



Pursuit Racing - Setting up at Club Level

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How to set up a Pursuit Race

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Conference 2013

Topics to be covered

- What is a pursuit race?
- What are the challenges for a rcae management team?
- Top tips to make your life easier

What is a pursuit race?

What is a pursuit race?

- A racing format that allows boats of all types and/or handicaps to race at the same time on the same race course – with the result being declared on the water
- So essentially rather than all boats starting at the same time and the handicap being calculated after finishing – a boats handicap is factored in by delaying their start time

What is a pursuit race?

- Typically each boat is set a target to sail the course (often equal to their handicap number) and in theory all boats should cross the finishing line at the same time

What are challenges for the
race management team?

What are the challenges for the race management team?

- NoR
- Sailing Instructions
- Briefings
- Courses
- Starting
- During the race
- Finishing

What are the challenges?

NoR

- Must set out which boats can race
- Should state which handicap system is to be used

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- Define starting procedure – no recalls?
- How will you display the next start
- Time limit for the race and after first boat
- Finishing line/s

What are the challenges?

BRIEFINGS

- Unlikely to have all competitors attending
- Clarify starting/finishing procedures
- Courses to be sailed
- Advise that you will be using GPS time

COURSES

- Target time predetermined – so must be long enough
- Weather forecast
- Think about the course leg lengths during the later part of the race
- Try to incorporate every angle of sailing
- How are you going to finish?

What are the challenges?

STARTING

- Can't change the start line after the first start
- Recalls add difficulty – black flag all starts?
- How to display the next fleet starting?
- Have you got enough resources?
- The line will be busy
- Be sure who is starting

DURING THE RACE

- Ideally have a lead rib – helps you and sailors
- No course changes allowed – mark layers no critical
- As soon as you have completed starting, track time and fleet
- What is the weather doing? – can you shorten?

What are the challenges?

FINISHING

- How are you finishing? – will you motor back?
- How many finishing lines/positions?
- Compiling the results – multiple result sheets

Top tips to make your life easier

Top tips to make your life easier

- Use GPS time
- No general recalls – X Flag hard, go Black?
- Cant stop once you have started – only Abandon
- Use a lead rib if possible
- Don't put a “repeat til finishing loop” at the end of the course - lapping
- Try to finish at as many points as possible
- Have a good time keeping/signaling and recording team
- Foiling Moths are a real challenge!

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