

CVLSC Coronavirus Race Officer & ARO Advice & Guidance



These guidelines are intended to explain the pattern of Club racing on Sundays as we enter the Return to Racing series 3, and to offer advice on how race teams may manage to operate in a Covid secure manner.

The Government's Covid winter plan published on 23 November confirmed the allocation of 3 Tiers within which there is specific guidance on what activity is allowable. The tier applicable to the Sailing Club will be confirmed in the booking email, and is within Tier 2 as at 2 December 2020

Those living in Tier 1 and Tier 2 areas should avoid travel to Tier 3 areas but you can pass through as part of a longer trip. Those living in Tier 3 areas are advised against travelling out of their area. Those living in Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas should aim to reduce the number of journeys they make.

If you are in Tier 3 you should not plan to travel to the club – please advise us as soon as possible if this is the case so we can seek a replacement for your duty.

Race Officers should make contact with the AROs to ensure they are happy with the Covid secure arrangements for running racing whether from the Race Hut or Committee Boat.

Sunday Race Format

Timing - 2 races, sailed back-to-back, with a briefing at 10.30 and a start time of 11.00. Signing on is via the booking email for that sailing day which should have sailor details, boat class and number, together with the choice of either windward leeward or conventional course for those in the handicap fleet. Craig Harris will send this to each appointed Race Officer as an excel spreadsheet on Saturday afternoon.

For this return to sailing series we are trialling a change to the previous starting sequence to more fairly reflect the laser class handicapping. As a consequence, the first start in the sequence will now be the laser fleet start: any 4.7s racing will start two minutes after the 6 minute warning signal, and any radials 4 minutes into the countdown sequence, giving them each a 4 and 2 minute start ahead of the 'actual' laser start.

3 minutes after the laser start the handicap fleet will all start together (regardless of the course configuration they are racing, see next para), and will comprise the second start. The final start is the solos. Three starts with an interval between each of 3 minutes – Lasers, Handicap and Solos.

We are also continuing to set a windward leeward course for the asymmetric boats in the Handicap fleet. Those Handicap boats that choose to sail the more 'traditional' club course will sail the same course set for the Laser and Solo fleets. **Whichever course option is chosen, all the Handicap boats will start together.**

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If you are operating from the Race Hut the wind direction may make it difficult to set a pure windward/leeward course. Maybe consider laying an 'X' mark to help produce a Windward/Leeward course and try to avoid taking the asymmetric downwind on a series of reaches unless absolutely necessary.

You should indicate the two different course options in the normal way using the boards - there is one annotated w/l to indicate the windward leeward course.

The target time for races should be 40-45 minutes.

The broad spread of boat speeds in the Handicap fleet mean that you should shorten for the slower boats – e.g. Mirrors. The results programme makes it very easy to enter number of laps to give an average for these boats. No competitor should race for over an hour. Try and set a course that will give two laps for all but the slowest boats.

The racing fleets can normally utilise all the Club's racing marks. If the wind strength is marginal (bearing in mind the OOD guidance is a maximum steady wind speed of 15 knots), liaise with the rostered team to risk assess how much of the lake you are going to use. Generally, the Southern sector gives racers the most desirable and steady wind.

Using the Race Hut

It is recommended that no more than 2 people are in the Race Hut at the same time, and if they are not from the same social bubble they must at all times wear a face covering and leave the door open.

The Race Officer should try to allocate tasks such that the ARO's can operate 'outside' the Race Hut, for example recording the finishing order of fleets not requiring handicap times and keeping a lap count on racers.

Results

These can be entered into the Race Hut computer in the normal way – the instructions in the Race Officer handbook are clear and logical – and any problems resolved by contacting Bill Chard, results supremo, the week after the racing. (Racers are not expecting to 'gather' to see results when they come ashore).
results@chewvalleysailing.org.uk

When finished in the Race Hut wiping down surfaces should happen using wipes to be found in the Race Hut disinfection box. The loudspeaker microphone should only be used with a plastic bag cover, disposed of when finished.

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Finally, if you need any advice or clarity before your allocated duty, or feel that carrying out the duty will place you at Covid risk, please contact: -

Vice-commodore@chewvalleysailing.org.uk andrew@creativerewards.co.uk
