

Race Committee Roles

A. PRO (Principal Race Officer) –Planner, organizer, decision-maker, leader; recruits and trains the RC team; directs setting the course; directs starts; supervises all on-the-water activities during racing. Has completed a US Sailing Race Management Seminar and may be US Sailing Certified as a club or regional race officer.

B. Mark Setter – with assistant, positions, sets, and relocates (if necessary) the marks of the course, as directed by the PRO; maintains station at the windward mark and relays wind velocity and direction changes to the other members of the RC.

C. Rescue Boat Operator – with assistant, remains on station adjacent to the race course, ready to rescue crew of capsized boats; assists in setting marks; assists in identifying boats that are past the starting line before the start signal (OCS – On the Course Side).

D. Signaler – uses various flags to send information to competitors. Flag signals are the official indicators; sound signals (see below) are secondary, unofficial indicators. In case of mismatch, the flag signal rules.

E. Sounder – sounds horn as appropriate; used in conjunction with flag signals. We use OLLIE, a computer-controlled horn system that simplifies the tasks of the sounder.

F. Spotter/Recorder – identifies and records all boats starting and finishing, including those that do not finish. Keeps track of how many legs of the course each class has traversed. This can get complicated.

G. Line Sighter – watches the start line during starts and calls out the sail numbers of OCS boats; also watches the finish line during finishes and calls out the sail numbers of boats as they cross. A portable tape recorder is a useful device for the Line Sighter to use.

H. Timer – calls out all time signals so that other RC members are prepared to do their things at the correct time. Reads off finish times as called by the Spotter.

I. Scorer – tabulates scores, based on order of finish by class. Usually with a laptop computer and a scoring system.

J. Wind Reader – observes wind speed and direction and records it at regular intervals during the day.