

HORNET SERVICES SAILING CLUB

GUIDANCE FOR SAILING OFFICERS' OF THE DAY

1. The principle objective of the Sailing Officer of the Day (SOOD) when running the HSSC Wednesday Race Series is to ensure all competitors have a fair and enjoyable race.

2. To meet this objective the SOOD must select an appropriate course, control the timing of the start sequence and ensure, as far as possible, that all the competitors are able to finish within a reasonable time **AND** make it back in time for food to Hornet SSC. Consider therefore the potential performance of the **lowest rated boat** that comes to the start area.

3. Courses should be selected with the above objective in mind. The aim is to provide fair windward legs somewhere within the course. Consider also the conditions when devising courses, (e.g. A short course in light or very heavy airs). Course length, taking into account wind and tide is therefore paramount to ensure that everyone has a chance to finish. A course of approximately 5 NM will generally provide fair racing for all in moderate conditions. SOOD's should be aware of the tidal situation during the race and in addition shipping movements from Southampton may also influence course selection, a useful website is: http://www.southamptonvts.co.uk/Live_Information/Shipping_Movements_and_Cruise_Ship_Schedule/Planned_Movements/ If all else fails call the Race Organiser onboard Sunshine for advice.

4. Procedure

	Summer	Autumn
Time Check and Course	1815	15 Mins before start race 1
Warning Signal	1820	10 Mins before start race 1
Prep Signal Race 1 & Warning Race 2	1825	5 Mins before start race 1
START Race 1, Prep Signal Race 2	1830	As NOR and SI
START Race 2	1835	As NOR and SI

5. Each event in the sequence should be given a standby announcement approx. 30 seconds before the due time and the last 10 / 5 seconds counted down to the '**mark**'. A repetition of what that mark signalled may be made shortly after the event.

Accurate timings are essential to good race management and ideally you should set your timer from a GPS time output or even operate directly from a GPS screen if it is adjacent to your VHF station.

At the starts remember to call the line clear or identify boats that are over and must return. (To do this accurately your boat should be as close to the line transit as possible to avoid parallax error, although this is not always easy when you as the SOOD are also starting in the 2nd start). Boats that do not return should be identified to the Race Series Organiser (Ric Hanslip) onboard Sunshine after racing.

6. The fleet is split into 2 starts for the following reasons:
 - a. To try and avoid the slower boats being continually disadvantaged on a crowded start line.
 - b. To reduce the spread in finishing times across the fleet.

Where the number of boats for each start is four or fewer the SOOD may consider amalgamating the 2 fleets into a single start.

Good Sailing!

RH