cruising class should start promptly at 1755. The racing class sequence should start 5 minutes after the last cruising yacht clears the starting line.
11. During the start sequence one person should be responsible for hoisting signal flags, another for monitoring the line and the third for monitoring the sequencer and taking notes. At the start, record the exact starting time, signal and attempt to hail any OCS yachts and verify which yachts that have started.
12. After the last racing yacht has cleared the starting area, pull the starting mark and set up the finish line at Eustis Rock. Use the Eustis Rock buoy as the mark end of the line with the committee boat set 50 to 100 yards to the north. The finish line should be perpendicular to the last leg of the course.
13. At the finish, give a sound signal for the finish of each yacht and record its finish time to the second. Stay on station until the last yacht has finished or 30 minutes after the finish of the first yacht.
14. Account for all yachts that were in the starting area prior to the start.
15. Deliver the race results to the scorer at the Mashnee Grill or Chart Room.