

Watauga Lake Sailing Club Committee Boat Duties



Aug 23, 2014

Revised by Dave Gurysh and James Little with guidance
of Race Committee , changes in blue

Committee Boat Instructions: Spring and Fall Race Series



Racing Class and Spinnaker Declaration: The Captain must declare if their boat will be racing in either the A-Racer Class or PC-Class (Performance Cruisers) before both the first race of the Fall and Spring Series. The A-Racers utilize handicaps with minimal modification to those determined by the US Sailing Performance Handicap Racing Fleet Committee. Whereas, additional handicaps are applied to the PC-Class by the WLSC Race Committee considering parameters such as boat length, boat weight, etc.

Before the first race in the Fall and Spring series, the A-Racer Class boats must declare whether or not a spinnaker will be used in the series. The handicap of their boat will be adjusted accordingly, i.e. 0 PHRF points for declaring use of spinnaker, +10 PHRF points for declaring no use of spinnaker. All boats in the PC (Performance Cruisers) class will receive +10 PHRF points whether a spinnaker is used or not during any series race.

Captain/Co-Captain Designation and Associated Scoring Rules: A Captain and Co-Captain must be declared before the first race of the Spring and Fall series for a specified boat. Either a designated Captain or Co-Captain must be present on the specified boat to qualify for season points toward racing series awards.

Boat Captains and/or Co-Captains only receive credit (racing points) when serving as Committee Boat for a race that has been completed. Boat captains and/or Co-Captains will not receive the normal credit ("average of best two races") when serving on Committee Boat if their boat participates in the race. Instead, their boat in the race (with Captain or Co-Captain on board) will count in the race results.

Entry Fee: The entry fee is \$3. After their *first* race, non-members shall be charged \$5. Competitors not paying will be scored as not finishing (DNF, did not finish).

Skippers' Meeting: A captains' meeting will be held on the Lakeshore sailboat dock 45-60 minutes prior to the 6 minute "courtesy" signal. Before the race begins, the Race Captain will oversee the registration of all boat entries on the standard race form and collect entry fees.



Signal Flags/Horns/VHF Radio: The signal flags and horns are the *primary* means of communicating race signals. VHF information on Channel 68 is a *courtesy* performed for the racers by the Committee Boat as time permits.

Committee Boat at Start Line: After the skippers meeting promptly head for the start line. Make sure you have the race form and the blue tool box. The box should include air horns, flags, clothes pins for attaching flags, digital watch, stop watch, race instruction book, etc. Anchor your boat and raise either the green flag for westward wind (marks to starboard, first leg to dam) or red flag for eastward wind (marks to port, first leg to island) . Flags and pennants can be raised on flag halyards on your spreaders or attached to your side stays.

Always start the race with an upwind leg. If wind changes direction from east to west or vice versa, signal a restart with the W flag and sound 5 short horn blasts.

Courses/Optional Legs: The courses to be sailed and the start sequence (horns, times, flags) are discussed at the skippers' meeting. The standard course is shown on page 3 of this document. If good winds provide a short race, e.g. <1 hour, the committee boat has the option to extend the race length by two additional legs as shown on page 3. Leave the blue finish flag down until the lead boat approaches the finish line on its last leg.

Recall/Postponement/Abandonment Signal: The details of the race can be changed before or after the courtesy, warning, preparatory, or start signals. The race will be abandoned if time limits (see page 3) are exceeded. All these situations are signaled by sounding 5 horn blasts and displaying the W (blue/white/red) signal flag. All yachts should then come within hailing distance for new instructions and/or monitor VHF channel 68.

Over the Line Early: The Committee Boat is responsible for hailing a boat(s) which crosses the start line early. The Committee Boat will raise the W flag (red/white/blue), blow the horn *one time*, and make a reasonable effort to hail the boat(s) verbally and/or by VHF radio channel 68. Once the Committee Boat has attempted to hail the offending boat, the captain of the boat is then ultimately responsible for re-starting the race properly by going back around the pin. If more boats are "over early" than the Committee Boat can fairly identify, the Committee Boat will raise the W flag (red/white/blue), blow the horn five times, and advise over VHF radio channel 68 when the new 6 minute starting sequence will begin for the affected race class.

Starting/Finishing Line: The ends of the start/finish line marked by the mast of the committee boat and the pole of the start mark. If a sailboat is *not* used as committee boat, the committee boat will designate a point on the boat for one end of the finish line. If more convenient to record times while sitting in boat's cockpit, be sure to sit in the same place for determining all boats' finishes.

Race Finish Horn and Times: The blue flag is again raised (blue also used as preparatory flag in start sequence) before the lead boat approaches the finish line. *One person blows 1 long horn blast for the first boat to cross the finish and simultaneously a second person uses the digital watch to record the finish time of day in hr:min:sec. *Seconds can matter in race results, so attempt to obtain accuracy to within one second!** Using the same protocol, blow a short horn for each additional finishing boat and record their times. The boat finishes when any part of its hull, crew, or equipment in normal position, crosses the finish line. *A stop watch should only be used as a backup to the digital watch.*

If optional legs are added to the race, record both times the boats cross the finish line just in case the additional legs cannot be completed and the race is called for lack of wind or bad weather.

Protests: In addition to the requirements of Rule 61, a protesting yacht must notify the race captain or committee boat its intent to protest at the conclusion of the race in which the incident occurred. Protest shall be file in writing no later than thirty minutes after the return of the committee boat to the dock. The race captain or committee boat shall have blank protest forms. Protests will be heard by non-involved WLSC members. Note, in lieu of a protest flag, any prominent red object displayed at a prominent stern location on a protesting yacht will be accepted as a protest flag providing the other yacht(s) has been informed.

Race Time Sequence and Time Limits



Starting Time Sequence:

6 min¹ [0 min²] Blow 3 horn "courtesy" signal for first fleet race.

5 min¹ [1 min²] Blow 1 horn and *raise* the White Class Flag.

4 min¹ [2 min²] Blow 1 horn and *raise* the Blue Preparatory Flag, all engines must be off

1 min¹ [5 min²] Blow 1 long blast and *lower* the Blue Preparatory Flag. Leave the White Class Flag flying; no dipping across starting line, boats must go around end of starting line

0 min¹ [6 min²] Blow 1 "start" horn and *lower* the White Class Flag. The Committee Boat is responsible for hailing a boat(s) which crosses the start line early. The Committee Boat will raise the W flag (red/white/blue), blow the horn one time, and make a reasonable effort to hail the boat(s) verbally and/or by VHF radio (channel 68). Once the Committee Boat has attempted to hail the offending boat, the captain of the boat is then *ultimately* responsible for re-starting the race properly by going back around the pin. If more boats are "over early" than the Committee Boat can fairly identify, the Committee Boat will raise the W flag (red/white/blue), blow the horn five times, and advise over VHF radio channel 68 when the new 6 minute starting sequence will begin for the affected race class.

Time Limits to Marks:

1 hour³: If lead boat has not passed windward mark (first mark after start mark), signal end of race with W flag and 5 short horn blasts and notify racers on VHF channel 68.

1 hour 45 min³: If lead boat has not passed leeward mark (second mark after start mark), signal end of race with W flag and 5 short horn blasts VHF channel 68.

2 hours 30 min³: If lead boat has not finished, signal end of race with W flag and 5 short horn blasts.

Additional Time Constraints³: If the second boat has not crossed within 1 hour of the lead boat, signal end of race with W flag and 5 short horn blasts. Boats not finishing within 1 hour of the second finishing boat will be recorded as DNF (Did Not Finish). 1 hour after the second boat crosses the finish line, you may raise anchor and return to the dock to give the results to the Race Captain.

Multiple Fleets: Even if two fleets are racing, the *whole* race event will be cancelled and rescheduled if *either* of the fleets do not reach marks within their specified time limits. The 6 minute "courtesy" signal for the second race fleet is blown 4 minutes after the "start" (0 minute) horn for the first fleet.

¹Minutes before start counting down

²Minutes before start counting up

³Time after start



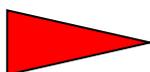
Warning Flag



W Flag



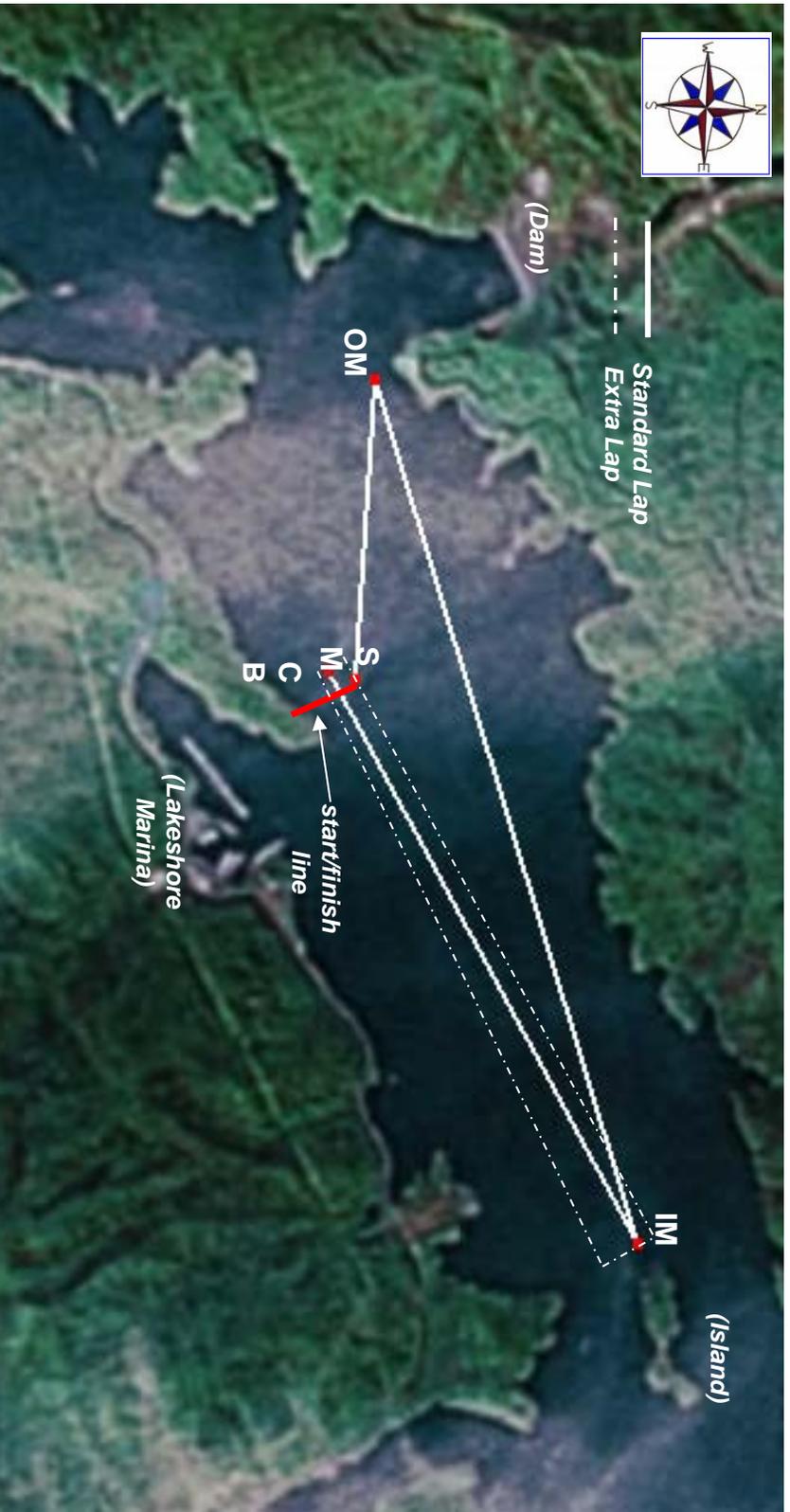
Preparatory Flag
Finish Flag



Marks to
Port Pennant



Marks to Starboard
Pennant



- Wind with westerly component (green pennant), head west from starting line and leave observatory mark (OM) and island mark (IM) to starboard, and cross finish line (pass *between* start mark (SM), and committee boat (CB). If extra lap, round the start mark to starboard and return to IM leaving it to starboard and *cross finish line* to end race.
- Wind with easterly component (red pennant), head east from starting line and leave IM and OM to *port* and cross finish line. If extra lap, pass *through* finish line and return to IM leaving it to *port* and *cross finish line* to end race.