

## Course Setting Guidelines for PYC Race Committee

### Starting line and mark direction setting

Determine wind direction by letting committee boat drift "head to wind" near the fixed (white) center pin or use the hand-held Windex. Move the committee boat to a point per line length guide below to starboard of zero mark.

Establish course (bearing) and number of first (windward) mark.

Position Committee Boat at opposite end of starting line using the starting line length guidelines below.

Note - The objective is to establish a line that is more or less square to the true wind and/or the first mark. There are a couple of refinements in this basic approach. You can set the start line at a slight (4 - 6 degree) angle so as to establish favored end. The same idea works if there is a favored side of the course and/or if you determine that there is a current running at (an angle to) the start line.

### Course routing and length

Pick any combination of marks, including center pin, in order to produce desired course configuration.

Figure course length and race duration based on wind, weather and sea conditions and with reference to time limits in PYC Sailing directions if applicable

Note - All course marks must be rounded in same (port or starboard) direction. Typical courses are triangular or windward-leeward. One lap of a PYC triangular course is using outer marks is 3.5 miles in length. In a 'twice around' situation, boats usually are required to pass center pin.

A 3.5 mile course in 10 knots of wind takes about an hour. A 2.75 mile course in 4 knots of wind takes about an hour and a half. There are many course combinations to choose from. Use the course diagram in the sailing instructions as a guide to compute total distance by summing the lengths of each selected leg. Factor in the wind strength and the forecast to determine whether or not a twice-around course is appropriate. You can always shorten the course per the sailing instructions if necessary.

(TBD-may need a section on windward-leeward courses using inflatable mark for spinnaker fleet races)

### Starting line length

Establish a starting line between center pin and Committee Boat.

Set length of line based on weather conditions and number of boats racing.

Note - Formulas for line length come down to combined total length of boats plus an insurance factor of 10-25%. Line is longer for extreme (high or low) winds, current, or 'inexperienced' skippers.

Note - If you are going to be in Committee Boat at finish of race you may move the boat so as to shorten the line (to better see and record finishes) or to position the boat at appropriate end of line, or to adjust the angle of finish line.