Being OOD at Starcross YC

Don't panic

Mark Elkington: 11 April 2018

OOD Concerns

Safety

Type of Race

Fair Courses

Using the Starcross systems

- ❖ Sign On
- ❖ Lights
- ❖ raceManager

Protests

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Safety

Top priority for OOD: ultimate decision on whether to run race lies with OOD acting on behalf of club

Considerations: wind, weather forecast, tide, safety boat cover, skill of competitors, no. of competitors, other estuary users.

Red-Amber-Green: card in race box with critical information on how to deal with accidents, safety issues. CHECK if conditions are marginal for race

Risk too high? - options

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cancel immediately

declare a postponement - wait to see if conditions change
(be clear about decision time)

impose constraints to limit the risk (though often
self-constraining)

Be prepared to abandon race

keep competitors informed

Abandoning a Race

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Red Beacon - Three (long) beeps

Inform safety boats

- Inform boats on water
- Abandon capsized boats decision
- Stay afloat until everyone confirmed ashore

Confirm everyone is ashore against entry list

R-A-G sheet if someone missing

Types of Race - Scoring

Level – single class racing

Handicap – same as level but results calculated on handicap (local or national)

Average lap handicap – as for handicap but different finishing procedure

Pursuit – completely different finishing and results procedure

Currently all club races are either average lap or pursuit race scoring

Types of Race - Starcross YC

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Trophy Race – 2 starts, monohull then multihull

Club Series Race – 5 starts (assy, hcap, laser, multi, junior)

Evening Series Race – 3 starts (fast, slow (<1020), multi)

Pursuit Races - class start times calculated for each race (depends on current PNs, length of race, and scratch boat)

All other races "should" have specific Sailing Instructions - and if using racemanager a defined format

Fair Courses

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Not absolutely possible for mixed classes!

    for a single race anyway

    … but somewhat possible for Series racing

Elephant in the room: PN numbers

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A short history of the PY system:

Nationally
- <1995 - OK but slow to respond to change
- 1995-2010 - outpaced by technical development and new classes
- >2010 - moved to online system and removal of most damping factors

At Starcross YC
- 2000-2006 - considerable gnashing of teeth and rumbling in the ranks
- 2006 - changed to local adjustment of RYA numbers using racemanager statistics
- 2016.. - RYA system has caught up - back to national numbers

Fair Course Setting - relative performance

Wind: slow boats have advantage in very light, fast boats in windier, until it becomes very breezy

Tide: fast boats have big advantage <u>against</u> tide, slow boats have smaller advantage <u>with</u> tide (more time spent upwind so this leg tends to be the most important for tide)

Rig: una-rig tend to over-achieve on fetch/close reach, symmetric spinnaker on runs, asymmetric on broad reaches

Fair Course Setting - Multiple Courses

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Trophy Races [Pursuit Races]

Monohull – "round the cans" with a variety in downwind angles

Multihull – large "mostly" windward /leeward

Series Races

Asymmetric – windward/leeward

Handicap / Laser / Junior – "round the cans" with a variety in downwind angles

Multihull – large "mostly" windward /leeward

Course Board

START — **COURSE** — **FLEET / LAPS**

Green, for starboard Red, for port

| L | SP | 31 | 27 | BA | 29 | | 4 | |

↑ — - use course above (or below if reversed) — 3 3

| | SP | 33 | 18 | 29 | | 4 |

START INDICATOR
S for special,
L for line start,
C for committee boat

LAPS
maximum laps for each fleet shown by light
colour (e.g. Asymmetric start (yellow light) is
using top course and will have four laps)

SYC Race Area

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Course Setting goals - Windward/Leeward

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Trying to maximise the strategic options for the competitors

Incorrect judgement of tide or wind direction can be disastrous

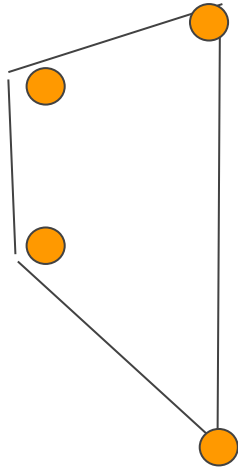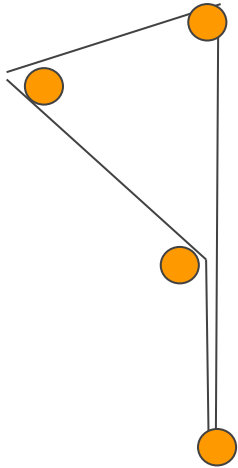Think carefully about position of 29 and its impact on the race

WEST/EAST winds - hard to do effectively - consider rectangle

Course Setting goals - "Round the Cans"

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Biggest impact on fairness is downwind - try for equal distance on beam reach, broad reach, run

P, or quadrilateral courses often work well
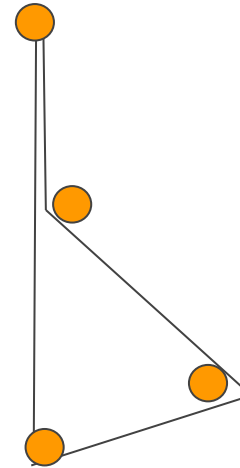
Course Setting Tips - Preserving Sanity

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➢ Consider how tide and wind forecast will affect race
➢ Minimise multihull and monohull sharing buoys if possible
➢ Try to limit tactical impact of having to cross club line
➢ Make sure you can clearly see sail numbers as boats cross line
➢ Check water depth - aim for > 1.2m for whole race (BA, LL)
➢ Use the safety boats to help judge positioning of windward mark
  + watch boats sailing
➢ If wind direction in doubt - include two beats
➢ Use the special line option more

Tidal Adjustment

W

MI

25

27

T

29

Race 1

W

MI

25

27

T

29

Race 2
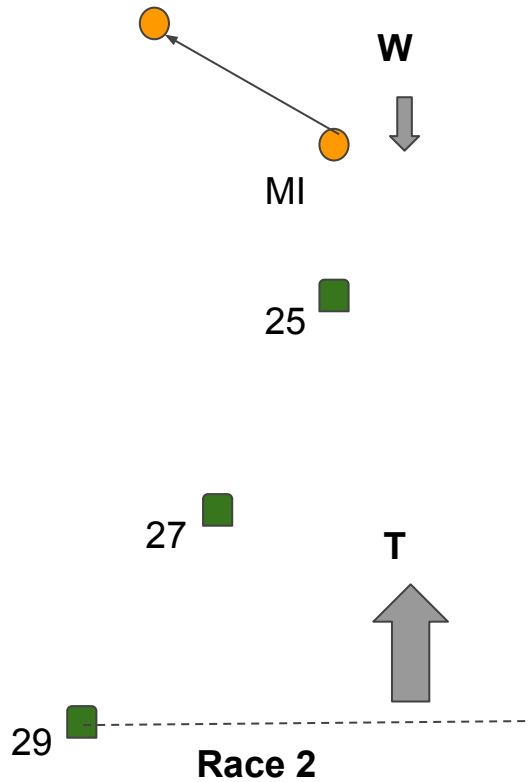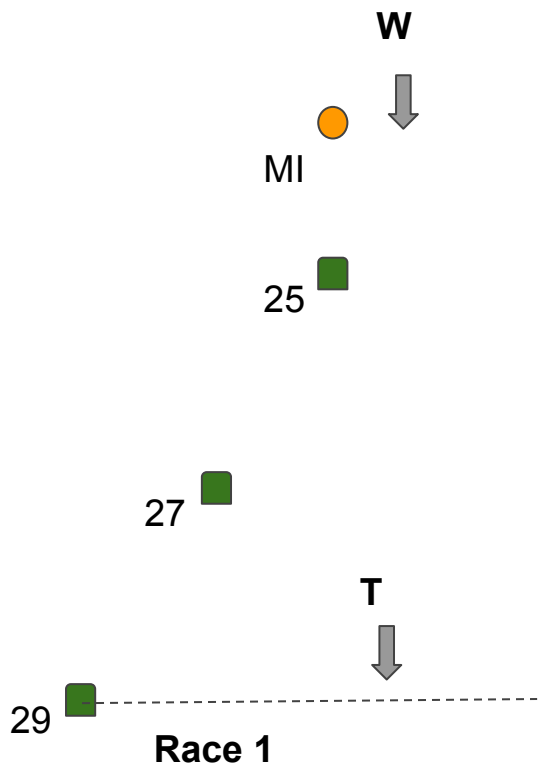
Be prepared to change

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Don't stick with a poor course if you can see that it is wrong after boats launch

Postpone - 2 beeps + AMBER flashing light

Flag C + 2 beeps

Reset Course (inform safety boats, then change course board)

Lights off + 1 beep [Leave Flag C flying]

Commence start sequence after 1 minute

Signals

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ABANDON / CANCEL	**RED Beacon** - with fleet light(s) if necessary - Cannot cancel before scheduled start	3 beeps
POSTPONE	**AMBER Beacon**	2 beeps (at start) 1 beep (at end)
SHORTEN	**AMBER Beacon** - with fleet light(s) if necessary	2 beeps
RECALL	**AMBER Beacon** (off after 1 min)	1 beep
GENERAL RECALL	**RED Beacon** (off after 1 min) - Restart 3min after last fleet	2 beeps

Using the Systems

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Lights and Sound System [“Lights Box”]
- Start sequence
- Light signals
- Sound signals

PC System [“raceManager”]
- Collects entries and allocates them to correct fleet
- records laps and elapsed time (finishing position)
- produces results (race and series) + posts to website
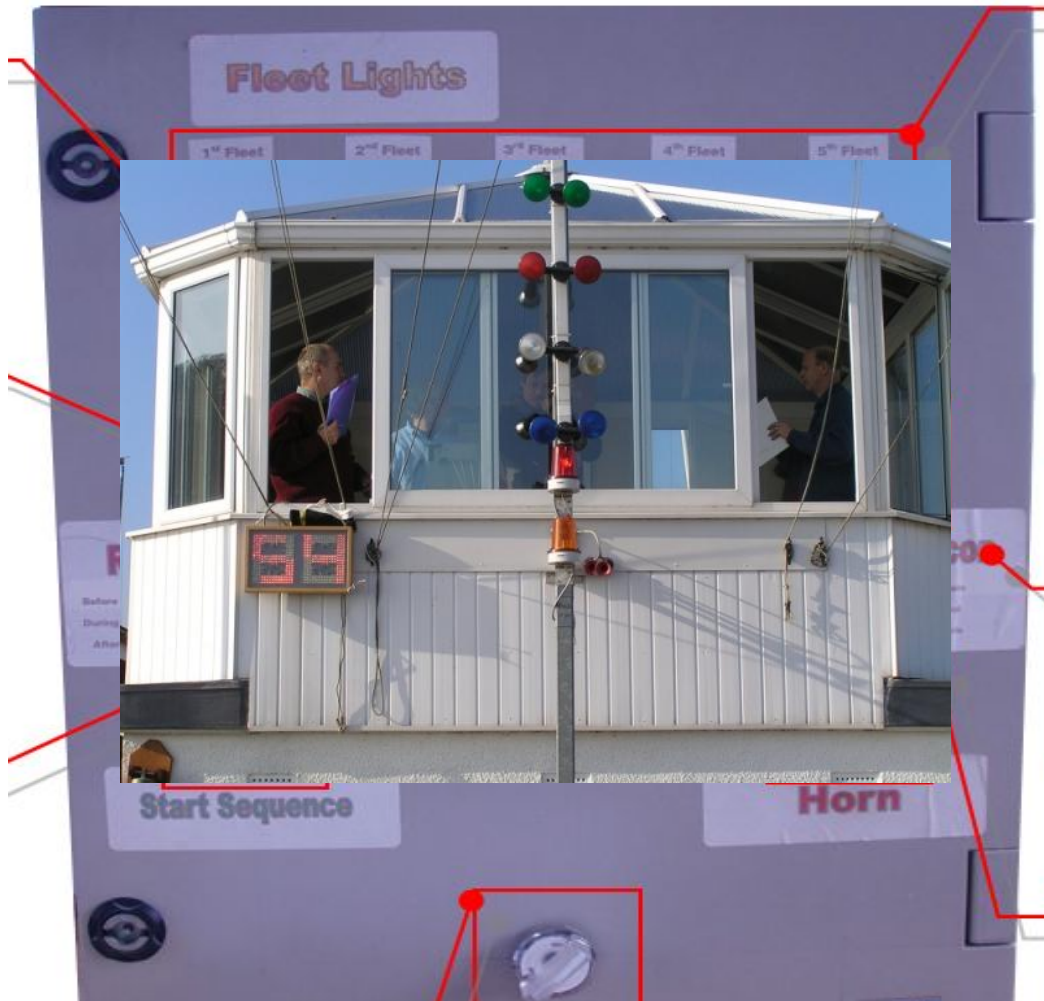
Lights Box

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Check it is configured for the correct number of starts (trophy race - 2, evening series - 4, club series - 5

If you are using it for the first time - check the labels on the buttons

If you are running two races - to reset after first race, turn power off at wall for 30 seconds and then back on

Lights Box

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Sign on PC

Turn power on at wall - it should start up automatically in about a 1 minute

If system error screen - usually an internal battery issue. Click the option to proceed - F1

Check display has today's races displayed

Enter yourself

After race - turn off power at wall

raceManager Demo

... and if it all goes pear shaped

STOP using the computer and record finishing times from the wall clock

- don't close the race
- contact Michael Bagge

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Protests

Rules Dispute Process

OOD only has powers to score:

- OCS
- DNF
- DSQ - not sailing proper course (SYC amendment to RRS

Otherwise OOD can protest

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SYC Rules Dispute Process

➢ Details on website with link to online form - PDF form on PC in race box
➢ Encourage Advisory process if significant damage has not occured - can accept exoneration penalty as result [code as XPA]
➢ Otherwise Protest - find someone from protest subcommittee to get the process started
➢ Advisory/Protest request MUST be made within 30 minutes of last boat finishing
➢ Do NOT reject request if protest was not hailed on the water