

Starts

Objectives

Reach start line on time, with good speed, good position on the line, having clear air.

Start Sequence Timing

Horns & flags @ 5 4 1 0

Rules Considerations

Over Early/get below the line, no rights

Hitting mark/360, no rights

Barging

Starting Techniques/Strategies

Reach out/Reach In—simple, but very popular (traffic jams) and easy to get caught barging or pushed over the line early

Port tack approach—pick your spot then tack, avoids the traffic jam

Vanderbilt—little flexibility to change your spot on the line, bad when the wind shifts

Dinghy—need quick acceleration and good boat handling skills to keep a position on the line

Other Considerations

Choosing where along the line to start (where do you want to go after the start). If not sure, aim for the middle of the line.

Timing the line. How long will it take to beam reach the length of the line?

Favored end of the line, ways to determine which end is favored

Avoid port tack starts

Boat Handling Skills Needed for a Good Start

Tack and jibe quickly; hold position when head-to-wind; slow down; fall off and accelerate.