

RACE OFFICER GUIDE

Before arriving at the club

Check the current weather forecast and tide times. These can be found on the internet.

Weather

http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/weather/marine/inshore_forecast.html#NorthForelandtoSelseyBill

Also by checking the windguru link on the clubs web site you can see what is actually happening on the beach.

Tide

<http://easytide.ukho.gov.uk/EasyTide/EasyTide/ShowPrediction.aspx?PortID=0072&PredictionLength=7>

When you Arrive at the Club

Collect Sailing keys from the store and unlock stair gate and bridge.

Write up weather forecast and tide times on white board.

Select course you will be using for the days racing and place on board.

Discuss with the Patrol Boat crew your plans and raise any concerns you have with the sea state Or weather conditions/forecast. If you can't see the Mulberry Harbour, stay ashore. Remember "If in doubt don't go out"

The days sailing will only go ahead if both the race officer and patrol boat crew are confident they can cope with the weather/sea state conditions.

Once you and the patrol boat crew have made the decision to proceed it is then the responsibility of the helm of each boat to decide if they can cope with the prevailing conditions.

Collect a race entry/signing on sheet from the bridge and place in the club next to the white board. Also put a signing off sheet next to the white board for when the sailors come ashore.

If you feel it necessary to advise sailors of the conditions or to explain the day's events call a briefing.

Before the Patrol boat is launched complete a radio check with the crew.

Laying the course

Talk to the patrol boat crew and give clear instructions to where the marks should be laid. Example: - "further out to wards the mulberry" or "another 200yards towards Bognor"

If weather conditions are not favourable keep the course small so it is easy to manage.

Remember you can always change the course between races.

The Race

Inform the Patrol boat crew that you are about to start the race.

For operating the lights and sound controls refer to the starting procedure manual. There are step by step photos showing the sequence of events.

It's very important that accurate times are recorded. To help you there are lap charts for you to keep a record of each boats lap times. If you make a mistake don't worry, we are all volunteers hopefully having fun.

Always keep an eye on the boats; you have a better view of events than the patrol boat. Call them on the radio if you see something they have missed. They might be dealing with another boat so don't expect an immediate answer.

Keep an eye on the weather conditions and visibility. If you can not see Selsey life boat station and/or Bognor pier be prepared to abandon sailing if conditions continue to deteriorate. Radio patrol boat and advise them of your concerns.

When the last boat has finished the final race of the day let the patrol boat know so they can start Recovering the race marks.

ALWAYS MAINTAIN RADIO CONTACT WITH PATROL BOAT UNTIL IT IS OFF THE WATER.

Collect together all paper work and place in top draw of filing cabinet.

Turn everything off, check all windows are shut, lock the door and stair gate and return keys to store.

And finally

THANK-YOU FOR BEING TODAY'S RACE OFFICER