



PEYC - Changes for 2016

Shore Based Start Line:

Early last season we abandoned the old Race Box on the East Breakwater because, after the removal of the fence, access was no longer sufficiently safe. We now have a smart new Race Box on the Main Pier, with mains power and an even better view over the race area. One issue we didn't foresee was the difficulty of sighting the transit start line against the forest of yacht masts in the marina. Bill Blyth has installed hi-intensity LED lighting strips on both the flagstaff and the transit pole which should solve the problem. Laying mark W as the yacht ODM (Outer Distance Mark) has always been difficult because of the depth, tidal currents and 56.00 degN restriction by Forth Ports. The result is a rather short yacht start line with an ODM that is almost never in the right place. For 2016 we've made some radical changes to the shore-based start & finish arrangements. Mark Y has been removed and mark W will be laid due north of the Main Pier and closer inshore to act as the dinghy ODM and to define the finish line for both yachts & dinghies. There will be no ODM for the yacht transit start line but yachts may not start any further north than the transit defined by the SW & SE exclusion zone yellow buoys around the central tower of the new bridge. This gives a far safer line length and allows the race officer to set the transit line correctly rather than compromising it to lie near an ODM that drifts with the tide.

Three Yacht Divisions:

After a long debate about turnout numbers, handicap spreads and 'fairer' racing, the Sailing Committee has elected to run three yacht divisions for the Wednesday trophy races and the A, B & Night series in 2016. Div-1 will be <900 PY, Div-2 900-974 PY and Div-3 >974 PY. Although our yacht turnout numbers have been increasing, this is clearly a compromise between narrower handicap ranges for better racing in tidal waters and sufficient numbers to make for meaningful competitive races. However, we are taking the risk to try it but, if the turnout numbers don't justify three divisions, we will revert to two later in the season.

Race Marks:

Geoff Bowerman has been advocating using bigger and more visible marks for some time. These are, inevitably, more expensive than the 'tear drop' marks we have been laying as race marks and we will require heavier ground tackle. One example will be laid as mark Q, the middle one of the five along Society Bank which should help you locate the others as well. Mark colours of red and yellow are now defined to better identify them. Hence on Society Bank: S (red), A (yellow), Q (red), T (yellow) & X (red). On Rosyth side: E (yellow), R (red), H (yellow) & G (red).

Sailing Instructions:

For Night series races, it will now be a requirement for yachts to identify themselves on VHF Chan 77 as they approach mark W to round it or finish, because of the distance from the Race Box on the Main Pier. For Sternchases, the old 'flip-over' time display boards that we used on the E Breakwater are too small to be seen from beyond the tyre barrier. The Race Officer will make a sound signal every minute, with a double sound signal at each 5-minute point for competitors to synchronise their watches.

Jim Scott - PEYC Sailing Secretary