

Race Discussion : Elimination of Committee Boat ("CB")

Rev 1 The issue

With dwindling fleet sizes throughout Ontario creative ways must be devised to maximize fleet sizes. To pull a potential boat from the fleet does not make sense.

Further with CB duties only coming once or twice a year many racers do not have the experience or confidence to set proper lines or make decisions on shorting courses, cancelling races etc.

For this reason we are proposing a system used by many Yacht Clubs in Ontario to eliminate the need for a CB on Wednesday night races.

How the system works

Sailing is an honourable sport largely self policing in respect of penalties taken on course. So why not self police at the start.

Ontario Sailing in its latest Race Committee Seminars is now teaching that going over the start line early is no longer called exactly in all but the most competitive of race programs. Rather, now OCS penalties are called if boats over early obtain a significant and lasting advantage. A boat over the line second early when it gains no advantage is not called, in particular, at the club level.

Simply, fleets will start at pre announced GPS times and the skipper, on his or her honour will police themselves and take a penalty if over early. If a competitors sees a boat grossly over and not taking a penalty they can protest.

Setting the Course

Race Committee will set the line by putting a marker buoy to mark the CB end of the line. The pin remains the fixed white buoy.

The Race Committee will announce on the radio the course number and display it on their boat for all to see.

The various race starts will commence when the clock reaches the designated time ie Jog B 7pm, Jog A and Spinnaker at 7:05 etc.

Shortening Course , Cancelling race etc

All these decisions will be taken by the Race Committee and relayed by radio

Ending the Race

Each week one boat will be designated the Official Time Keeper.

The first boat across the line will write down his time to the second using GPS time. They will stay on station at the line taking the times of all competitors until the Official Time Keeper Crosses the line at which they will take times of boats until the Time Keeper can take up station and relieve the first boat of its responsibilities. Once all boats have finished the Time Keeper will retrieve the start mark and bring it back to the club house. The Time Keeper will get times from the first boat and give all times to the Race Committee.

Special Equipment

The only special equipment required is a GPS that shows time and a working radio. Things we should all have