

BDYC RACING STARTS AND CONDUCT GUIDE

Time	Committee Boat Displays	Sound Signal	Signal Meaning
5 minutes prior to start	Pennant(s) of fleet(s) next to start hoisted	1 bang or short whistle	5 minute warning of which fleet(s) start(s) next. ("Warning Signal")
4 minutes prior to start	Flag P (I, Z, black) hoisted	1 bang or short whistle	Next start fleet(s) be prepared to start in 4 minutes ("Preparatory Signal")
1 minute prior to start	Flag P comes down	1 long whistle or 1 bang	1 minute to start
Start	Fleet pennant(s) come down	1 bang or short whistle	Start! ("Start Signal")

Notes

- a) For evening races at BDYC, the above sequence is normally repeated 4 times with 1 minute in between each sequence. If participation is low combinations of fleets are likely – please watch out for the flags.
- b) The 1st start is usually for **fleet 1** (centerboards)
- c) The 2nd start is usually for **fleet 4** (keelboats whose skippers have declared that they will race white sail. The declaration form is posted in the club and must be signed before the series start)
- d) The 3rd start is usually for **fleet 2** (keelboats under .970 handicap)
- e) The 4th start is usually a combined start for **fleet 3** (all remaining keelboats) and fleet 5 (multihulls)
- f) For Saturday dinghy races, sound signals consist of short whistle sounds (warning, preparatory, and start signal) and a long whistle sound 1 minute prior to start.
- g) **Prior to the warning signal, the race committee shall signal or otherwise designate the course to be sailed if this has not been pre-determined at a skipper's meeting before boats leave the harbour.**
- h) **At any time before the Start Signal, the race committee may for any reason signal a race postponement (display flag AP with two sounds) and then broadcast a 'race postponed' announcement via VHF radio on channel 68. Whenever the race committee signals a postponement, race participants are advised to verify the designated course posted on the committee boat. It may have changed.**
- i) **The race committee will signal an end of postponement by lowering the AP flag (one sound) and broadcasting a 'postponement ended' announcement. If the race postponement was announced during a fleet's five minute countdown sequence, the fleet receives a new Warning Signal one minute after the postponement ends. This Warning Signal begins a new five minute countdown to the fleet's race start.**
- j) **Race postponed & postponement ended announcements are the only VHF communications that the race committee broadcasts to participating boats. Race participants shall not respond via radio to these announcements. A participating boat may issue radio communication with the race committee only in the event of an emergency.**
- k) This is an abbreviated summary only. **For complete rules, right-of-way, protests, pennants, etc., see the BDYC Sailing Instructions and the Racing Rules of Sailing 2017-2020** ([http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingRRS20172020-\[20946\].pdf](http://www.sailing.org/tools/documents/WorldSailingRRS20172020-[20946].pdf))

