



Pittwater Sailors

2025 START BOAT PROCEDURE

1. Start Boat crew meet the Start Boat at the pre-arranged location, or as organised for that month.
2. Check that all equipment is on board the Start Boat. See page 5 for the list.
3. Proceed to the west of Taylor's Point. Attach the anchor and weight to the buoy with the snap shackle provided. Anchor the start buoy as per the procedure on page 6.
4. The start line should be approximately 150 to 200 metres long. Anchor the Start Boat about 200 metres due west of the start buoy. In a westerly wind move a little to the north or north east out of the Scotland Island wind shadow.
5. Once the Start Boat has set up the start line, the Sailing Officer to advise all other sailing club start boats on Pittwater, via VHF Channel 77, that PAC is conducting a race on Pittwater with the start line at Taylor's Point.
6. Pump up the air horn with the pump provided and test the horn.
7. Test the loud hailer. The loud hailer has a yellow button on the grip. Press ON, siren sounds. Press OFF, siren stops
8. Display the "PAC START BOAT" sign on the Start Boat.
9. The Sailing Officer to select from the eight pairs of courses available, a course appropriate to the wind direction at the start based on the boating wind forecast
10. The Sailing Officer will advise the course number. Display the course number sign where it can be easily seen by the competing boats. For example: Course '5'.

5

Course Number (Black numbers on white background)

11. Allocate duties to the Start Boat crew. i.e. Observer. To watch boats cross the start and finish line. Timer. To time when boats cross the start and finish line. Recorder. To record the number and name of the boat and their start and finish time.

12. Prior to the start of the race, boats racing will sail or motor near the Start Boat and indicate they are racing. Tick their name off on the Start Sheet.
13. There are two fleets Yellow and Blue. Both fleets will share the start times and start line.
14. The Start Boat will use Eastern Standard or Eastern Daylight time, according to their onboard synchronised clock, phone or smart watch. The synchronised clock time takes precedent over the raising of the flag.
15. **RACE START TIMES:** The race start time is 12 noon in Eastern Standard Time and 1.00 pm in Eastern Daylight.
16. **PREPARATORY SIGNAL.** At EXACTLY 5 minutes to the race start time raise the red flag.
17. Sound the loud hailer siren to draw attention to the raising of the flag.



Warning flag, 5 minutes to the start.

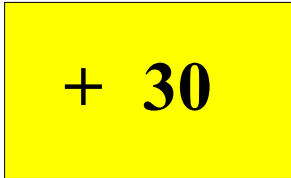
18. **RACE START.** At EXACTLY 5 seconds to the start, lower the red flag and raise the green flag.
19. Sound the loud hailer siren to draw attention to the raising of the green flag.
20. After the warning signal boats must not practice starting across the start line.



Race in Progress.

21. Record the actual start time, in 24-hour format, of each boat as it crosses the start line.
22. Boats crossing the start line before their handicap start time by more than 5 seconds will be recalled.
23. **EARLY STARTERS AND RECALLS.** Point the loud hailer siren at the boat and give a long blast. Advise the boat's crew that they have crossed the start line early. Use the loud hailer. They should sail clear of all other vessels starting and sail round the end of the start line and restart after their start time has expired.
24. If the boat does not restart correctly, for any reason and continues to race, record the early start time in the comments column on the start sheet. (They will incur a 10-minute penalty.)

25. **DELAYED START:** If the wind is gusting to 25 knots or there is no wind or any other reason that the Sailing Officer deems, the race may be delayed in the expectation for more favourable conditions. A board will be displayed showing the length of time of the delay.



Delayed Race Start Time. (Yellow board with Black numbers)

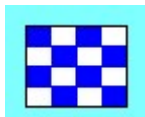
The delay time will be either 30 minutes or 60 minutes. The finish time will be increased by the length of the delay. Boats will be notified by radio on VHF Channel 72.

When the yellow board is lowered the normal start procedure will commence.

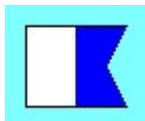
A Red Flag will be hoisted five minutes before the new Start Time, followed five minutes later by a Green Flag and Horn.

This time will be added to a boat's published handicap start time and will be the new delayed start time for each boat.

26. **ABANDONED RACE:** Prior to the start of a race, if the wind is gusting to 25 knots and there is a strong breeze forecast, or there is no wind, the race will be abandoned. The following flags will be hoisted on the Start Boat to advise the race is abandoned. In addition, boats will be notified by radio VHF Channel 72.

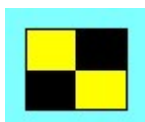


Code flag N over Code Flag A



RACE ABANDONED NO FURTHER RACING TODAY

ADDITIONAL START INFORMATION



Code Flag 'L' (Stored in a plastic bag in the equipment box.)

When additional information* is to be communicated to all boats before the start of a race the code L flag should be displayed on the Start Boat. Boats should carefully approach the Start

Boat to receive the information. In addition, a message will be broadcast on the radio. VHF Channel 72.

* For example: A mark of the course is missing.

27. **RACE FINISH.** As boats cross the finish line, record their time on the Finish Sheet in 24-hour format. During the winter months when the start time is Eastern Standard Time 12.00 Noon, the time limit expires at 4.00 pm. During the summer months when the start time is Eastern Summer Time 1.00 pm, the time limit expires at 5.00 pm.

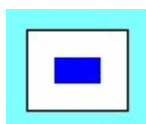
28. When any part of the boat crosses the finish line that boat has finished. Normally the front of the bow. The boat must subsequently cross the finish line in its entirety.

There are separate finish sheets for each fleet. Blue & Yellow. Transcribe the times on the finish sheet onto the Master Finish Sheet. Boats will have a divisional colour pennant on their backstay.

29. **RADIO COMMUNICATION:** VHF Channel 72 should be monitored to keep contact with the PAC fleet. All communications with other sailing club start boats to be via VHF Channel 77.

30. **SHORTENED COURSE.** In the case of a shortened course, the Finish Line will be between a mark on the current course, The Start Boat will take up position at the new finish line and raise the code flag S and ensure it is anchored in a position to allow boats to leave the mark of the course to port or starboard as directed by the course selected on the day. In the event of a shortened course the Start Boat will broadcast the location of the new finish line.

Boats must keep well clear of the Finish Line, after finishing.



Code flag S

In selecting the marker buoy as to where to set up the shortened course, reference is to be made to the **2025 PAC Courses Control Sheet** as to the appropriate location where there is a common marker buoy for both fleets.

31. When the race time limit expires the Start Boat may return to base.

CHECK LIST OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE START BOAT

1. Starting buoy, anchor, chain and warp.
2. PAC START BOAT sign
3. Loud hailer.
4. Starting horn.
5. Pump for the starting horn.
6. Red and green flags. Code flags N, A, S, L & answering pennant.
7. Set of course numbers and yellow postponed course board.
8. Binoculars. If available
9. Mobile phone available, or timer set to Eastern Standard Time or Eastern Daylight Time as appropriate. Phone 1194
10. Sailing Instructions.
11. Start sheets. Complete with backing boards and clips.
12. Finish sheets. Complete with backing boards and clips.
13. Pencils.

RADIO CHANNELS:

VHF Channel 72	PAC Inter club communications
VHF Channel 16	General calling and distress channel
VHF Channel 77	Other Sailing Club Start Boats.

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BUOY & ANCHOR TACKLE

PAC BUOY

Valve

To inflate the buoy. Ensure the valve 'spring loaded thumb screw' is turned clockwise and pops up. (about 5 mm)
Attach the pump and pump up the buoy.
It does not have to be rock hard just slightly firm.

To deflate push 'spring loaded thumb screw' down and turn anticlockwise.

Snap shackle

2.5 metres

A lead weight is attached at 5 metres.
To sink the rope

TO ANCHOR
25 m 8mm
silver rope
2 m 6mm chain
3 kg anchor

12 KILO
WEIGHT
110 mm dia x 520 mm

The weight is necessary to make the buoy stand upright in the water.
Please ensure that the snap shackle directly under the buoy is securely attached before launching the tackle and buoy into the water.

**DO NOT THROW THE WEIGHT AND BUOY INTO THE WATER
THE SHEAR WEIGHT MAY RIP THE BOTTOM OFF THE BUOY.
LOWER THE WEIGHT AND BUOY GENTLY INTO THE WATER.**