



Flying Scots
Adult Sailing Program

Sailboat Racing Basics

Introduction to Race Committee



Racing

- Sailboat racing is a contest in which boats sail around a specified course. In a typical one-design race (e.g., when racing Flying Scots here at DYC), the first boat across the line wins the race.
- The course may be any shape, but is composed of a starting line, a series of flags and/or buoys to mark the course, and a finish line (which is often the same as the starting line).
- Sailboat racing is governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), published by the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) which is utilized for sailing competitions from informal club races through the Olympics.
- Rules to apply in a specific regatta, race or series of races are usually established in written Sailing Instructions.



Racing Starts

Start Sequence (RRS Rule 26)

<u>Signal</u>	<u>Flag and Sound</u>	<u>Minutes before starting signal</u>
Warning	Class Flag; 1 sound	5
Preparatory	P or solid blue flag; 1 sound	4
One Minute	P flag removed; 1 sound	1
Starting	Class Flag removed; 1 sound	0

- Visual signals prevail – a late sound doesn't mean the race or sequence hasn't started.
- Boats that are “over-early” - or across the starting line before the proper starting time - must return to the pre-start side of the line and start cleanly.

Sailing the Course & Mark Roundings



- The Sailing Instructions or the race committee will inform competitors about which direction to round the course marks:
 - Round to port – means to turn left and pass the mark on the port side of the boat
 - Round to starboard – means to turn right and pass the mark on the starboard side of the boat
- Right of way rules apply – with additional racing-only rules for starts, finishes and mark-roundings. Overlap at the Zone (see RRS or SI s for definition of Zone) requires room at the mark.



Finishing the Race

- A boat has finished the race when any part of the boat or its sails crosses the finish line.
- A boat may not interfere with another boat and must clear the finish line area to allow other boats to finish cleanly.



Racing Tips

- Read the Sailing Instructions and know the course!
- Don't interfere with other boats that are still racing, whether in your class or not
- Read *Racing Rules of Sailing* - this is the law applied internationally to sailboat racing
- Remember Right of Way rules still apply – RRS adds racing-only rules for starts, finishes and mark-roundings
- Collisions are not fast



What is Race Committee?

- Charged with conducting a race according to direction of Organizing Authority (e.g., sponsoring club) under RRS and Sailing Instructions.
 - They do not make the rules.
- Judges, Protest Committees and club sail yacht race committee are not “Race Committee”
- US Sailing Certification levels & responsibilities, Principal Race Officer duties
- Most are volunteers
- How you can get involved



Questions?

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