

Union Sailing Club Race Committee – running a Series race

Before leaving the dock

Check in | Score sheets

- Bring several Check in and Score sheets from the gray bin in the Race Committee (RC) shed to the Pontoon Boat

Rigid Inflatable Boat (RIB)

- Bring a fuel tank and the kill cord from the fuel storage bin and RC shed down to the RIB
- Secure the kill cord to the engine and your wrist or ankle. **Please ALWAYS secure the kill cord to your body when operating the RIB.**
- Start and warm up the engine and then lash the RIB to the starboard side of the Pontoon Boat

Pontoon Boat (PB)

- Bring the key and kill cord from the RC shed to the PB
- Secure the kill cord to your body
- Drive the PB to the racecourse and secure the PB to Mark #1

Pre-start

Flags

- Retrieve the following flags from the storage locker on board the PB and place them in the bow of the boat where they are easily accessible:

- o Start line flag – ORANGE flag
- o “Dinghy” fleet flag – YELLOW flag
- o “LMS” fleet flag – GREEN flag
- o “Individual Recall” flag – “X” signal flag



- o “General Recall” flag – “First Substitute” signal flag



- Hoist the Start line flag on the port side of the PB
- If the RC determines—based on wind strength—that personal floatation devices should be worn, hoist flag “Y”



Check in - Race Committee member #1

- One member of the Race Committee (RC) should be assigned to handle Check in
 - o For each boat in the starting area record the following:
 - **Member name** (First and Last)
 - **Boat type** (Melges 14, Melges 15, Finn, 29er, MC Scow, Laser/ILCA, Mutineer, Snipe, etc.)
 - **Sail number**
 - **Fleet preference** (“Dinghy” or “Laser Mutineer Snipe [LMS]”)

Start line “Pin end” mark - Race Committee member #2

- Secure the kill cord to both the RIB engine and your body
- Use the RIB to place the “Pin end” buoy parallel to the Start line flag. Placing the buoy a bit to weather of parallel is preferable as a slightly “Pin end” favored line can help to spread out the fleet at the start.

Post the course - Race Committee members #1 and 2

- Having observed the prevailing wind direction, select a course and post it on the whiteboard with the magnetic letters (e.g., 4-8-G-4-8-F)
- The recommendation is to not use a downwind gate unless the conditions are so light that there may be a need to finish the race prematurely

Determine the start sequence - Race Committee members #1 and 2

- Determine whether the minimum number of boats for two separate starts has been met (at least four boats each in the starting area for “Dinghy” and “LMS” fleets)
- Determine whether a single start affords the best opportunity to complete the race (e.g., the wind is dying, there is insufficient remaining daylight)

Start

- When ready to start the race, use the manual function of the Automatic Race Starting Horn to blow a series of short sounds to alert the fleet to an upcoming start sequence
- When ready, begin the three-minute start sequence using the Automatic Race Starting Horn and hoist the followings flag(s):
 - o “Dinghy” fleet flag – YELLOW flag (if running two separate starts)
 - OR**
 - o “Dinghy” and “LMS” fleet flags – YELLOW + GREEN flags (if running one combined start)
- Record the time when the start sequence commenced on the Score sheet

Note - no additional flags are required to be hoisted during the start sequence. The “Preparatory Signal” or “P” flag will not be used.

- When the “Starting signal” sounds at 0:00:
 - o RC person #1 – lower the fleet flag(s) and watch for “over early” boats with the “Individual Recall” flag close by (could be done by 1-2 RC persons)
 - o RC person #2 – **start a timer/watch** and record “over early” boats (could be done by 1-2 RC persons)
- Repeat the process for the second start

Three-minute start sequence		
Time to Start	Sound Signals (from Automatic Race Starting Horn)	Flag Actions
Before the warning	Series of short sounds	
Warning - 3 minutes	3 long	“Dinghy” and/or “LMS” fleet flag(s) up
Preparatory - 2 minutes	2 long	

1 minute 30 seconds	1 long, 3 short	
1 minute	1 long	
30 seconds	3 short	
20 seconds	2 short	
10 seconds	1 short	
Last 5 seconds	5 short (1 second apart)	
Starting - "Dinghy" fleet	1 long	"Dinghy" and/or "LMS" fleet flag(s) down

Note - a "General recall" of the "Dinghy" fleet will result in the "Dinghy" fleet start rolling to the end of "LMS" start

Finish

- Record the Sail number and finishing time for each boat that finishes
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Back at the dock

- After securing both the PB and RIB with dock lines and bumpers, please return the fuel tanks, keys and kill cords to the fuel storage bin and the RC shed
- Using a mobile phone, take images of all Check in and Score sheets and then email them to scores@unionsailingclub.org
- Place the Check in and Score sheets in the gray bin labeled "Results" in the RC shed