

RACE COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

These guidelines are provided for the Race Committee's use when deciding whether to start, postpone, shorten, or abandon a race. They are not rules, and each Race Committee is encouraged to make decisions based upon prevailing conditions. For example, the upper limit for wind would be lower for the Wife Husband or any event held on open water than it would be for a North American Championship or any event held on an inland lake. These guidelines are mainly intended for use in sanctioned regattas but may be used by any FS race committee.

WIND LIMITS

FSSA prefers not to race in winds less than 4 knots (5 MPH) or greater than 17 knots (20 MPH), nor in gusts greater than 21 knots (24 MPH). Local conditions should dictate how these guidelines are being applied. The following conditions should be considered when deciding to start, postpone, shorten or abandon a race.

- Wave and chop conditions
- Dangerous weather
- Air/Water temperature
- Number of crew on the majority of boats (2 or 3)
- Is your rescue capability (including number and type of rescue boats, their equipment, and the skill of their personnel) sufficient for the prevailing conditions?
- The likelihood that a significant number (greater than 25%) ~~number~~ of those competing would be non-starters because of prevailing conditions.

LENGTH OF RACES

For the NAC, the distance from the starting line to the first mark should be about 0.8-1.2 miles depending upon wind velocity so that the windward leg is about 15-20 minutes for the first boat. Consider postponing if a first leg of that length cannot be sailed in that time. For non-NAC regattas, shorter courses can be set, depending on wind conditions and how many races are scheduled each day.

ELAPSED TIME

For the NAC, the elapsed time of the race should be 70-90 minutes for the first boat to finish. This can be adjusted depending upon how many races are scheduled for that day, or how many races must be completed for a series. Class rules do not allow more than three races in any one day. FSSA prefers not to be on the water for more than 6 hours per day including the time it takes to sail to and from the course area. For non-NAC regattas, the elapsed time of the race should be 45-60 minutes if more than two races are scheduled per day, or if two races are scheduled in a half-day (typically Sunday mornings for weekend regattas).

Race Committees are encouraged to set the course length to the prevailing conditions. In the event it appears that the race will not be completed within the stated time limit, it is recommended that leg lengths be adjusted to achieve the target time.

GENERAL RECALLS

The Flying Scot class is less aggressive than a number of classes. If the general recall is due to an overly aggressive fleet (versus the length or angle of the starting line), FSSA prefers to re-start with no penalty flags or a slow escalation up the penalty flags (I or Z, then I with Z, then U). In subsequent races, FSSA prefers to revert back to the P flag again before using penalty flags.

When the regatta includes more than one start, due to having more than one Division, FSSA prefers that the starting sequence for each subsequent Division be treated as if it were the first start of the day, versus beginning with penalty flags if they were used in the previous Division's starting sequence.

COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

FSSA prefers for part or all of the starting sequence countdowns to be announced over the radio and for the sail/bow numbers of OCS boats to be announced over the radio. These communications are not required. However, the skill level of participants in our Championships covers the entire spectrum from high to low, and they will enjoy the Championship much more when this information is communicated.