

First things first... *THANK YOU!*

Without a depth of Committee Boat captains, we simply do not have a racing program. Your experience on the water both as sailors and racers is what makes our racing program great!

As Captain, you are the final word on the water with regard to races...period.

While the Race Coordinator will plan the courses and coordinate various race-related activities, you have the overriding veto when it comes to safety, shortening or modifying the course or making other calls on the water as you see necessary, based on your experience.

While it would be impractical to list all of the "Do's and Don'ts" of being in charge of the Committee Boat, the below guidelines should help you focus on your duties during race nights:

-Weather: If severe weather threatens and you feel uncomfortable in continuing (or even heading out to set the course), that is your decision to make. You will have helpers aboard, but there is only one captain...*You*. You may ask for their advice, but it is ultimately your call, and it does not matter if it is an unpopular decision.

Again, this is why it is so important that we have a pool of captains, so they can each experience what it's like to have to sometimes make these tough calls.

You make the call, and it will not be contested. This is a tradition that has followed people since the very first time sailors took to the sea. It is not a democracy on the water, and the captain's word is law.

-Number of helpers

You will need at least two people to get the boat underway and run a race (one captain, and one helper).

If there are not enough helpers, then do not go out. While that may sound unfair, this may help motivate more people to volunteer for Committee Boat duty.

This is an unbreakable rule...two people on the Committee Boat, or there's no race.

In the past when this has happened (not often) there have been people serving as crew on other sailboats who have jumped in to help. This is acceptable.

-Underway time

The committee boat should leave the dock no later than an hour before race start time.

That might sound like a long time, but you'll be amazed at how fast the time goes!

For our 6pm start time, this means leaving the dock no later than 5pm, which means captain and crew should plan on arriving no later than 4:45.

Races typically last about an hour (sometimes more...sometime less, depending on the wind and the course layout)

-Safety: This sailing club exists for the enjoyment of all who participate. While racing, by nature, is competitive, it is not in this club's charter that it should be excessively so. Races should be fun, and competition should be good-natured, and spirited, not overly competitive to the point where arguments follow the races.

-Please keep the bimini top down. It has been requested that we not use the bimini top, due to the damage caused to the upholstery earlier in the year. If you get hot, there is a retractable swim ladder port side, amidship.

-No smoking aboard the committee boat. As stated above, we had an almost \$700 repair on the boat. All it takes is a stray ash to ruin it again. We also need to remember that this is not LCSA's boat...it is the personally owned boat of an LCSA member who generously allows us to use it on a weekly basis and we need to treat it as such.

-Shortening course. If the wind is less than expected when you go out to set the marks, you have the option of shortening the course or even changing the finish line (this will be explained later).

-Be sure that at least one person on the committee boat is running RaceQs. This will greatly assist the race coordinator in helping to "build" the racecourse in RaceQs.

-Accurately start and time race. Be sure you know "who's who" as the boats begin to finish. The race coordinator may not always be on the committee boat or participating in a race, so whatever times you record are all he has to work with.

-Take pictures of the boats as they check in with you if you can. It's always a lot of fun to see pictures of your boat out there.

-Let out almost all of the anchor line, regardless of wind condition. This is a request from the committee boat owner that we do this.

We should be letting out all of the anchor line until there's only one turn on the drum. Be sure the committee boat is not dragging anchor.

-In the event of a discrepancy or challenge to the finishing times you record, I will always defer to what you have written down.

RaceQs is not an "official" time standard, and should only be used to enhance situational awareness.

If I receive a complaint about a recorded time, I will back up your decision and will accept the criticism. That should not be your burden to bear.

-In the event of a collision between any two racing boats, please let the race coordinator know.

-In the event of a collision between any boat and the committee boat, please let the race coordinator know.

-In the event of any damage (docking, hitting an object just beneath the surface, etc.), that could cause damage that might not be realized until later, please let the race coordinator know.

Thank you all again for your willingness to help out in the racing component of the club by serving as Committee Boat captains!

If you have any questions, please let me know.