

An Introduction to the Role of **(Race) Officer Of the Day** at TSSC

A basic guide to performing the Race Officer role, assuming no or very little previous experience

It is hoped that members will also use the practise sessions planned for April to develop their understanding and confidence

Mark Meadows

23th March 2022

Model Schedule

- At home: Read this! Look at weather trends, review possible course options, consider viability (extreme weather, etc), revise Emergency Action Plan
- T-75 Arrival: Assess weather conditions, get changed/ready
- T- 60 Assemble club RO kit
- Confirm likely number of competitors and leisure sailors
- Check weather conditions and create course
- Brief Safety team, agree communications and responsibilities
- Post the course and confirm start time
- Run race
- Record and process results
- Post results and send to Racing secretary

Weather Predictions

Most websites for water activities provide lots of data with quite precise timings. Beware!

Probably most helpful is direction, and likely variations
Note the trends with time, this helps with planning

The most accurate prediction is what's going on when you get to the club!



Weather Sources:

XCWeather

WindGuru

Windy

BBC

Met Office



Thornton Steward

North Yorkshire, England, United Kingdom, HG4 4

Today Wed 23 Mar GMT 3 hr 1 hr

Hour	Wind	Avg.	Gust	Temp.	Rain 1h	Cloud	Press.
18:00	↖ SSE	5 mph	to 5 mph	12 °C	0 mm	☁	1030 mb
19:00	↑ S	5 mph	to 5 mph	11 °C	0 mm	☁	1030 mb
20:00	↑ S	5 mph	to 5 mph	11 °C	0 mm	☁	1031 mb
21:00	↖ SSW	3 mph	to 3 mph	10 °C	0 mm	☁	1031 mb
22:00	↑ S	3 mph	to 3 mph	10 °C	0 mm	☁	1031 mb
23:00	↖ SSW	3 mph	to 3 mph	10 °C	0 mm	☁	1031 mb

☀️ ▲06:01 ▼18:25

Tomorrow Thu 24 Mar GMT 3 hr 1 hr

Hour	Wind	Avg.	Gust	Temp.	Rain 3h	Cloud	Press.
00:00	↖ SW	3 mph	to 3 mph	9 °C	0 mm	☁	1030 mb
03:00	↖ SW	3 mph	to 3 mph	8 °C	0 mm	🌙	1030 mb
06:00	↖ WSW	3 mph	to 3 mph	7 °C	0 mm	☀️	1030 mb
09:00	↖ SW	3 mph	to 5 mph	12 °C	0 mm	☀️	1030 mb

OOD Kit

- Hand held Radio
- Mobile Phone
- Accurate watch
- Hand-held burgee
- Good whistle
- Sailing Gear
- Assemble club kit from the cupboard:
 - Racebox: Race sheets, Timer, pens, hooter
 - Race Flags



Where is Club Race Kit?

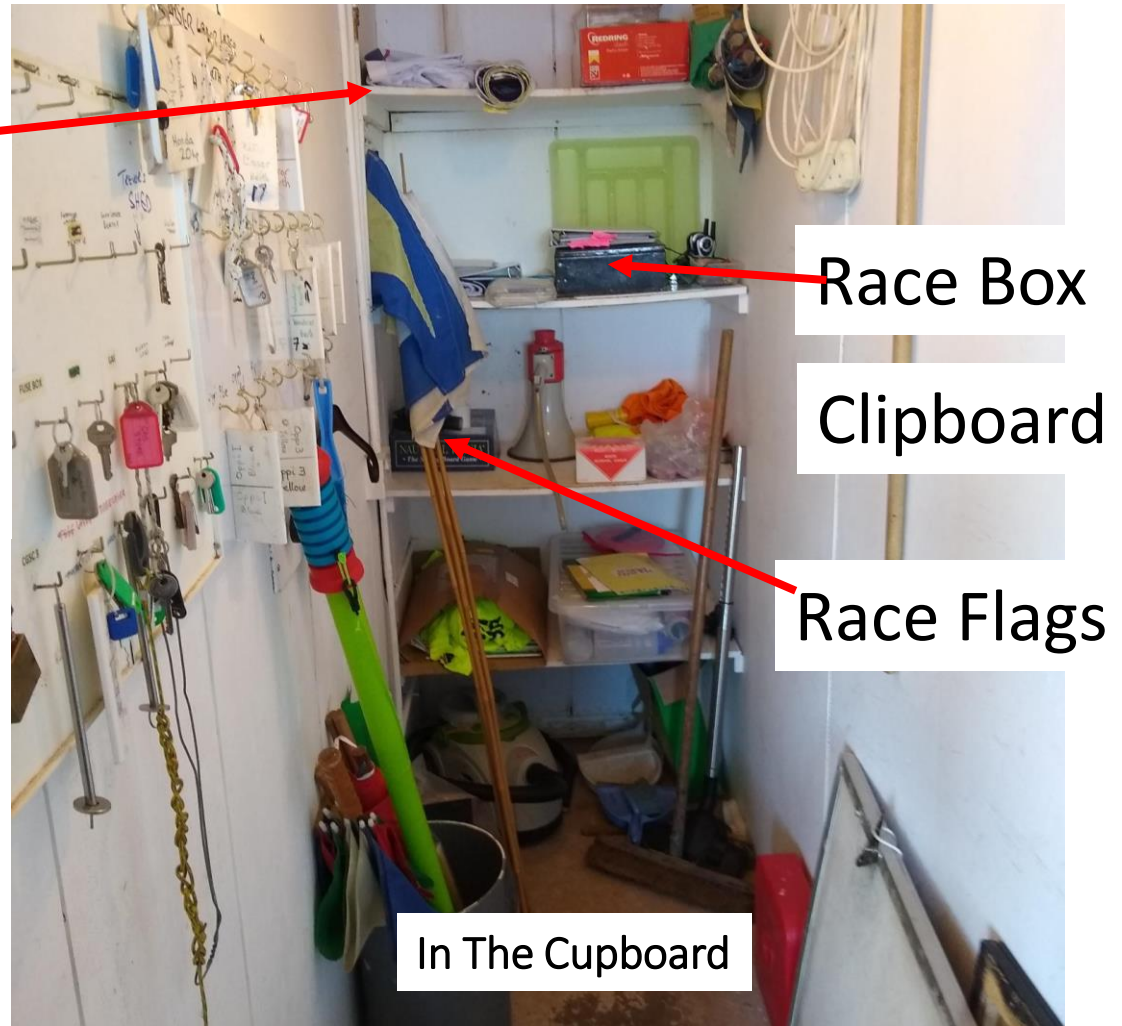
Big RYA Flags

Hoisting one of these on the club flagpole adds to the club atmosphere and provides a useful wind indicator

PY Numbers are listed on the club noticeboard

The EAP is also located on the noticeboard

Radios and large club burgee are in the Robinson building



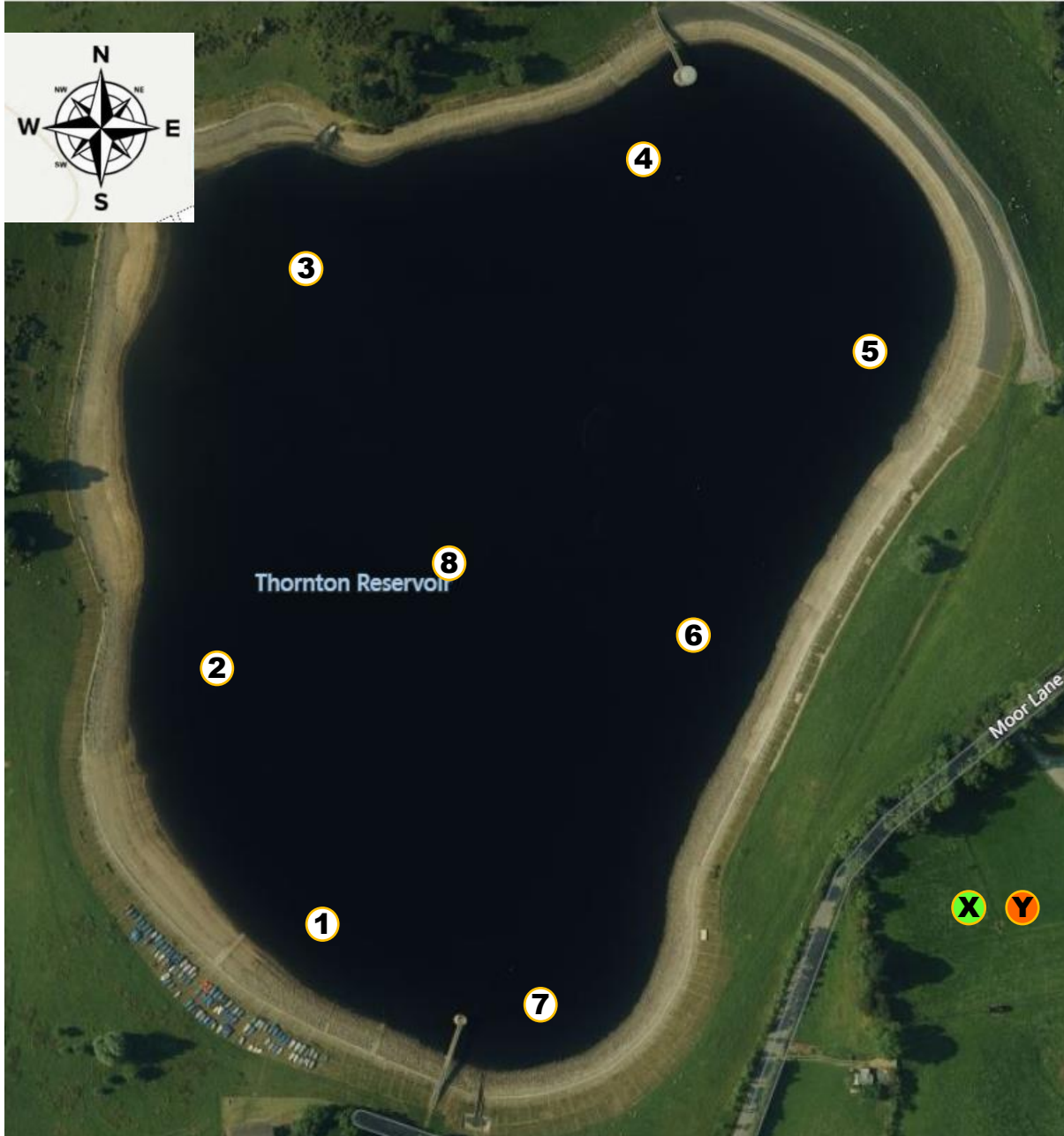
Race Box

Clipboard

Race Flags

In The Cupboard

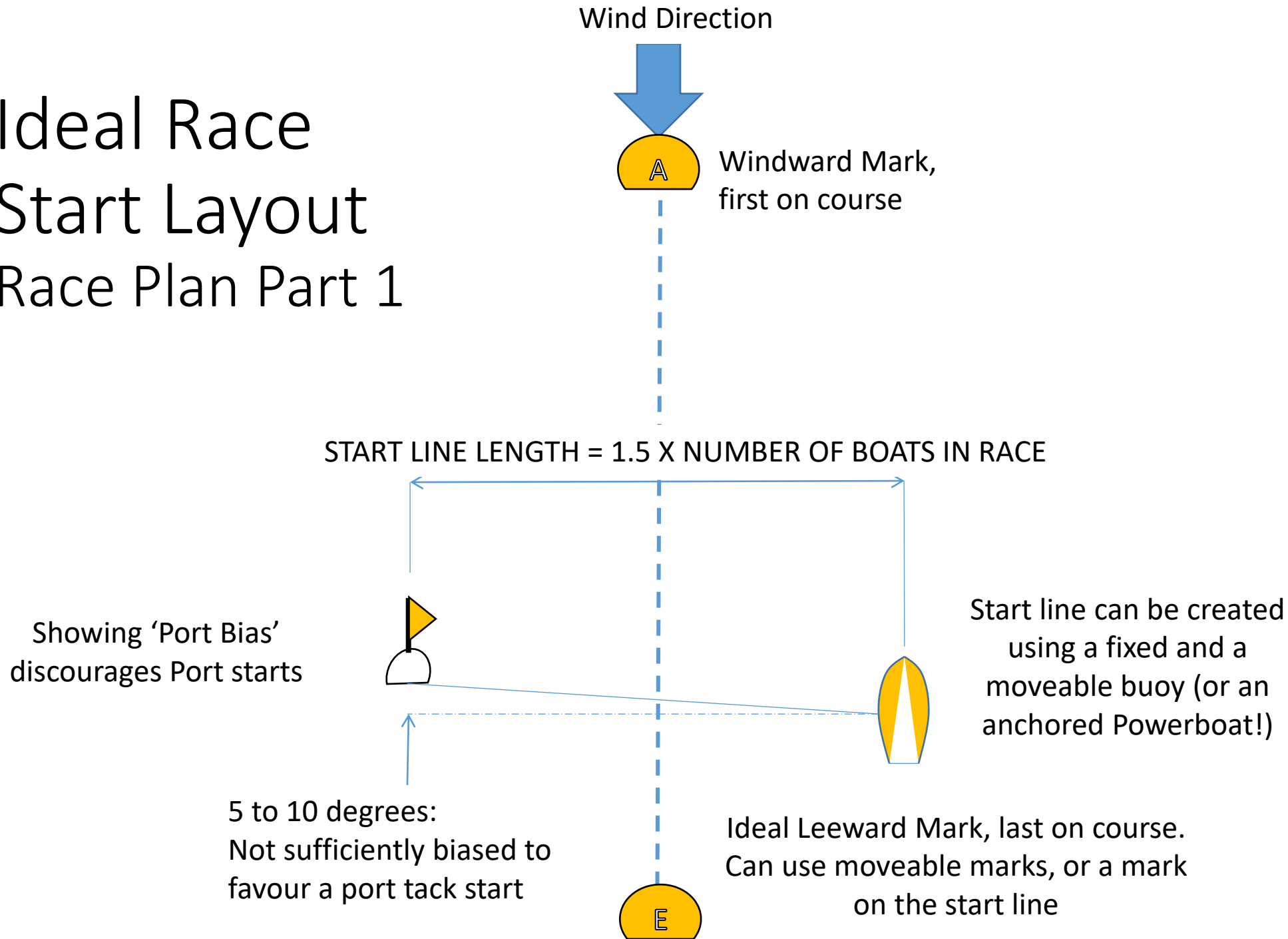
Setting A Course



- Where is the wind coming from, are there any areas to avoid (eg #3 for NW)?
- How is the wind, dramatic swings or relatively steady, strong or light?
- Do you need to check the wind direction at various marks or move marks X and/or Y? – Safety boat can do this
- Setting the Start and Finish: can you see and be seen, Safety boat can help
- 'Rounding' designation for each 'Mark' is assigned according to which side of the boat passes the mark e.g. anticlockwise rounding would be Port
- A leg is the passage between consecutive marks in the course

Ideal Race Start Layout

Race Plan Part 1



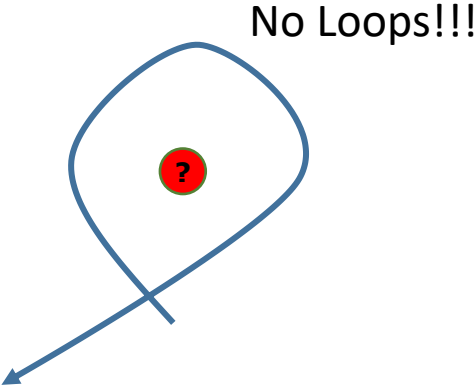
Model Race Course for Handicap Fleet

Race Plan Part 2

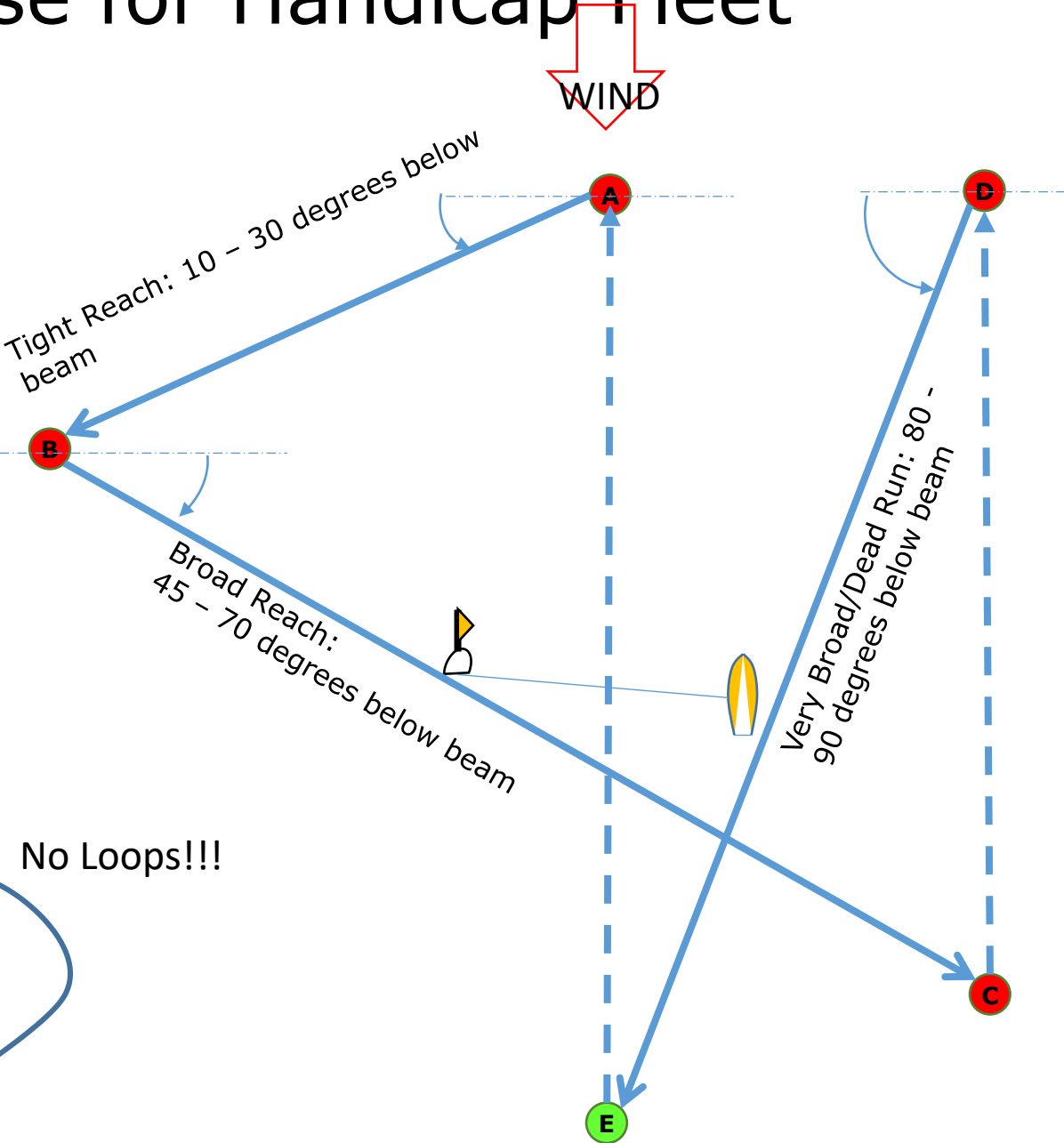
Basic Elements:

- 2 good beats
- 2 reaches
- 1 V broad reach/dead run
- Beat through the line to finish the lap

Should suit most classes most of the time, can be set up to mitigate risk of wind shift
Alternative courses should contain some of these legs eg triangle or windward-leeward



Can use movable marks X & Y



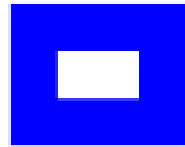
Race Management Flags



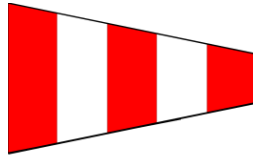
On Station



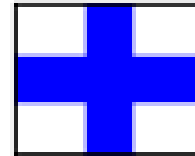
Class Flag



Preparatory
'P'



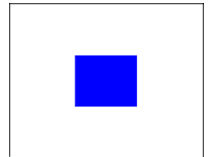
Postponement



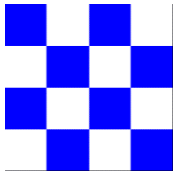
Individual
Recall



General
Recall

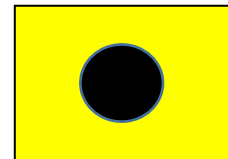


Shortened
Course

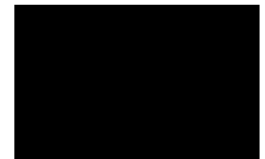


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***RIGOROUS RACE MANAGEMENT ONLY
(‘ADVANCED’!!)***



One Minute
Rule

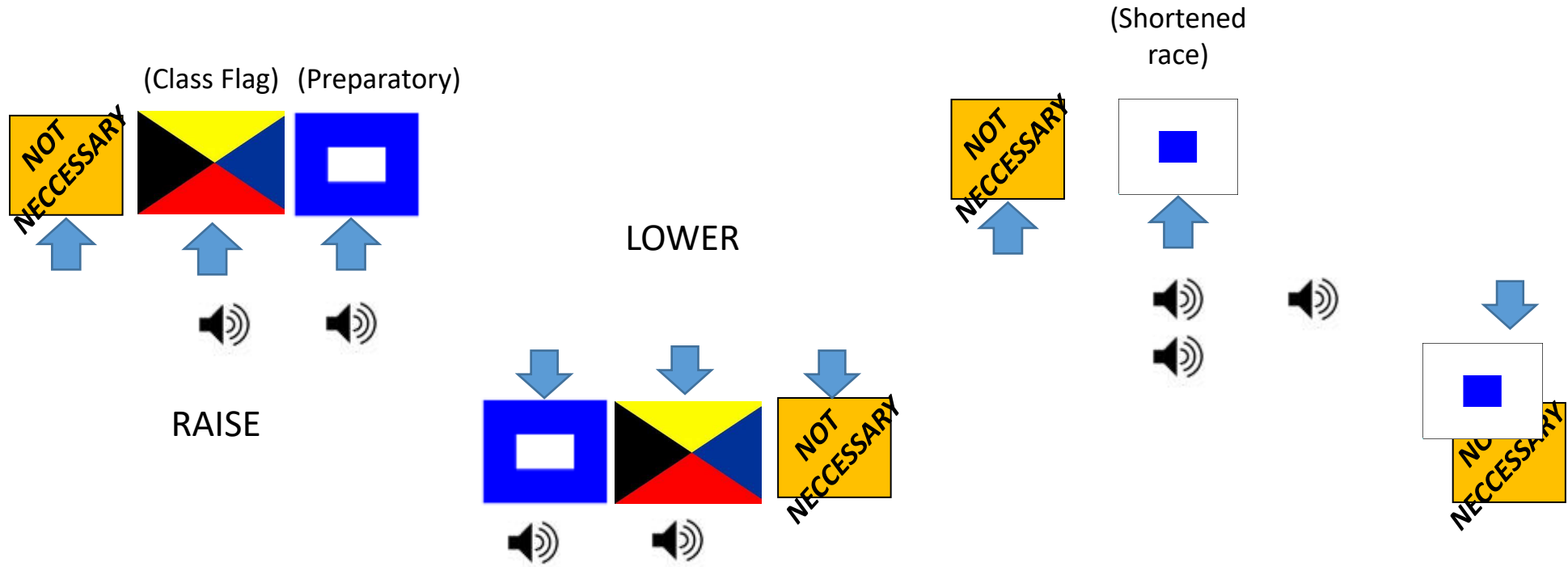


Black Flag

Preparation For Start

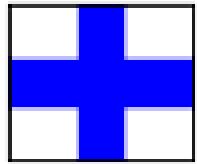
- Confirm that selected course works: rehearse with an experienced advisor, brief Safety team on course hotspots (eg Gybe marks) and responsibilities at start
 - If start line is in middle of lake, say at #8 with X or Y, Safety boat can check for folk 'jumping' the start
- Record selected course on Results Sheet and post on Race Board
- Confirm Start time to competitors, ensure all competitors have entered sail number, class and name
- Confirm all situations are good to go:
 - Wind direction
 - Weather conditions
 - Race Fleet readiness (and all other water users)
 - Safety team readiness
 - Course readiness: Start line and marks stable,
- Raise 'On station' flag: T- 7 mins

Race Management - Flag & Sound Sequences (1)



T - 7mins	T - 5mins	T - 4mins	T - 1 min	Start	2 mins after start	1 minute before shortened course/Finish	2 mins before 1st boat rounds last mark	Each Boat Crosses Finish Line	2 mins after last boat Finish
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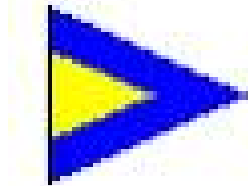
Race Management - Flag & Sound Sequences (2)



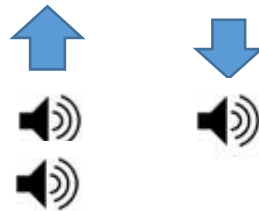
Individual Recall



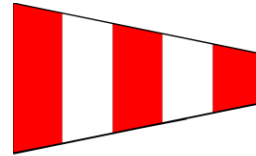
If Safety or OOD identify transgressors at start, Safety to inform guilty party



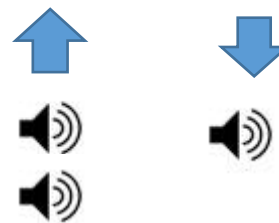
General Recall



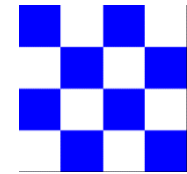
If impossible to see how many are over, or there is a problem with starting procedure Race to restart one minute after Recall flag is lowered



Postponement



Races not started are postponed, start sequence will commence 1 minute after Postponement lowered



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All races started are abandoned, return to start (Add H flag if race will not restart or A flag if no more racing today)

Enjoy the Race: Your handiwork!

- Learn from the race:
 - Does the course sail as you intended, what to change next time/next race?
 - Is good racing taking place, how do sailors react to your course and to conditions change etc?
 - Watch races within the race, learn from their strategies and mistakes: How to sail your boat?
- Risk management, vigilance
 - Are there any safety hazards*: weather changes (squalls etc), capsize at marks, course stability, other water users
 - Are the safety team where they should be?
 - Do the radios work? – Check regularly

The Finish

- Raise the "On Station" flag as an indication of readiness to open the finish line.
- If shortening the course raise the S flag and simultaneously make a double sound signal
- Record each boats finish time in minutes and seconds, until the final boat crosses the line, or time expires for line to remain open (ref Rule Z)
- To Calculate Handicap Race Time =
 - Record finish time against sail number (mins and secs)
 - Convert to seconds
 - Divide by number of laps completed
 - Divide by Portsmouth yardstick number
 - Multiply by 1000
- Record Handicap Race Time
- Close the line by lowering the flag(s)

RESULTS (for Handicap Race)

Equation is Race time T (seconds) x 1000 ÷ Number of Laps completed (N) ÷ PY number

Example (Not a realistic finish scenario but created to illustrate handicapping)

Date: Course: Start 2P 6S 1S 3S 5S Wind direction & Strength: SW F4

Race Officer:

Race Number:

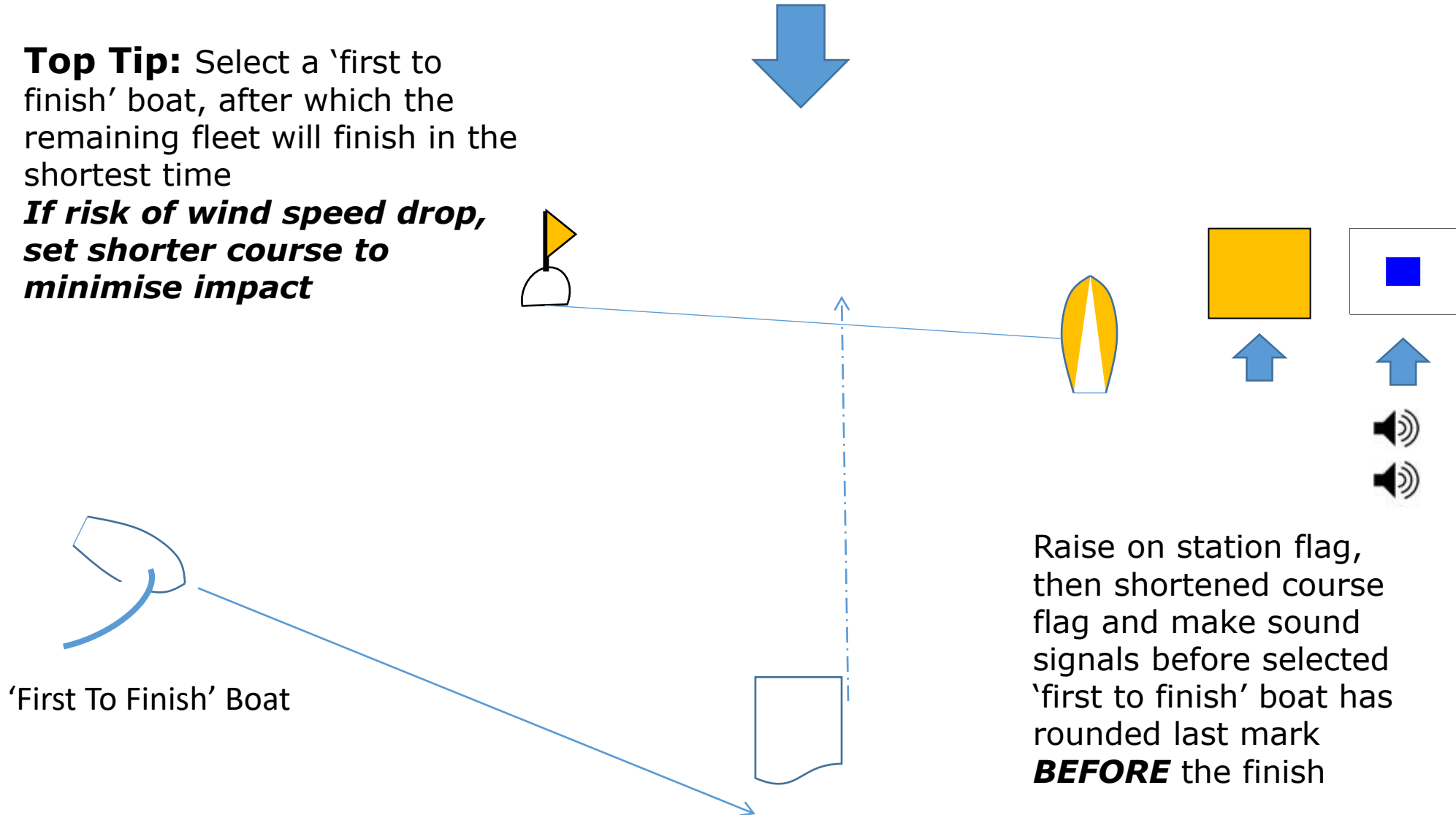
Entry	Helm	Crew	sail number	class	PY	Positions / Lap					No laps N	Finish Time		position	
						1	2	3	4	5		min.sec	T (sec)		
1				Laser	1108						4	60.0	3600	812.3	4
2				Supernova	1077						4	60.0	3600	835.7	7
3				Laser 2000	1090						4	60.0	3600	825.7	5
4				Laser 3000	1085	Record individual completion times for each lap					4	60.0	3600	829.5	6
5				Fusion	1300						4	60.0	3600	692.3	1
6				Byte (C11)	1146	Alternatively, record each lap completed if large fleet					4	60.0	3600	785.3	3
7				Solo	1148						4	60.0	3600	784.0	2
8				Laser	1108						3	60.0	3600	1083.0	8

Shortened Course

– Does the race need to finish before all laps completed?

Top Tip: Select a 'first to finish' boat, after which the remaining fleet will finish in the shortest time

If risk of wind speed drop, set shorter course to minimise impact



Considerations For Managing Light Wind Sailing/Wednesday Nights

- Big courses take longer to complete, exaggerating effects of falling wind strength, changing conditions (and hence luck) become dominant effect). High likelihood during evening race.
- More laps on Short courses reduces the impact of changing conditions and 'levels the playing field' (more manoeuvres/hour, reduced gains per leg, less sensitivity to dropping wind, higher boat density per leg, closer racing,)
 - Benefits: time element reduces effect of changing conditions
 - Difficulties: class racing within handicap fleet