

**OOD Instructions**

***PCC Racing***

**2022/23 Club Racing Series**

**Before leaving for race:**

- Check weather forecast
- Check shipping movements at [www.bristolport.co.uk/shipping/tide-tracker](http://www.bristolport.co.uk/shipping/tide-tracker)
- A guide to the tide tracker can be found [here](#)

**Before the race:**

- Always maintain a listening watch on both CH12 (VTS) and CH37 / M1
- Use the callsign 'PCC Race Control' when communicating with both VTS and the PCC fleet
- Radio Bristol VTS on CH12 (write down answers where relevant):
  - o Give start time of race
  - o Ask if any changes have been made to the shipping movements published
  - o Ask if any inbound vessels are expected to swing
  - o Ask for clarification on timings: whether they're 'off berth' or 'lock exit'
- Choose course and start time (see 'Courses' below)
- Confirm the start / finish lines and start time with the Timekeeper
- Announce course, shipping movements and start time

**The race:**

- If relevant remind the fleet of the time cut off (two hours after start) and enforce if needed.
- If winds lighter than expected then consider shortening the course by removing marks, but remember this can only be done when the previous mark hasn't been rounded by any competitors
- Note the Notice of Race states "The OOD may extend the time cut off to 2.5 hours after the start to enable competitors to complete the course". Invoke if needed.

**After the race:**

- Thank the port for their assistance and advise when race complete

**Useful Contacts:**

- Bristol VTS: 01179 822257
- Sailing Sub-committee:
  - o Nick Duppa-Miller (J Star): 07977 414575
  - o Simon Britten (Hero): 07809 837442

**Setting a course:**

- The combination of weather conditions and course selected can affect the outcome of the race before it's started, so to ensure fair racing please choose a course that is predominantly windward / leeward (e.g. if the wind is from NW or SE then include Denny Island, unless Force 6+)
- Remember that the slower boats in the fleet take 50% longer to complete the course than the faster ones: unless there are no slower boats present, the fastest boats should be able to complete the course in 1:00 to 1:20.
- In a force 1- 2 or less, most boats will struggle to make progress into the tide, so the course should avoid marks in areas of strong tide (e.g. Newcome, Cockburn, Outfall) unless the fleet will round the mark around HW, or if it's neaps. If the wind strength is uncertain then set a longer course that can be shortened.
- If the wind is a force 6 or above then avoid the extremities of our racing area (e.g. Outfall, Newcome, Denny Island) as they're more exposed and further away from safe haven.
- If in any doubt contact a member of sailing subcommittee via mobile phone.

**Bristol Port Company:**

- PCC top of the tide races rely on the goodwill of the Bristol Port Company.
- The course set shouldn't put the racing fleet off either Portbury or Avonmouth dock when inbound/outbound shipping is expected.
- There is an option to delay the start time by 10 minutes or longer if it helps avoid shipping, you can also abort and restart the race if it will avoid an incident.
- Shipping may 'swing' across the channel: on a flooding tide, shipping may pass the lock before turning sharply to port, so stemming the tide as approaching the lock.
- It takes up to an hour to get a large vessel from her berth and through the lock and vice versa – make sure you're clear on whether a departure/arrival time relates to the berth or lock

**More information:**

- The Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions provides more detail on the club racing organised by PCC and can be found on the PCC website.