



Race Officer Guidelines 2026

Thank you for serving as a Race Officer for the 2026 season. Your contribution is vital to the success of our racing program. Please review these updated summary guidelines to ensure smooth operations on the water.

Contacts & Assistance:

If you have questions after reading these guidelines, please contact us as early as possible:

- Secretary & Support: Howard Morrison (07795 183660)
- On-Water Support: VHF Channel M (37)

Equipment & Preparation:

- The Race Bag: Contains flags, hooters, and course indicators. Collect it from the preceding RO or from Howard Morrison's greenhouse (Westering, Rhu Road Higher).
- The RO Folder: Located inside the bag; contains entrant lists and essential documentation.
- Inventory Check: Verify all contents immediately upon collection.
- Crewing: A minimum of three people (the RO plus two crew) is recommended for efficient operation.
- VHF Radio: Ensure you have a radio capable of monitoring Channels 12, 16, 73, and M (37).

Mandatory Pre-Race Procedures:

Communication & Safety

Per Peelpoort Clyde Ports and KHM conditions, you must contact the following authorities before racing starts:

- Peelpoorts Estuary Control (Greenock): (0151-949-6651) or VHF 12. Advise them of the probable number of starters to ensure navigation channels are clear.
- KHM HM Naval Base Clyde: (01436 674321, Ext 3555) or VHF 73. Check if the KHM channel will be closed during racing.
 - *Note:* If Red over two Green lights are displayed at Rhu or Rosneath Pt, the Ardmore Channel is closed.

Weather & On-Station Timing:

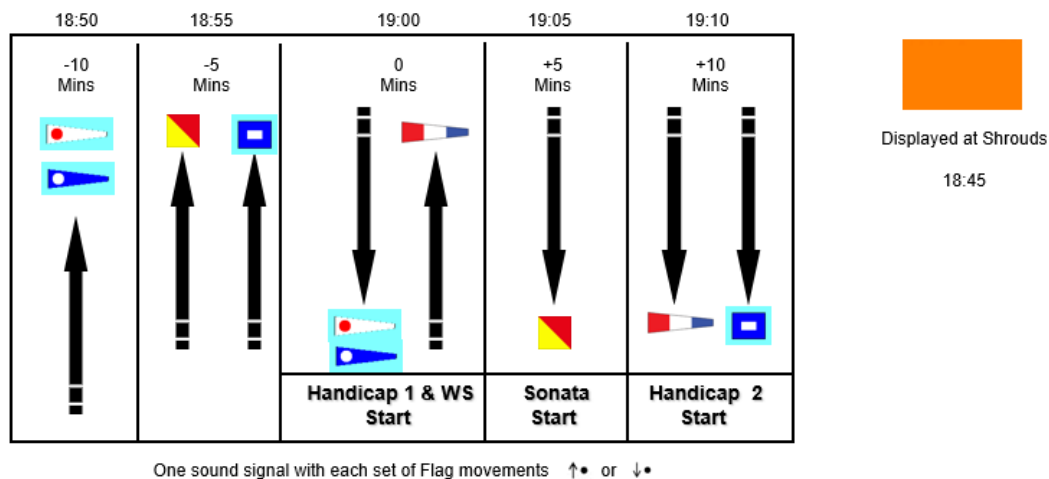
- Weather Check: If conditions prevent racing, display the abandonment flag at HSC, and advise the Rhu Marina Office and the EP Secretary.
- Arrival: Be on station and anchored by 18:45 hrs. You must be ready for the 10-minute warning signal.

Setting the Course:

- Start Line: Should be at right angles to the wind from the first mark. The length should be 1.5x the aggregate length of the largest class.
 - Identification: The Committee Vessel (CV) end of the line is marked by an Orange Flag flown near the mast.
 - Course Display: Display Course Number/Letters on the start-line side of the vessel no later than the Preparatory signal (Flag P) for the first class.
 - Shipping Interference: If naval or civilian shipping is expected in the channels, hoist Flag U immediately upon reaching the station.
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Starting Sequence (Primary & Secondary Series)

All signals consist of one sound signal unless otherwise noted. It is recommended to announce signals over VHF Channel M (37).



Displayed at Shrouds

18:45

Note: Flag "P" is raised at -5 and only lowered at +10, this is different to the Rule 26 standard procedure

Flags "X" & "1st Sub" are better on a stick/boat hook for quick display

Race Management Signals:

- Individual Recall: Flag X + 1 sound.
- General Recall: 1st Substitute + 2 sounds.
- Postponement: Flag AP + 2 sounds.
- Shorten Course: Flag S + 2 sounds. Replace the Orange flag with a Blue Flag to indicate the CV is on the finish line.
- Change of Course: Flag C + repeated sounds as boats approach.

Results & Recording:

- Real Time: Record all finishing times in HH:MM:SS (Real time, not elapsed).
- Check-In: Tick off boats observed in the start area prior to the sequence.
- Standard Abbreviations: Use DNC (Did not come), DNS (Did not start), OCS (On course side), DNF (Did not finish), and RAF (Retired after finishing).
- Reporting: On completion, photograph the time sheets and WhatsApp them to Robin Young (07596 608035).
- Final Step: Notify Estuary Control (VHF 12) of the final number of finishers. Return the Race Bag to the next RO as quickly as possible.