LITTLE CREEK SAILING ASSOCIATION

# Little Creek Sailing Association

## March 2024

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# LCSA  Racing Binder 2024

Information provided in these binders is intended to assist Race Committees (R/Cs) in the discharge of their responsibilities to provide **safe, fair** and **competitive** sailing.

The effective Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SIs) (contained herein) govern these events and take precedence over the information provided in this binder.

Any conflicts between this information and the governing documents should be brought to the attention of the LCSA Coordinator as soon as possible.

# LCSA RACE COMMITTEE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

**BEFORE RACE DAY:**
1) Pick up RC Gear from the dock box (located slip A8/ Bay Point Marina).
   a) Contact LCSA Coordinator for Combo.
2) Confirm your crew availability.
3) Review the LCSA Race Committee (R/C) Duties/Responsibilities.
4) Review Starting Sequence Worksheets (w/ iStart and Manual for appropriate Series)
5) Check the weather forecast.
   a) Plan a course based on forecasted wind speed and direction.
      i) The Little Creek Racing Buoys flyer can help you visualize (Page 3).


**RACE DAY**
1) Have boat loaded with gear and food early so that you can attend to last-minute details.
2) Confirm weather still supports planned course and **safe racing;**.
3) Be ready to leave dock at a time that allows you to be at the starting area well prior to first Warning
   a) Recommend 1 hour prior to the scheduled start.
4) On your way out, assign duties to your crew if you haven't yet done so.
   a) Refer to LCSA Race Committee Duties.
5) As boats approach the starting area, check them off on the Scoring Sheet.
   a) On the Scoring Sheet, record observed wind speed and direction (M)
6) About 30 minutes or so before the first start, set start line and post course.
   a) Get crewmembers in positions for Starting Sequence.
   b) Review the LCSA Race Committee Start Sequence Worksheet
   c) Review and assign responsibilities for Race Actions (in binder)
7) At the appropriate time, begin the starting sequence.
8) After all the boats have started, continue to monitor the wind strength and direction.
   a) Keep track of the leaders in each class and think about your options.
   b) Don't move the RC boat except to shorten course or better align the finish with the direction of the last mark.
9) Knowing the course length, class flags, and start times will assist you in filling out the LCSA Scoring Worksheet.
   a) Set the boat up for the finish and station R/C.
10) Record finish times in the order of finish on the LCSA Scoring Worksheet.
11) Keep hard copy in RC binder, send electronic copy to LCSA Coordinator.
12) Notify the LCSA Coordinator of any protests; use reverse of Scoring Sheet for initial report.
13) Proceed to home port; DRINK RESPONSIBLY.
14) Inventory RC Kit. Notify LCSA Coordinator of any discrepancies.
15) Return RC Kit to dock box (located slip A8/ Bay Point Marina).

# General Race <u>Guidelines</u>

1) Depending on conditions, an actual race of approximately 60 minutes (Series 1 and 6) and 90 minutes (Series 2-5) is intended and the course should be laid out.
   a. The goal is specifically to ensure boats are not returning after nautical twilight for purposes of safety.
   b. Each R/C should be familiar with and brief procedures for managing the course after the race start (e.g. shortening the course) to accommodate changing conditions and meet race guidelines.

2) The below tool is suggested for consideration with your R/C experience in determining course length.



**LCSA Course Length Estimates v True Wind**
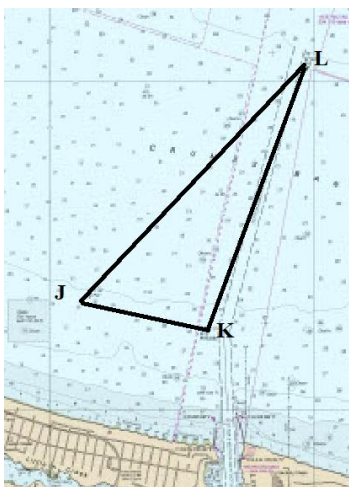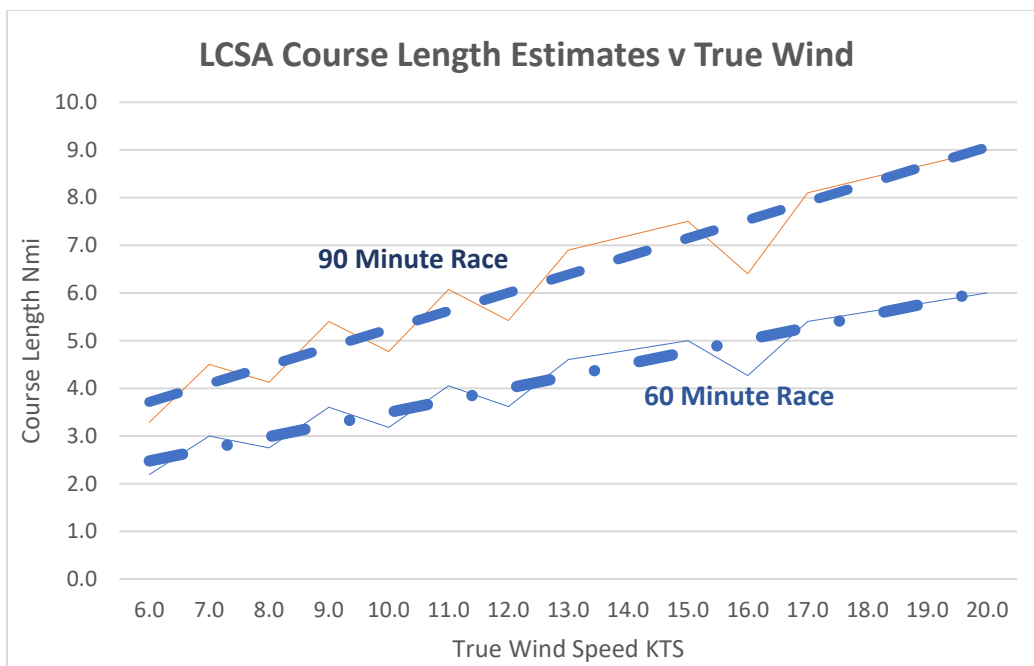
## Sailing Area and Distances



| Location | | Distance | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | J-K | K-L | L-J |
| **J** | N36 56.541 W 76 12.163 | 1.1 NMi | | 2.3 NMi |
| **K (Red; LC2)** | N36 56.483 W 76 10.798 | | 1.7 NMi | |
| **L (Gr; LC1)** | N36 58.077 W 76 10.068 | | | |

3) Racers are performance handicapped using a PHRF circular-random rating so a triangular course is desired, if possible, dependent on wind/sea considerations.

4) Starting Line Length.  Using LCSA starting data and USSailing Starting Line Guidance[1], recommended, <u>minimum</u> starting line lengths shown below:

| FEET | YDS | METERS |
|------|-----|--------|
| 360  | 120 | 110    |

   a) Adjusting Length: Lower wind reduce line length; higher wind increase line length.
   b) Best Practice.  Estimate line length with a laser range finder or use "Man Overboard" feature of the chart plotter for distances.

5) Starting/Finishing Line Orientation.  As LCSA uses fixed, government marks, starting and finishing line orientation can be challenging for the R/C.
   a) Starting Line
      i)   If possible, an up-wind starting line perpendicular to the prevailing wind, directly toward the first mark, would be ideal.
      ii)  The Principal Race Officer (PRO) should balance the goals of up-wind start, as close to the wind as possible, with the first mark of the course achievable by the fleet in a reasonable time.
      iii) Occasionally, the R/C has chosen down-wind starts, often in low wind conditions. Historically, this has resulted in a number of challenges including collisions and protests.
   b) Finish Line.  The R/C should endeavor to adjust the Finish Line perpendicular or as close to perpendicular to the course from the final mark.

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[1] USSailing Starting line 1.0-1.5 x aggregate boat lengths to start.  Factor of 1.25 with eight boat NS1 start from 2022 Series used.

# Scorer's Notes:

1) **Please provide Race Results as soon as possible upon race finish.**
   a) Send to Rob Williams (757-639-6671; soldout2sailing@gmail.com) **AND** Mark Flaherty (757-348-4026; moflaherty1@cox.net) by means convenient.
   b) If results are delayed after 2000 Local, please contact Rob Williams with extenuating circumstances (starts postponed; a significant change in wind velocity) with an estimated time of score sheet results delivery.

2) For a given race, there are two forms: (1) Check-in and Finish and (2) Race Committee Protest Initial Report.
   a) Please forward the Check-In and Finish sheet per instructions on the sheet as soon as possible upon completion of the race (to include TLEs, RETs).
      i) The left column is just for checking in boats per the SIs.  Total at the bottom.
      ii) The right column is to record the time in order of the finishers in *Hour, Minutes and Seconds* format.  Total at the bottom.
      iii) If there is a difference, please resolve and annotate.  For example, racer retires after start and before the finish (RET) or on the course at the time limit (TLE).
   b) **If there is a protest during the race**,
      i) Be scrupulous with the requirements of the Sailing Instructions provided in the binder.
      ii) Please advise the LCSA Coordinator (Rob Williams) upon learning of a possible protest so he can look for actions by the protesting vessel per the SIs.
      iii) Initial report of the protest (Race Committee Protest Initial Report) is provided in the R/C binder.  Please complete with as much information as possible.

3) Legibility is essential.
   a) Understand that races are often completed in failing light and boats in motion; request a look at the picture before sending to be sure the data is legible, and all data has been entered.

4) Best Practices.
   a) When using the iStart, transmit horns on Channel 71 [2024 Change] for the benefit of all boats.
   b) The Check-In/Finishing sheet requests boat position (used to confirm course length).
      i) In addition to the position that can be taken from chart plotters, smartphones and/or smart watches can provide a location with acceptable accuracy.
      ii) Report distance in *nautical* miles.

# Race Committee (R/C) Responsibilities

The Race Committee (R/C) is made up of the Principal Race Officer (PRO) and persons meeting responsibilities as indicated below.   Often this number of individuals is not available so positions/responsibilities are combined as suggested below.

### R/C Responsibilities
### Start

| | | Persons Available for R/C | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | **6** | **5** | **4** | **3** |
| **Start** | Line Sighter (PRO) | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| | Fleet Flag | 2 | | | |
| | Prep | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| | Individual/General Recall Flag | 4 | 3 | | |
| | Recorder | 5 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| | Timer/Horn | 6 | 5 | 4 | |

1) Line Sighter (PRO)- stationed at the shroud to which the **Orange Flag** is tied. Ideally, this person has a handheld VHF with which to notify boats that are over early.

2) Fleet Flag person raises and lowers the fleet flags on command.

3) Prep Flag person raises and lowers the prep on command.

4)  Individual/General Recall Flag Person - to signal over early boats and watch them come back to restart.

5) Recorder.  Completes the Scoring Sheet. Responsible for confirming boats at check-in.

6) Timer/Horn keeps the official starting time (same watch for both starting and finishing) and makes the audible (horn) sounds for the starting sequence (automatic or manual).

# R/C Responsibilities Finish

|  |  | Persons Available for R/C | |
|---|---|---|---|
|  |  | **6-5-4** | **3** |
| **Finish** | Line Sighter/Horn (PRO) | 1 | 1 |
| | Recorder 1 | 2 | 2 |
| | Recorder 2 | 3 | |
| | Timer | 4 | 3 |

1) Line Sighter (PRO)- stationed at the shroud to which the **Blue** flag is tied. Ideally, this person has a handheld VHF to signal the boats as they finish.

2) Recorder 1.  Using the Scoring Sheet, keeps the official finish time.

3) Recorder 2.  Keeps the backup time.  This can be done on a voice recorder.

4) Timer. Using the same time device as the start or GPS, calls out the time coinciding with a racer's finish as announced by the Line Sighter (can be the sound of the horn or voice).

# iSTART Information

**POWER** button – Press to turn ON, hold to turn OFF.

**MODE** button – Press to see details of the currently selected mode, and hold 3 seconds to select the desired mode

**HORN** button – Press to sound the horn

**START** button – Press to start a race sequence, hold for 3 seconds to reset and stop

1) The system will be charged when in the LCSA Racing dock box.  Recommend testing by sounding the horn to confirm the charge.

2) For LCSA Races use iStart Mode **51** (Rule 26 Rolling Starts).

3) Selecting a Starting Sequence
    a) Hold the MODE button down for 3 seconds until the screen flashes (and beeps) then release.
    b) Press the MODE button as needed to select **51**.
    c) Wait 3 seconds to SAVE automatically.

4) The iStart is now ready to support the start by hitting "START" per the desired sequence.

5) To assist in the racing START, the small screen on the iStart will provide messages (in the table below identified as "Internal Beeper").
    a) The Timer should announce these messages to queue actions of the R/C (e.g. Signaler, Recorder). For example, " 30 seconds to Prep down…20 seconds to Prep down…."
    b) Best Practice: Before START only and 1 second shown on screen, key VHF Channel 71 to broadcast START horn to entire Fleet.

# Start Sequences

Notes Applying To All Starts:

1) GPS time will be used for consistency among participants.

2) Rule 26:  Times shall be taken from the visual signals; the absence of a sound signal shall be disregarded.

    a) Flags trump sound signals so flags must be done correctly.  See *Race Actions*.

3) First Start:

| Series | First Warning | First Start |
|---|---|---|
| Series 1 and 5 (Only) | 5:55 PM | 6:00 PM |
| Series 2,3,4 | 6:25 PM | 6:30 PM |

## Nominal Start Sequence

### Mode 51: 5 Minute Rolling

| Time until start (mm:ss) | Flag | iStart Internal Beeper | Loud Horn | Description |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 5:00 | Class Flag UP | | 1 long | Warning Signal First Fleet |
| 4:30 | | 30, 20, 10, 5,4,3,2,1,Flag | | |
| 4:00 | P-Flag UP | | 1 long | Preparatory Signal |
| 1:30 | | 30, 20, 10, 5,4,3,2,1,Flag | | |
| 1:00 | P-Flag DOWN | | 1 extra long | 1 Minute until Start Signal |
| 0:30 | | 30, 20, 10, 5,4,3,2,1,Flag | | |
| 0:00 | Class Flag DOWN<br>Next Class Flag UP | | 1 long | First Start and Warning Signal for Next Fleet Start |
| | **Turn Off iStart** | | | |

# RACE START SEQUENCE WORKSHEET
## Series 1 and 5 Only

First Fleet Warning **5:55 PM**

Three Fleets – Three Starts

| CLOCK TIME | FLAGS | | HORN | MEANING |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **SIGNALS** | | | |
| 5:55:00 | **NS2** Class Flag **UP** ☐ | | 1 Short Blast | NS2 Warning |
| 5:56:00 | | Prep Flag **UP** ◻ | 1 Short Blast | NS2 Preparatory |
| 5:57:00 | | | | |
| 5:58:00 | | | | |
| 5:59:00 | | Prep Flag **DOWN** ◻ | 1 Long Blast | 1 min to NS2 Start |
| 6:00:00 | **NS2** Flag **DOWN** ☐ | | 1 Short Blast | NS2 Start |
| 6:00:00 | NS1 Class Flag **UP** | | | NS1 Warning |
| 6:01:00 | | Prep Flag **UP** ◻ | 1 Short Blast | NS1 Preparatory |
| 6:02:00 | | | | |
| 6:03:00 | | | | |
| 6:04:00 | | Prep Flag **DOWN** ◻ | 1 Long Blast | 1 min to NS1 Start |
| 6:05:00 | NS1 Flag **DOWN** | | 1 Short Blast | NS1 Start |
| 6:05:00 | Spin Flag **UP** | | | Spin Warning |
| 6:06:00 | | Prep Flag **UP** ◻ | 1 Short Blast | Spin Preparatory |
| 6:07:00 | | | | |
| 6:08:00 | | | | |
| 6:09:00 | | Prep Flag **DOWN** ◻ | 1 Long Blast | 1 Minute to Spin Start |
| 6:10:00 | Spin Flag **DOWN** | | 1 Short Blast | Spin Start |

# RACE START SEQUENCE WORKSHEET
## Series 2-4

First Fleet Warning **6:25 PM**

Three Fleets – Three Starts

| CLOCK TIME | SIGNALS | | | MEANING |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | FLAGS | | HORN | |
| 6:25:00 | **NS2** Class Flag **UP** | | 1 Short Blast | NS2 Warning |
| 6:26:00 | | Prep Flag **UP** | 1 Short Blast | NS2 Preparatory |
| 6:27:00 | | | | |
| 6:28:00 | | | | |
| 6:29:00 | | Prep Flag **DOWN** | 1 Long Blast | 1 min to NS2 Start |
| 6:30:00 | **NS2** Flag **DOWN** | | 1 Short Blast | NS2 Start |
| 6:30:00 | NS1 Class Flag **UP** | | | NS1 Warning |
| 6:31:00 | | Prep Flag **UP** | 1 Short Blast | NS1 Preparatory |
| 6:32:00 | | | | |
| 6:33:00 | | | | |
| 6:34:00 | | Prep Flag **DOWN** | 1 Long Blast | 1 min to NS1 Start |
| 6:35:00 | NS1 Flag **DOWN** | | 1 Short Blast | NS1 Start |
| 6:35:00 | Spin Flag **UP** | | | Spin Warning |
| 6:36:00 | | Prep Flag **UP** | 1 Short Blast | Spin Preparatory |
| 6:37:00 | | | | |
| 6:38:00 | | | | |
| 6:39:00 | | Prep Flag **DOWN** | 1 Long Blast | 1 Minute to Spin Start |
| 6:40:00 | Spin Flag **DOWN** | | 1 Short Blast | Spin Start |

# IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG….

If an error during the starting sequence (*before the actual <u>**start**</u> =>* *Class Flag down*), **raise** the **Postponement** Flag and **sound** 2 horn blasts [and if using iStart => **Power Off**].

## iStart Available
- Determine the Class postponed: Spin/Non-Spin1/Non-Spin2
- On the minute, lower Postponement Flag and sound 1 horn.
- 1 minute later,
  - Power **on** iStart.
  - iStart: **Reset/Start** [five-minute rolling start; warning signal will sound].
  - Raise appropriate Class Flag for the Class postponed.
- Continue with the standard starting sequence.

## Manual Sequence
- Determine the Class postponed: Spin/Non-Spin1/Non-Spin2
- On the minute, lower Postponement Flag + Horn
- 1 minute later, raise the Class Flag + Horn
- 1 minute later, raise Prep + Horn
- 3 minutes later, lower Prep + Long Horn
- 1 minute later, Class Flag down + Horn
  - Immediately raise Class Flag of next Class to start (if appropriate)
  - Record new starting time on Score Sheet
- Continue Manual Starting Sequence (if appropriate)

# OTHER SIGNALS AND THEIR USE

## RECALLS
If an error is made at the <u>START</u> (Class Flag down):
[iStart => **Power Off**].

## INDIVIDUAL RECALL

Raise Individual Recall + 1 Horn blast  [Boat or boats over and can tell which ones].
- Lower flag (no horn) when all boats that were over early have come back completely to the pre-start side of the line and restarted.
- Flag should be lowered after 4 minutes after the start (or to coincide with lowering Prep + 1 Long Horn for the next rolling start).

## GENERAL RECALL

 General Recall + 2 Horn blasts. [Too many boats to identify].
- Follow procedures for Postponement.

## SHORTEN COURSE

Insufficient wind to complete course in the allotted time
- Raise flag with 2 Horn blasts.
- Course can be shortened to any MARK of the course.
- Position R/C at the MARK to which the course is shortened and position so boats can finish honoring the MARK per course instructions (P/S) on a line perpendicular to course from prior MARK.
- Finish is between the Shorten Course Flag (now positioned on the shroud in place of the Finish Flag (Orange)).