

What a Club Non-Pennant Weekend Comprises

Calling all Club Race Officers and Assistants....

Here is a “cut to the chase” summary of what you and your team need to do on a typical non-Pennant weekend:

- On Saturdays at 1300hrs and Sundays at 0900hrs be ready for a meeting with your CRO support and/or any class course setters. They can be helpful – aim to at least get buy in from all on your outline plan. If they do not turn up, at least you tried and the extra time is useful. Remember default is committee boat – only use the club line in exceptional circumstances
- On Saturdays you will be running 2 starts which are both racing together.
 - There is a one off handicap race which will include all classes. This will be run as an average lap race. See below for advice on how to run this.
 - Included in this will be the Solo class race which is your second start. So the Solo class have a handicap race AND a class race. Lucky Guys!
 - Therefore the course must be the same for both starts.
 - You can start by getting ideas from the suggested courses book supplied by the office.
 - An Average Lap Race means that all boats do the same course and the race team have to record the laps done by each boat. At the appropriate point you shorten course and then all boats finish as they cross the line.
 - Each boat's elapsed time is then its finish time divided by the number of laps it has completed. The office will do this; you need to provide the times and the lap count.
 - Boats of the same class can do different numbers of laps.
 - Try and get the racing to last about 75 minutes for all with the Solo doing 3 laps , the Moth doing 6 laps and the others in between.
 - So the lap needs to be about 12 minutes sailing for the Moth and about 25 minutes for the Solo.
 - Best advice is to shorten as the fastest class comes up to complete a lap.
- On Sundays, 3 of the starts will have 2 races (i.e. not the Solos)
- This will need at least 2 courses, most probably 3. The office will provide a book of suggested courses. These are in sets of three, and there are sets for high water and sets for when it is not high water. The book will also have printed copies of each course, if not the office will be able to provide them if you ask in good enough time. So a good start point is find a suitable set of courses from the book.
 1. A windward/leeward course going through a gate each lap: This is for Fast Asymmetric Handicap, Moth, and Medium Asymmetric Handicap
 2. A course including reaches going through a gate each lap: This is for Medium Handicap and Slow Handicap (and possibly Solos). These 2 courses should utilise a different leeward mark to the windward / leeward course as the different types of boat can easily mess up each other's racing if they are on the same leeward mark.
 3. A course for the Solos (which may be 2 above) which need not go through a gate.
- If you are lucky enough to have high tides, you could try an “Olympic” triangle, utilising laid inflatables or harbour marks or a mixture of both, to cater for all the above. There is a course sheet provided for this.
- If racing water is restricted, consider where you will have course 1 (which will be the first windward leg for everyone), and then work out how to give course 2 and 3 some reaching or other variation (this could be “around the harbour” if required, but best practice is to keep the boats within a reasonable area for rescue purposes).
- Race length - 35-50 minutes when 2 races are scheduled. 70- 100 minutes for 1 scheduled race. Bear in mind Med Asymmetric would do 2 or 3 laps to Fast Asymmetric 3 or 4 laps, and Med Handicap

same ratio to Slow Handicap. You can set lots of laps and shorten at the gate very easily – make sure you time the leader after a lap, so you can shorten at the right time to get the race length right.

- Get Race 2 going ASAP – this is crucial to sailor's enjoyment. You do not have to wait for all 3 starts to be ready – you could run 3 separate sequences if required or you can amalgamate 2 starts if total boats are less than 10.
- All race 2 starts should have been cleared before finishing the one race Solo fleet.
- Please do not give the Solos a single very short race or the other classes a single very long race.
- Start line is to your left and finish line to your right as you look towards the windward mark. Start line much longer than finish line.
- Plan time to fill out the Risk Assessment first thing, and then brief the safety team – the risk assessment gives you guidance on this.
- Give yourself plenty of time prior to get set up on the water, clearly allocate jobs, and keep concentrating.....it is so easy to lose track!!