

# **RACE MANAGEMENT POLICIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DRAGON ASSOCIATION, YANMAR DRAGON GOLD CUP, HOSTED BY ROYAL TORBAY YACHT CLUB.**

September 2023

*Please note that these policies are guidelines to the Race Management Team. Failure to observe these guidelines are not grounds for redress.*

## **1. Definitions**

- 1.1 Principal Race Officer – a race officer appointed by the Organizing Authority. The Principal Race Officer is responsible for managing the race management team.
- 1.2 Race Management Team – the Principal Race Officer and all on-the-water volunteers responsible for managing racing.
- 1.3 “Will” means the intentions of the race management team.

## **2. Times/Timing/Changes in Schedule**

- 2.1 Times will be based on GPS time.
- 2.2 Starts will not be delayed for competitors to reach the race area if they could have arrived with reasonable diligence.
- 2.3 To alert boats that a race or sequence of races will start soon, the orange starting line flag(s) will be displayed (with one sound signal) at least five minutes before a warning signal is displayed.
- 2.4 The orange starting line flags(s) will be removed (with no sound signal) four minutes after the starting signal.
- 2.5 The race management team will use the entire day if necessary to complete the schedule.
- 2.6 It is intended that there will be no more than one race a day, however, one additional race may be sailed on any day.

## **3. Decision to Race**

- 3.1 The race will be started at the scheduled time if the wind conditions and visibility are within the parameters outlined in these policies. Waiting for “better” conditions may be unfair and will be avoided.
- 3.2 The race management team will not wait for the wind to “stabilize”. Competitors can compete in “shifty” conditions.
- 3.3 The start may be postponed if a major wind shift is expected based on a known wind pattern or other reliable information (example: sea breeze can be seen in the distance and is expected to fill in) otherwise, the race management team will start the race. The wind shift may not occur, the course can be corrected, or the shift may occur after the race is completed.
- 3.4 Wind will be measured from drifting boats.
- 3.5 Average wind speed will be determined over a five-minute period.
- 3.6 Races will not be started in less than an average of 5 knots of wind established over the entire course area. This lower limit may be higher if there is strong current in the racing area.
- 3.7 Races will not be started more than an average of 25 knots or gusts of wind over 30 knots. These limits may also vary depending upon sea conditions, current and rapid changes in velocity.
- 3.8 Races will not be started if reduced visibility prevents the race management team from sighting the starting line and identifying any OCS boats. Visibility shall be at least 75% of the course leg length. The fact that the first mark cannot be seen from the starting area is not, in and of itself, a reason to postpone racing.
- 3.9 The Race Committee will display Flag Y ashore or afloat, if the wind speed is expected above 18 knots.

## **4. Sighting the Line/Timing/Signalling/Recording**

- 4.1 The race management team will sight the starting lines from each end.
- 4.2 Each line sighter will use a hand-held voice recording device and record, without stopping, from at least 90 seconds before the starting signal until after anything of interest after the start. A commentary of anything of interest will be recorded (such as boats getting close to the line, bunching, etc.).
- 4.3 Each day's recording will be saved and indexed for easy retrieval.
- 4.4 Competitors who have been scored OCS, UFD or BFD may listen to the voice recording(s) of the applicable start(s).

## 5. Calling OCS

5.1 The race management team will not permit a race to continue if it is satisfied that unidentified boats were over early.

5.2 Except after a black flag general recall (when the requirements of rule 30.4 will be met), bow or sail numbers of boats recorded as OCS, UFD or BFD will be posted on the start boat after boats have rounded mark 1 for the first time.

5.3 A start line script will be used for VHF transmissions regarding calling OCS.

## 6. Postponing a Race During the Starting Procedure

6.1 The race management team will postpone a race during the starting procedure in response to adverse outside effects depriving boats of an equal chance of a good start.

6.2 The race management team will postpone the race during the starting procedure if the mean wind shifts more than 10 degrees or in the event other influences cause boats to bunch at one end of the start line. In rapid oscillations the race management team will endeavour to lay a starting line based on the mean oscillations expected.

6.3 If a wind shift occurs before the starting signal - even in the last minute before the start - such that it significantly increases the risk of a general recall, a postponement will be considered.

6.4 If the positions boats are taking on the starting line indicate a line bias in the minds of the competitors, a postponement will be considered.

6.5 In the circumstances described in 6.1 to 6.4 if the race management team determines that adjusting the starting line is likely to improve the chances of fair start without a general recall, then a very late postponement will be considered.

6.6 The race management team will also consider postponing the start for any of the following reasons: a drifting mark, a significant error in the timing of signals, other boats interfering with the competing boats, inappropriate starting line length or angle, a reduction in visibility preventing the race management team from sighting the starting line or identifying premature starters, and other factors that might affect the fairness of the race.

6.7 For a postponement that the race management team anticipates will be longer than ten minutes, the orange starting line flag(s) will be removed (with no sound signal), and then displayed (with one sound signal) at least five minutes prior to the warning signal.

## 7. General Recall

7.1 In case of any problems with the starting line (such as length, or angle to the wind, etc.) a postponement may be signalled, even up to the last second before the start, instead of a general recall.

7.2 If a race management error is discovered after the starting signal (e.g., timing), the race management team may abandon the race (by using flag N). In these circumstances, the race management team will not signal a general recall.

7.3 When the race management team is not satisfied that all boats over early, or that have broken RRS 30.3 and 30.4, have been identified, a General Recall will be signalled.

## 8. Starting Preparatory Flags (Flags P, I, Z, U and Black Flag)

8.1 Flag I and Z preparatory signals will not be used.

8.2 For the first start attempt flag P preparatory signal will be used.

8.3 In the event the start has been postponed, or a General Recall has been caused by the length or angle of the starting line, the race management team will adjust the starting line and make another attempt using the same preparatory signal.

8.4 If the race management team is satisfied that a General Recall was not the result of the starting line, it may use the U flag preparatory signal for the second attempt.

8.5 If the race management team is satisfied that a subsequent General Recall was not the result of the starting line, it may use the Black Flag preparatory signal for each subsequent attempt.

8.6 An important principle followed by the race management team is that the U and Black flag preparatory signals will only be used when general recalls are caused by the boats themselves, or rapid oscillations of the wind, and not by actions of the race management team.

8.7 When using the U and Black Flag preparatory signal, the race management team will make every effort to signal a postponement in the event of any problems with the starting line.

## 9. Abandonment

9.1 On the first 75% of the first leg, the race management team may abandon in the event of a

major, persistent, wind shift (more than 25 degrees). After that, the race management team will let the race continue if it is able to adjust to the changed conditions.

9.2 Visibility: The race management team will consider abandoning a race if it is satisfied that a reduction in visibility affects its ability to safely manage racing. The fact that boats cannot see the next mark from the prior mark is not, in and of itself, reason to abandon the race.

9.3 Collapse of wind: The race management team may abandon the race when it is unlikely that the leading boat will complete the course within the overall time limit, even if a new wind were to arrive. The further into the race, the less likely it is that the race management team will abandon the race.

9.4 The race management team may abandon the race when a new wind causes the fleet to invert.

9.5 Increase of wind speed: Once a race has been started, the race management team will not abandon the race simply because the average wind speed increases beyond the stated limits. The race management team will consider abandoning the race if it is unable to safely manage racing.

9.6 Unusual occurrences making the race unfair: The race management team will make every effort to ensure that other vessels do not interfere with racing. The race management team will consider abandoning the race if it determines that an outside influence has made the race unfair.

9.7 Frequent and violent wind shifts: Under these circumstances the race management team may not be able to adjust the course sufficiently or quickly enough to maintain a race of the required standard. In that case, the race may be abandoned.

9.8 **Competitors are reminded that the decision to race, or to continue to race, is their sole responsibility.**

## 10. Adjusting the Course to a New Wind Speed or Direction

10.1 Change in wind direction:

(a) Between 10° and 15° consideration will be given to adjusting the course to the new wind provided that the race management team is confident that the shift is likely to persist.

(b) With a persistent wind shift in excess of 15°, the race management team will attempt to change the course to the new wind.

(c) With a persistent wind shift in excess of 45°, the race management team will consider its influence on the race. Under these circumstances, the race management team may either change the course or abandon the race.

(d) Frequent and violent oscillations: Under these circumstances the race management team may not be able to adjust the course sufficiently or quickly enough to maintain a race of the required standard. In this case the race may be abandoned.

(e) Changes in current or a difference in the angle of the current relative to the wind may justify variations from these guidelines.

10.2 Changes in length of legs

(a) Change in leg lengths will not be made to reduce a leg to less than 50% or increase a leg to more than 150% of original leg length.

(b) The race management team will attempt to minimize the number of changes in leg length to achieve target times.

(c) Changes in current may justify variations from these guidelines.

## 11. Courses

11.1 The course length will be 12 nautical miles with five legs of 2.4nm, and maybe reduced or shortened to ensure the time limits are not exceeded.

11.2 Races may only be shortened, RRS 32, for safety reasons or to ensure the first boat finishes within the stated time limit. The intention is to have five legs of the course, finishing on an upwind leg.

11.3 The leeward gate may be laid after the start, usually 0.1nm to windward of the Committee Vessel.

11.4 The leeward gates will be approximately 10 hull lengths (89metres) wide, laid square to the sailing wind. Variations in width and angle may be appropriate to adjust for current or other prevailing conditions. Laser range finders or GPS will be used to determine the width of gates.

## 12. Starting Line

12.1 Starting lines will generally be laid square to the mean sailing wind direction. Current, favoured side of the course, expected wind shifts and other variables may justify variation from this guideline.

12.2 The race management team will use the following guide to lay the length of the starting line. Boat Length Multiplying factor will be a 1:2 – 1:4 ratio. Starting line length = number of boats x boat length x Multiplying factor. A larger multiplier may be used in strong winds.

12.3 Laser range finders and/or GPS will be used to determine starting line lengths.

### **13. Finishing Line/Finishing Procedures**

13.1 The finishing line will be laid before the first boat begins the final leg.

13.2 The blue flags will be displayed (with no sound signal) as the first boat rounds the final rounding mark.

13.3 In the case of a late course change for the final leg, the blue flags will be displayed as soon as possible after the finishing line has been laid.

13.4 The finishing line will be approximately 89 metres in length, set square to the wind direction. Laser range finders or GPS will be used to establish the length of the finishing line.

13.5 The blue flags will be removed (with no sound signal) upon the earlier of: (i) expiration of the time limit, or (ii) Immediately after the last boat finishes.

13.6 There will be a minimum of two line sighters on each finish vessel.

13.7 Each line sighter will use a hand-held recording device to record the order of finish.

13.8 A written record (reconciled master copy) of the finishing order will be maintained on the main committee vessel. This record will be reconciled with the published results once the race team arrives ashore.

13.9 After the last boat has finished, and another race is scheduled, the race committee will advise competitors of its intended time for the next class warning signal. There should be a minimum of 10 minutes from the last boat finishing and the class warning signal.

### **14. Corrections Due to Scoring Errors/Requests for Redress**

14.1 The race management team will adjust posted finishing places if it is satisfied that, based upon its records or observation, it has made a scoring error.

14.2 If the race management team believes it may have made any other error affecting the outcome of the race for which redress may be available, it may request redress on behalf of the potentially affected boat(s).

14.3 The race management team will consider requesting redress on behalf of a boat if it is satisfied that that boat's score has been made substantially worse by the actions of an official boat.

### **15. Race Committee Protests**

15.1 Since the primary responsibility for protesting breaches of the rules rests with Competitors, the race management team will not normally protest a boat.

15.2 The race management team may protest a boat in the following circumstances:

- (a) A breach of a sailing instruction that may not be protested (NP) by another boat;
- (b) An apparent breach of good sportsmanship (Rule 2);
- (c) Failing to take a penalty after knowingly touching a mark, but not protesting another boat;
- (d) A breach of rule 31 (touching a mark) resulting in damage to the mark/RC vessel.

### **16. General Principles and Safety**

16.1 A shortage of time or completed races is not a basis for variance from these policies.

16.2 The operator of a race management team vessel will promptly advise the Principal Race Officer if he/she believes his/her vessel has substantially affected one or more boats racing.

16.3 The Race Management team will coordinate any emergency and use all available assets, equipment, and emergency safety procedures, as appropriate, to assist all competitors, any support boats or those afloat that are helping manage the event. It is important that competitors, support persons and the race management team are adequately briefed daily before going afloat.

17.1 All race management vessels (main committee, pin start/finish and mark laying) will be equipped with a GPS.

17.2 All GPS units will be set up to display as follows:

- (a) Distance in nautical miles (nm)
- (b) Time to local time zone in 24-hour format
- (c) Compass bearing in magnetic
- (d) Latitude and Longitude in degrees, minutes and decimal minutes (example: 25° 40.967 North, 080° 12.394 West)
- (e) Map Datum WGS 84.