

UWSC Session Management

A Quick Summary

We want to make full use of our club time on the lake and so we have designated a session start and end time when the lake will be available for all members to participate in their chosen activity. For this to work the “officers” must be prepared in advance and adhere to the schedule for the session. There can be problems, SB engine won’t start, traffic delays etc, and we need members who are present and not on duty to help out and undertake as much of the preparation as possible. In particular, on Saturdays, we need members who are wishing to race to carry out do all of the preparation work that the Race Officer would normally do prior to the start of the race.

There is always quite a lot involved in running the session and the race. To hit the session and subsequent race times all of the team need to be at the club at least 30 mins before the start of the session. In addition, because we are encouraging members to turn up and sail/paddleboard at any time during the session, it is important for the ‘team’ to remain on site for its duration and not just close because the race was abandoned due to lack of sailors.

Details

For each session there is usually a team of three “Officers” on duty to ensure safe and successful running. The exception to this rule is Saturdays when only two “Officers” are on duty.

The Officers are:

Duty Officer (DO) who is responsible for the overall management of the session and is usually in charge of the safety boating. They, along with Assistant Duty Officer, must be in or close by the safety boat during the session.

Assistant Duty Officer (ADO) who, under the direction of the DO, undertakes a range of tasks that need to be completed prior to the start of, and during, the session.

Race Officer (RO) Who is responsible for the overall planning and management of any racing taking place.

These are three distinct roles but in order for a session to run successfully, they must work as a team. All must carry a VHF radio to be in communication at all times.

Session start times and duration

Each Club session now has a specified start and finish time and prescribed activities that can take place during that session. These are given in the session calendar.

The session team is responsible for making safety boat cover available from the start time of the session until the session ends either by reaching the prescribed end time or because there are no boats or boards on the water 30 minutes before this end time.

Sailing and Stand up Paddleboarding (SUP)

The session calendar identifies when these activities can take place. The session actually starts when the club flag is flying from the mast close to the surf shack and no boats or boards/ canoes can be in use on the water until the flag is raised.

Racing

The racing calendar identifies the type of racing and the start time of the first race of the session.

The course details should be given to the DO as soon as possible but in any case, no later than 30 minutes before the start of the race.

The course details and all necessary instructions should be displayed on the white board again as soon as possible and no later than 30 minutes before the race.

The race briefing will take place 30 minutes before the start and indicated by ringing the bell 5 minutes before. In the case of a pursuit race the start times by boat class must be displayed on the white board. The scratch boat will be the known boat at the time of the briefing. Late comers are welcome but if they would be a new scratch boat in the fleet they will start at the same time as the scratch boat identified during the briefing.

The RO should aim to be on the start line 10 minutes before the start to allow for minor adjustments to the orientation of the start line and positions of the buoys marking the course. (Note to carry the VHF radios).

The first sound signal should be made as close to the planned start at time as reasonably possible, it is not necessary to wait for late comers.

Saturday Sessions

As previously noted there are only two officers, DO and ADO, on duty for Saturday sessions. Between them they have to provide safety cover for those on the water for the duration of the session and to prepare and run the racing. These two responsibilities are not entirely compatible in that the DO cannot provide safety cover while briefing for the race.

For the session to run smoothly and without interruption It is necessary for one of the members who intends to race to set the course and conduct the briefing. This leaves the DO and ADO to position the buoys and start and finish the race. It is always possible that an incident occurs that requires the DO's attention at the start or during the race. In this instance it is necessary for all racers to know their own start time and keep a note of their position.