Start On Shore
Equipment
Handheld VHF Radio :- operates on Ch 10 for race information and Direction from OOD
Watch / Timer
Sounder / Flags /
Course Card and Chart ( All boats competing should have copies of these)
Pens paper to record boats , Official Start time and hence time of finish of each boat
At least two persons on OOD duties .
Information for boats racing , the course to be sailed .
This may be decided prior to leaving the harbour and will be transmitted on Ch 10 prior to the race start .
Duties of the OOD .
Synchronize OOD’s Watch time with the competitors . This can be done by firstly calling “all yachts “ that in 5 minutes you will count down to a particular time on your (the OOD’s ) watch .
We hope that we can then use the advertised start time on the racing programme as the true start time .
Start Sequence :-

as all boats should be working on the same time , the 5 minute signal shall be given 5 mins before the official start time .A good blast on the HORN .
The next Signal is at 4 minutes, Short 2seconds
the next is at 1 minute ,2 seconds
then the Start signal ,3 seconds

If all boats start properly you may call on the radio ‘all clear’
If a boat or boats are deemed over the line at the start , two (2) very short blasts on the HORN will attract attention , and if possible , call out the names of these boat/s on Ch 10 .
But if too many boats are over the line then a general recall is sounded by a long blast of over 5 seconds on the HORN ,
and if possible start the start sequence again 5 mins after the previous start sequence , as above .

Finish

as boats cross the finish line record their finish time and sound the horn .

The time of start is recorded , and the finish times of each boat , so that the corrected times can now be applied to the boats in the race to determine the places .

If they are available flags or flag boards may be used either on shore ( Boards ) or afloat Flags .
5 mins flag is Blue with white square and short blast

4 mins short blast
1 min short blast ,
start signal lower the Flag .

Individual over the line raise this flag again and give (2) short blasts ,and if possible alert the offender by radio (Ch 10) and when you have deemed that these boats have recrossed properly lower the flag . NO SIGNAL .

General Recall is long blast , notify all boats that this is so and go and start the procedure again asap as per above .

Finish
At the finish have a plain blue flag flying , and record the finish time of each boat .

We would hope that before going out racing , we would have decided the course to be sailed and this information given to the OOD’s .
In the event of the course being shortened , this would be transmitted by radio (Ch 10)

This may/could happen if , for example there were two circuits of the sailing course to be done , the wind disappeared , it would be better then to finish earlier .
We would hope that most races be of about 90/100 mins duration , depending on conditions etc.

The races are there as fun events and to enable us all to improve our sailing skills , while some of us will take it serious , mmmm very serious , we must remember it’s the taking part that counts , to enjoy and have something to chat about over a pint or even a cup of tea …….