

Medway Yacht Club

CLUB LINE STARTING AND FINISHING
PROCEDURE

2025

Pre-Start Procedures

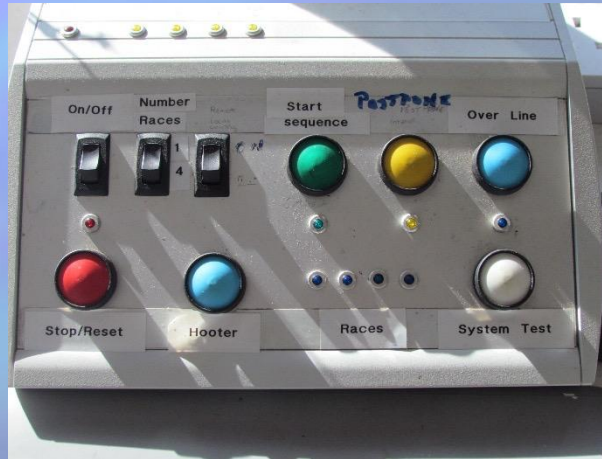
- Safety Briefing 1230 (Saturday): RO/OOD, Class Captain or Class representative, Safety Boat Helms (include course setting; RO has final say)
- Ensure Safety Boats have all appropriate equipment and are fully briefed on the two alternative MYC shortened course procedures
- OOD name on board by the front entrance of the Club
- Put out signing on sheets by the front entrance of the Club
- NB 2025 system for reducing Dragon course length (SI's 2025, 11.2)
- Familiarity with MYC Major Incidents and Emergency Procedures Policy
- Familiarity with the MYC Racing Safety Policy
- Displaying Club Burgee

Pre-Start Procedures

- Race Team Briefing – RO/OOD, Assistant, Safety Boat Crew
- Monitor wind direction and strength (and during the race)
- Set up the race hut to ensure that all systems are in place and working
- Obtain shipping movements and communicate with Medway VTS
- Radio checks and time checks
- Record boats in the start area

Starting Procedures

- Time Keeper is the most important person
- Use MYC Starting Form (aide memoire)
- Remember to test and set the starting computer



- Aim to start on time (but there are valid reasons to postpone)

Starting Procedures

MYC Starting Form (Race Flag Time Sheet)

Date:

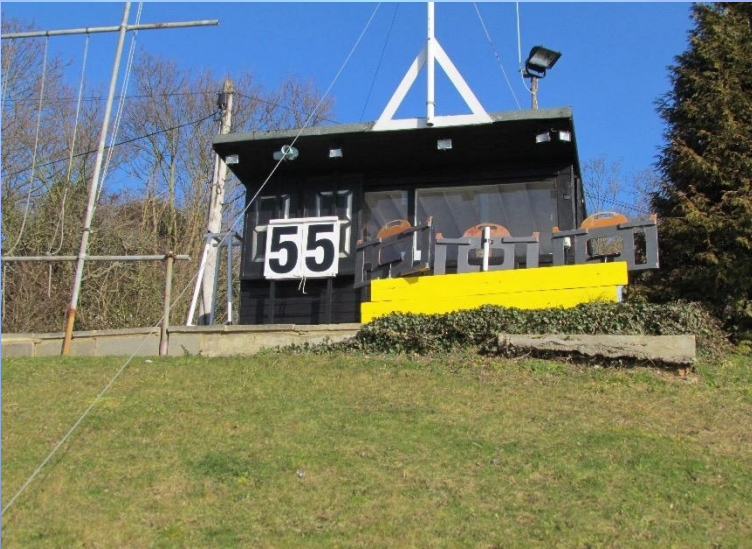
Sequence			Normal time	Adjusted time	Notes
Start sequence or remove AP		-6	13.34		Start sequence with starting computer(Use the 4 race option)
Display Dragon flag		-5	13.35		
Display 'P' flag		-4	13.36		
Remove 'P' flag		-1	13.39		
Remove Dragon flag		0	13.40		
Display Sonata flag		-5	13.45		
Display 'P' flag		-4	13.46		
Remove 'P' flag		-1	13.49		
Remove Sonata flag		0	13.50		
Display Squib flag		-5	13.55		
Display 'P' flag		-4	13.56		
Remove 'P' flag		-1	13.59		
Remove Squib flag		0	14.00		
Display Wayfarer flag		-5	14.05		
Display 'P' flag		-4	14.06		
Remove 'P' flag		-1	14.09		
Remove Wayfarer flag		0	14.10		

Starting Procedure

- Course number (and U)
- Warning Signal
- Preparatory Signal
- One minute
- Start
- 6 minutes
- 5 minutes
- 4 minutes
- 1 minute
- Go!

Starting Procedure

- 6 minutes



Starting Procedures

- WARNING SIGNAL
- When? 5 minutes before the advertised start time? See Rolling Calendar
- Method? Class flag displayed with one sound signal



Starting Procedures

- PREPARATORY SIGNAL
- When? Warning signal + 1
- Method? Blue Peter displayed with one sound signal (I, Z, Black)



Starting Procedures

- ONE MINUTE SIGNAL
- When? Warning signal + 4
- Method? Blue Peter removed with one (long) sound signal



Starting Procedures

- START SIGNAL
- When? Warning signal + 5
- Method? Class flag removed with one sound signal



Starting Procedure

- Doh!



Starting Procedure

- RO/OOD commentates on the start in 90 seconds before start
- Assistant records boat movements from commentary
- Consider digital voice recorder/iPhone voice memo
- It is the RO's decision whether the line is clear, or whether there should be an individual or general recall

Starting Procedure

- Sighting the line
- Two vertical cords in race hut in line (triangle on south shore)



Monitoring the Race

- Observe/have the safety boats observe the race throughout
- Keep in communication with safety boats seeking progress report
- Collect the race declaration sheets and cross check your records
- Keep an eye on the time and be aware of time limits (you may want to shorten)
- Watch out for casualties/retirements/capsizes
- Keep an eye for commercial traffic (consider SI 8.2 escort)
- Do not protest unless blatant and the action affects fairness of the race. Leave protesting to the competitors.
- Put out signing off sheets before race ends

Finishing Procedure

- Unless shortening course the finish line is the same as the start line
- Use hooter in hut/on safety boat to signal finish
- If shortening course:
- Circumstances: collapse of wind speed/increase in wind speed resulting in danger to life or survival course
- RRS Rule 32 or MYC SI 10

Finishing Procedure

- Make a finishing record using the appropriate form
- Dragon, Sonata and Squib only requires the time of 1st and last finisher and the order of finishing. NB cruisers, Wayfarers and dinghy handicap need times for all boats recorded at the finish even when shortened course.
- Only record what you see
- Cross check during lulls and at the end

Finishing Procedure

- Complete (legibly) the race results sheet (include start and finish times and boat numbers)
- Collect the completed race declaration sheets at the end of the day
- Scan and email to Class Captains

After Racing

- Make sure competitors are safely ashore/on moorings
- Stand down and thank safety boat crew
- Collect burgee and remove name from board
- File race results sheets and race signing on forms
- Complete OOD/RO Report Form
- Tidy up and close down the race hut
- Relax

SHORTENING THE COURSE

- Shorten Course RRS Rule 32
- Display S with two sound signals on a safety boat/committee boat, at a rounding mark. The finish line is between the mark and a mast or staff displaying S
- Display S and make sound signals before lead boat crosses finish line. Best practice is to make the visual and sound signal in sufficient time for strategic/tactical decisions to be fair



- Best practice place safety boat which is shortening course on the outside of the course
- Make a line which is 50-70 metres long if possible
- Make a line at 90° to the direction from the last mark (or at 90° to the sailing wind for beats and runs)
- Record positions (and times as appropriate)
- Buoy 30 considerations

INDIVIDUAL and GENERAL RECALL

- Individual Recall
- Record the boat or boats OCS (on the course side of the line)
- Display X flag with one sound signal within 5 seconds of the start signal
- Watch the boat(s) to see if they return
- Leave X displayed for 4 minutes if boats do not return
- **If you have time** transmit sail numbers of OCS Sonatas and Dragons by VHF Channel 37 at least one minute after the start
- When all boats have returned (or after 4 minutes) remove X without a sound signal and delete OCS from record

INDIVIDUAL and GENERAL RECALL

- General Recall
- Use when there are several unidentified OCS boats, or if there is an error in the starting procedure
- (With the numbers of boats on MYC start lines and if careful monitoring is taking place in the 90 seconds before a start rarely should there be unidentified boats)
- (if you are aware of an error in the starting procedure before the Start use the AP procedure in preference)

INDIVIDUAL and GENERAL RECALL

- General Recall
- Display 1st Substitute with two sound signals



INDIVIDUAL and GENERAL RECALL

- Restart after General Recall
- Remove the 1st Substitute with one sound signal one minute before the warning signal for the new start of the recalled class
- The starts for succeeding classes shall follow the new start

POSTPONEMENT

- Postponement
- The postponement signal can be used for many reasons (even as a panic button). Reasons can include:
- A buoy drifting
- Unsailable conditions (too light or too heavy)
- Mistiming between signals
- Misfiring of sound signals
- Failure to display a visual signal
- Commercial traffic passing through start line, etc, etc

POSTPONEMENT

- Postponement
- Display AP and 2 sound signals on flagpole adjacent to the race hut
- Means all races not started are postponed. AP can only be used **before** the start



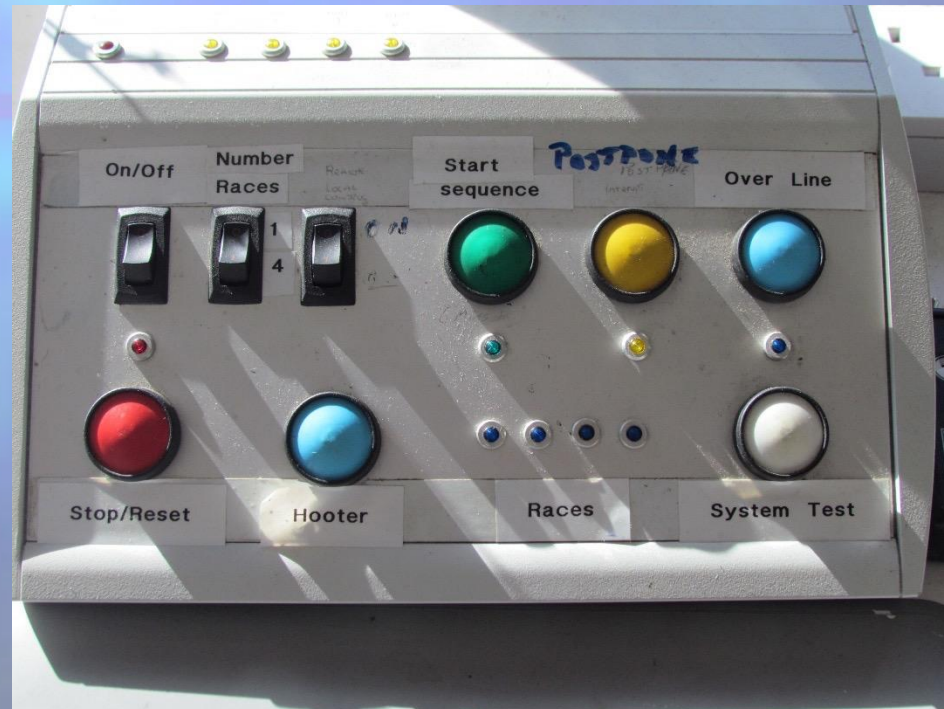
POSTPONEMENT

- Postponement
- You could use the board instead of a flag if fleets are afloat



POSTPONEMENT

- Postponement
- If using the race hut don't forget to reset the race timer



POSTPONEMENT

- Restarting after a Postponement
- Remove AP with one sound signal one minute before the warning signal for the next start

ABANDON RACING

- Abandon Racing
- Use for errors in the course, dangerous or foul conditions, major windshifts (not round the cans), late recognition of errors in the start sequence, wind vanished etc
- Beware multiple classes!
- Display N with three sound signals
- N means the race that has started has been abandoned; return to the starting area
- NB N displayed alone cannot be used before the start

ABANDON RACING

- Abandon Racing (variants)
- Display N with three sound signals = abandon racing return to start area
- Display N over H with three sound signals = abandon racing, further signals ashore
- Display N over A with three sound signals = Racing abandoned, no more racing today

ABANDON RACING

- Abandon Racing
- Flag N



ABANDON RACING

- Restart after abandonment
- Remove N with one sound signal 1 minute before the warning signal

PROTESTS

- Protests (See OOD Guidelines)
- Be helpful to competitors even if they are seeking redress
- Ensure that protest time limits are observed (see NOR and SI's)
- Tell the truth in the protest room
- Do not argue, challenge or question the competitors in the protest room
- Leave it to the jury!

Safety Considerations

- Dinghies
- Youngsters/Liaison with Cadet Class Captain
- Safety Boats
- Safety Briefing
- Consideration of sailing conditions/ability of fleet
- Keel Boats
- Skippers Responsibility
- All competitors are required to wear PFD's when racing