

2020 MAST Committee Boat Quick Guide

Thank you for serving as Committee Boat! If you have questions or concerns please reach out to your Race Committee Chairperson or members.

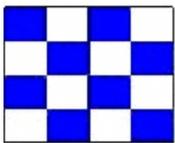
Race Chairperson:
Ed Bushman 414-881-9452

Race Committee Members:
Dick Kinney 262-573-5620
Eliz Greene 414-793-5020

Cancellation, Postponement, or Abandonment

The Committee boat shall not cancel a race due to light winds until after 7:15 P.M. If you have questions about whether to cancel a race, contact the Race Committee Chairperson or other Race committee member. It is recommended not to shorten the course until the leading boat is within 100 feet of the committee boat on the second leg.

The Committee Boat may cancel or abandon a race due to uncertain weather conditions. Visibility, wind strength, and wave heights are all conditions that may render racing in unsafe conditions. Visibility restrictions would be due to fog. Anytime fog conditions exist prior to a race or occur during the race, the Committee Boat could call for a race cancelation or abandonment, especially if conditions deteriorate to less than ½ mile visibility. Wind speeds consistently over 25 knots with gusty conditions well above that could be considered unsafe. Small craft weather warnings with wave heights in excess of 6 feet could be a consideration for race cancelation or abandonment. Wave heights, along with strong winds, are perhaps the best gauge for race cancelation. It is not a question of fairness, but safety for all. As always it is usually the combination of conditions (wind strength, water temp, and wave height) that create an unsafe situation. The point here is to have some guidelines for the Committee Boat permission to call off a race without the accompanied static that some competitors will raise.



The Committee Boat should poll the fleet on VHF Channel 79 and communicate freely if any question exists on whether to start or continue a race. If it is the concurring opinion of the Committee Boat and Race Committee Chairperson, the Committee Boat shall signal the race abandoned with the **Race Abandoned Flag**, repeated sounds from the signal horn, and by communication on VHF Channel 79.



If it is necessary to delay the race starting sequence past its normal time, fly the 'Race Postponed' flag (see illustration in section 3.7). Lower the 'Race Postponed' flag 1 minute before beginning the starting sequence.

Approximate GPS Mark Locations: (GPS locations have not been verified at the time of this printing)

MAST:
N43 02.195 W87 50.764

SSYC W:
N43 01.051 W87 50.826

SSYC C:
N43 01.315 W87 49.903

Bell Buoy:
N42 59.349 W87 49.839

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Course Set-Up

Anchoring:

The water depth offshore can range from 20 to 60 ft., with a bottom composition of sandy mud. Danforth style anchors perform best in this type of bottom. With moderate wind and wave conditions, a substantial scope on the anchor rode is required to set the anchor and prevent dragging. It is recommended that the anchor rode should be at least four times the water's depth.

Anchoring in heavier wind and waves may require in excess of seven times the water's depth. For the purposes of anchoring the Committee Boat for MAST racing, it is often convenient to splice a spare halyard or sheet to your existing anchor rode in order to obtain enough scope to easily set the anchor.

Operating Instructions for Yellow Inflatable Marks:

The key point is to not over-inflate the mark. The mark should never be hard to the touch. There are two valves on the mark; a smaller valve for inflating using the orange 12V pump, and a larger valve for deflating. Connect the pump directly to a battery using the red and black clips. To inflate the mark you:

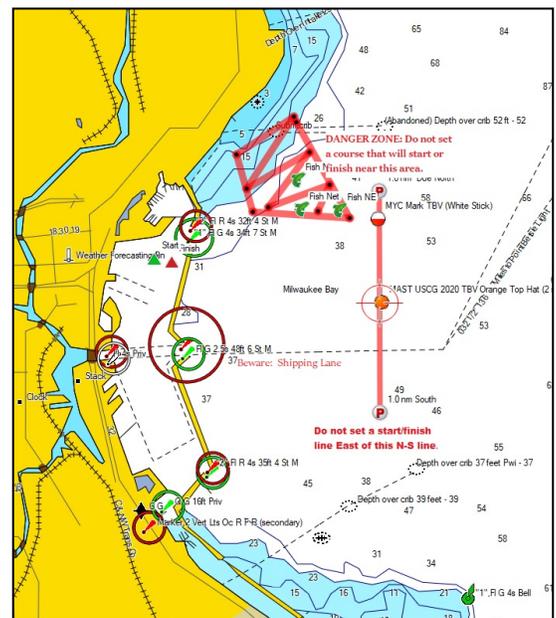
1. Make sure the large valve is closed.
2. Unscrew the small valve.
3. Connect the pump and turn it on.
4. Inflate (but don't over-inflate) the mark.
5. And close the small valve.

To deflate the mark after you've gotten it back in the yacht, unscrew the large valve and whoosh the air out. **Please be sure to hang on to cap to prevent losing overboard. Report any deficiencies of equipment to the Race Chairperson.**

Starting/Finishing Line:

The Committee Boat should always orient the Starting Line so that starting yachts will leave the Starting Mark to-port including downwind starts. Create a starting line of at least 300 feet long (approx 0.1 Nm on your GPS). Remember that it is better to have a too long line than a too short one! The Committee Boat should make every effort to set a starting line that is directly perpendicular to, and exactly on the wind-line to/from the upwind mark.

Windward / Leeward Races: The Committee Boat should position the Starting Mark approximately 1 mile from the MAST Center Mark (except where noted). The Committee Boat must attempt to position itself for an upwind start, with the Starting Mark to-port. The starting line should not be positioned East of a theoretical line running North - South through the Center Mark. i.e. If the wind is due West, the Committee Boat should NOT motor 1 mile East of center, it should instead position itself 1 mile West of center and we will have a downwind start. By staying west of the theoretical centerline, we can save time for the Committee Boat to set up and take down the race marks.



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A race start/finish shall not be set in the shallow waters between the breakwater and water treatment plant as indicated in the following illustration.

Should wind conditions require that a course start/finish be set in this area, the course shall be shortened in distance so that the start/finish is sufficiently located outside of this area.

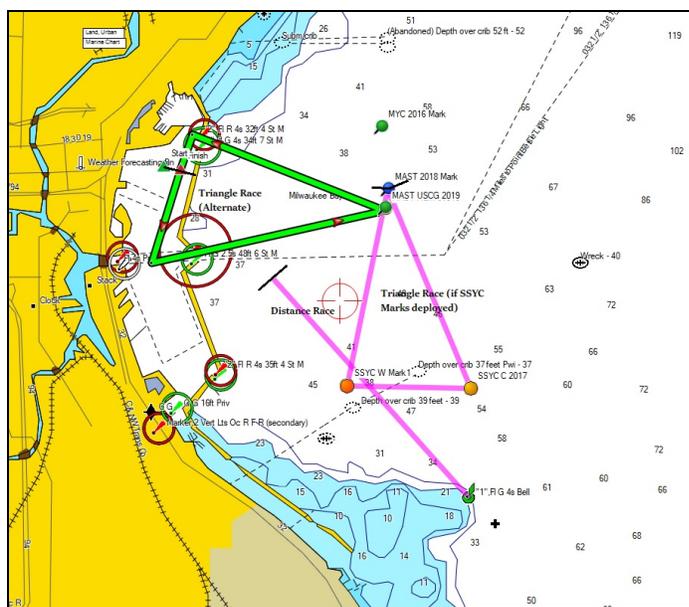
In addition to shallow water a close consideration must be given to a commercial "Fish Trap" area located about 1 nm to the NW of the MAST mark. The trap lines are marked with small orange buoys, however, can be difficult to see from a distance. The Committee Boat should consider shortening the course if necessary to avoid a starting line within the trap area.



All windward /leeward races will be twice around unless they are shortened by a signal from the Committee Boat, (Shorten-Course flag - International "S" flag, and by hail).

Distance Races: The location of the starting line will be approximately located outside the main gap, immediately south of the shipping channel. The Committee boat should set up the starting line perpendicular to a direct line to the Bell Buoy. If at all possible, an upwind or downwind start line should be set. The location should be approximately 2.5 to 3.0 nm from the Bell Buoy.

Triangle Races: If the SSYC Marks are deployed, the location of the Triangle Race starting line will be located at the MAST Race Mark, unless modified by the Committee Boat. The Committee boat should set up the starting line perpendicular to the first leg and the finish line perpendicular to the last leg. The course will be south to the SSYC W Race Mark, then E/NE to the SSYC C Mark and finally back to the start /finish mark.



Alternate Triangle Course:

This course will be used in the absence of the SSYC Marks. The start and finish lines will be set behind the break wall just to the SW of the North harbor Gap. Attempt to set the start/finish line perpendicular to the wind for an up or down wind start if at all possible. From the start the racers will head south and through the Main Harbor Gap, then proceed to round the MAST mark to port and head in the North Gap to the finish.

Adjusting the Course:

Triangle Courses and Distance Courses are normally sailed in an anti-clockwise rotation. The direction may be reversed at the discretion of the committee boat as well as the modification of the starting mark. On nights scheduled for a distance or triangle race, if the weather conditions are not suitable for the scheduled race, set up a standard windward/ leeward course and advise competitors on VHF Channel 79 and by hail.

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Under special circumstances where a course other than the scheduled course continuously display the 'Come Within Hail' (International "L" flag, see illustration above).

Starting The Race

Check in boats:

Record the boats as they check in and indicate if they are flying a spinnaker (for spinnaker races). When spinnakers are allowed in specific races, a yacht wishing to use a spinnaker must advise the committee boat prior to their start. Record a mark next to each yacht that indicates they will be flying a spinnaker. A time-on-time penalty will apply in these cases.

Recording Start Times and Conditions:

Using GPS time, record actual start times of each division if they differ from 6:20, 6:25 and 6:30. Make note of the wind speed and direction as well as the sea state.

The Committee Boat should make an announcement at around 6pm:

Mast racers, mast racers, mast racers, [pause] This is your committee boat for tonight [announce your boat name]. Tonight's race will be [Standard windward/leeward twice around] [Distance to Bell Buoy] [Triangle] [Alternate Triangle] [describe the course] We are setting up the Starting Line [give description of where the start line is]. We anticipate an on time start at 6:15 (or give an updated start time) A Reminder that all boats not in your starting sequence are to keep clear of the starting area or face a time penalty. Thank you for your cooperation. If you are using Race Qs, now is a good time to turn it on. Have a great race. Mast Committee Boat standing by on Seven Nine.

Start Sequence:

Time	Flags	Horn	
6:15	RAISE Yellow Flag	1 Second	Division 3 sequence begins
6:16	RAISE P Flag (Blue with White Square)	1 Second	
6:19	LOWER P Flag	3 Seconds	
6:20	LOWER Yellow Flag RAISE Blue Flag	1 Second	Division 3 START Division 2 sequence begins
6:21	RAISE P Flag	1 Second	
6:24	LOWER P Flag	3 Seconds	
6:25	LOWER Blue Flag RAISE Green Flag	1 Second	Division 2 START Division 1 sequence begins
6:26	RAISE P Flag	1 Second	
6:29	LOWER P Flag	3 Seconds	
6:30	LOWER Green Flag	1 Second	Division 1 START

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Over Early: If a yacht(s) is over early, a second horn signal is sounded and the yacht is hailed by shouting. Since the yacht may not be within hailing range, also call the yacht on the radio and inform the skipper that they are over early. It is the skippers responsibly to react as he or she wishes to the foul. Note the penalty on the score sheet if the yacht chooses not to restart.

During The Race

Re-Anchor:

After all yachts have started, re-anchor so that finishing boats will leave the buoy to port, and cross a finish line, perpendicular to the last leg of the course. The Committee Boat should move as soon as possible after the Division 1 start. The finish line can be shorter, and it is recommended that it is kept short especially when the finishes may be in the dark.

Shortening The Race:



All windward/leeward races will be twice around unless conditions might not permit at least one boat in each division to finish in the allotted time. If a decision is made to shorten the course, fly the '**Shorten-Course**' flag. Please make a note on the race results, that the course was shortened, and by how much. There should be at least 7 knots of wind in order to sail a distance race.

Abandoning The Race:



If it is necessary to abandon a race; fly the '**Race Abandoned**' flag (see illustration above), sound the horn in repeated short blasts, and make an announcement on VHF Channel 79. If at all possible, complete the race by shortening the course rather than abandoning the race.

Finishing The Race

Signaling the Finish:

Signal each yacht's finish by using the air horn as soon as any part of the yacht (including spinnaker or attached pole) crosses the line. Let them know they finished and you recorded their time!

Recording Finish Times:

Record finishing times of each yacht, such as 7:37:21 p.m., 21 being seconds. Use the same timing device to record division starts and individual yacht finishes. GPS timing devices are preferred. A Yacht finishes at the moment any part of her hull or sails, in normal sailing trim, crosses the finish line. The race ends at 9:00PM unless you notify the racers by 8:45PM of a new finish time. This is at your discretion as the committee boat. Try to identify those yachts still racing and record 'DNF' on the score sheet. Note the penalty for over early on the score sheet if the yacht chooses not to restart. Also note if a yacht starts in the wrong division.

Reporting Race Results:

Take a **clear** cell phone picture (with adequate light) of the downloaded Score Sheet with race finish times clearly written. **Send this picture to the Race Committee by emailing elizgreene@mac.com or texting 414-793-5020 after verifying all your data immediately following the race.** The sooner race times are received, the sooner they can be posted. Return equipment to the dock box with the recorded race times after the race. Recorded times may be referenced in case of discrepancy.