Race Recording – From Check-in notes to Finish sheets – It all matters

Overview / The Big Picture

- Many types of Races and Boats
- Multiple pieces to a Race
    - o Marks
    - o Sound signals
    - o Visual signals (course, bearing, flags, bravo flags)
    - o Weather and sea conditions
- Multiple components of the Race Committee, each with a role
    - o Signal boat, Mark boats, Pin boat, Safety boat, etc.
    - o PRO/DPRO, Timer, Recorder(s), Sounds, Flags, Wind, Anchor Yanker, Driver, etc.
- Familiarize yourself with the Sailing Instructions for each event you support.
- Synch your watch to the GPS time of your timer.
- Your awareness of these components helps you know what to record.
  Your records enable the potential reconstruction and fair scoring of each race.

What is important about each of these?

- Marks
    - o Location?   Original or Change?
    - o Time set, time pulled out?
- Visual signals
    - o Course posted on SIG (when, what)
    - o Start sequence flags and action (up, down)
    - o Change flags (Charlie, Sierra) and delay flags (AP, November)
- Sounds
    - o Start sequence sounds   (what type) or their absence
    - o Random sounds (someone sits on a horn)
    - o Other RC sounds (Attention, Charlie, AP, etc.)
- Weather
    - o Wind readings (speed and direction, from which boat)
    - o Current (speed and direction)
- Check-in
    - o Who is racing (safety), number starting in each class/fleet
- RC Actions
    - o PRO decisions, Announcements to racers, calling the line
    - o RC boat anchored, boat off-anchor, mark set time
- Radio chatter
    - o Weather changes, current
    - o Racer observed in trouble, racer observed doing circles

- First/last boat around, tail-end charlie

<u>The responsibility for recording race details is allocated to every boat</u>, to record what happens on <u>your</u> boat and to ensure multiple sources of other information that can be cross-checked.

For each RC boat:

- Check-in
    - Use Scratch Sheets to identify which boats show up, which boats check in.
    - Use this to count the number starting in each class/fleet ("is everyone here?")
    - Inform the PRO and SIG Recorder
    - As needed, snap clear picture of check-in sheets and send to SIG and/or Scorer
- Weather (Wx) Mark Boat, Leeward Mark Boat
    - Marks – When dropped and where (lat/lon), when picked up
    - Changes – When and how executed
    - Roundings showing sequence of sail numbers/times
        - WxMB tells SIG the times of first, last around for each group
    - Racer behavior – boat doing circles, boat flying Bravo, boat having problems
    - Weather – Wind readings initially every 10 minutes, so even when boat is busy (under power) you can always respond with "Our last reading was…".
      After course is set, record at a frequency appropriate for the conditions.
- Pin Boat
    - A mobile Pin Boat may have responsibilities similar to LMB, WxMB above regarding Weather notes, Racer observations, Changes, Rounding
    - An anchored Pin Boat is also responsible for recording Starts and/or Finishes
- Signal Boat
    - SIG Recorder is the collector of information from other RC boats
        - Mark locations, times, changes
        - First, last boats around, other relevant racer actions
        - Weather
    - Starts – may have two recorders
        - Record start sequence (signals what/when)
        - Capture info to identify racers over early, and those cleared
        - Provide list of OCS boats to person calling racers
    - Finishes – may have multiple recorders
        - Sail/bow number sequence with times
            - One-design: time for first boat
            - Handicap racers: time for every boat
            - DO NOT try to separate intermingled classes (scoring does that)
            - If numbers aren't clear or known, use other info sources
            - Print clearly
        - Bravo flags noted? Radio hails for intent to protest?

- - Any boats cross the finish line a second time?   Any do circles?

    - Information to Scorer
        - Race distance, average wind speed, etc.
        - Time of each race start
        - Cross-checked and legible list of finishes
    - Dock time – sent to Scorer ASAP   (phone call, text, whatever)
    - Information to Jury
        - Boats OCS that did not clear
        - Boats incurring other on-the-water penalties
        - Racers indicating intent to protest

Why is all of this important?

- Safety: Are all racers accounted for after a distance race?
- Scoring: Sometimes multiple sources contribute to a correct understanding of the finish sequence, such as when a boat is missed at the finish line but was recorded at the last rounding. Sometimes a vital piece of paper blows overboard, and the backup becomes the official record.
- Race reconstruction: post-race there may be a need to examine the sequence of events or confirm details, whether for a protest, a request for redress, etc. This can occur the same day or months later (it has happened).

Yikes! How do I learn all of this?

- The SIG Recorder is the busiest person on the boat
- Learning is progressive, from smaller roles to larger roles
- Pay attention, learn as you go
- And always - print clearly!

Attachments:

   Example recorder notes

   Background info (roles, courses, boats)

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