

Lake Cootharaba Haliai

LCSC Flags

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Course Flags

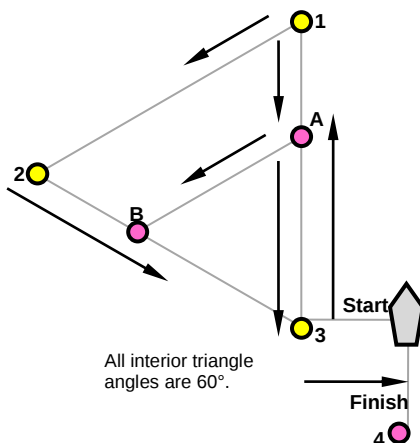
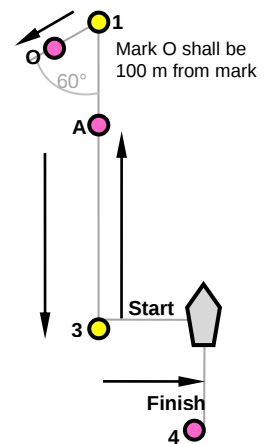
The courses:

Diagram for Course 1 on the right: The wind comes straight from the top of the page. You as a Vagabond start at the start line in between the start boat and the yellow mark 3 (called "pin" end of start line) and then tack (zigzag) up to mark A (pink spherical buoy), leave it on your left (port) side, sail down to mark 3, leave it on your port side and go up again. In a race you go three times to mark A. When you come to mark 3 on your last leg instead of going all around you leave it port and proceed to the finish line (pink buoy) below the "start" boat.

Course 1 is indicated by a flag called **Numeral Pennant 1**: , usually hoisted in the front of our start boat.

Marks 1 and O are used by the faster boats and don't concern you.

Course 1 gets usually sailed in the morning or when there is strong wind.



Course 2 (left diagram) is indicated by **Numeral Pennant 2**:  and is usually sailed in the afternoon. It is a triangle course where after the start you first sail up (zigzag) to Mark A, then proceed (reach over) to pink Mark B, **where you gybe** and reach to mark 3 - leave all marks to your port side. For the second lap you tack up to mark A and go straight down (goosewing?) to mark 3, then for the last lap tack up again to A, reach over to B for gybing, reach to 3 (leaving it port) and sail through the finish line.

Start Flags

Besides the course flag in the front of the boat there also is an **orange flag** raised about 5 min before the start sequence to indicate the start boat is in position. Furthermore, the staff of this flag is the actual end mark of the start line.

For club racing there are four divisions to start:

Division 1, catamarans with flag G ,

Division 2, fast monohulls and Division 4, beginners, both with the same flag F ,

Division 3, Weta with flag E .

You, in the Vagabond are in Division 4 and start with the **red diamond flag F** .

Usually the catamarans start first, then you and the other monohulls, and the Wetas last. The starter may change the order of starts.

It may be that the starter combines two divisions for the start and two flags go up. Or all those 3 division flags are raised together and the whole fleet starts together. You need to watch for your flag.

Warning signals during start sequence:

When your flag F goes up you have 3 min to start.

1 min after your flag F went up a so-called **preparatory flag** (see below) goes up. You have 2 min before your start.

1 min later the preparatory flag comes down, you have 1 min to start. You or your crew loudly should count the seconds down to the start.

At your start your division flag F comes down. Good luck in the race :).

Each flag raising or lowering should be accompanied by a sound signal (hooter). The hooter for the last 1-minute warning before the start should be considerably longer than the other hooters.

Preparatory flags:

there are different preparatory flags. Usually, LCSC only uses the **P flag**, called "blue Peter" (white square on blue).

If you have been too early you just go back over the start line and start again. There would be an **"Individual Recall" flag (blue cross on white)** hoisted with one hooter to let you know at least one boat in the fleet was too early.

If a lot of boats were too early and the start boat people could not identify who it was, they may raise a **"First Substitute" flag (yellow and blue pointy thing)** for a general recall with two hooters and everybody comes back and the whole procedure starts again.

For the different flags see: http://game.finckh.net/reg_gbr/rrs_racesign.htm. It would be good if you would learn what those other preparatory flags meant i.e. flags I, Z, U and Black flag which all could be used instead of the P (Blue Peter) flag. Explanations are here:

http://game.finckh.net/reg_gbr/rrs_30.htm. These flags all refer to different forms of punishment if you went over the start line early, meaning if you were on the course side of the start line within the 1 minute before the start. For example with the P flag (white square on blue) as preparatory flag you would just have to "dip" back over the line and start again, with the I flag (black circle on yellow) as preparatory flag you would have to go around the end of the start line so either around the start boat or around the yellow start mark to go back behind the line to start again.

Please practise rules for starting: http://game.finckh.net/situat/tit_gbr/start_e.htm