



10 Beach St, Seaholme 3018
2025-2026 Club Racing Season

Sailing Instructions

[DP] – A rule for which the penalty is at the discretion of the protest committee.

1. RULES

- 1.1 Races will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the Special Regulations of Australian Sailing (AS), Part 2 for Off-the-Beach Boats, and their Class rules.
- 1.2 Boats racing with a sail number other than that registered in the Clubs Entry System or as advised in writing to the Race Committee prior to the warning signal of the first race of the day will be scored Did Not Start (DNC) without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4, A5, and G4.

2. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI)

- 2.1 Changes to the Sailing Instructions made ashore will be posted a minimum of 30 minutes before the start of the first race on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races shall be posted by 1200 on the Saturday before the first race day on which it will take effect.
- 2.2 Changes to the Schedule of Races will be posted at least three (3) days prior to the day that the change is to take effect.

3. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMPETITORS

- 3.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located near the entrance to the boat shed and/or at <https://www.altonayachtclub.org.au>
- 3.2 [DP] Except in an emergency, a boat that is racing shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications that are not available to all boats.

4. CODE OF CONDUCT

- 4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the main flagpole in front of the Altona Yacht Club Clubhouse.

- 5.2 When Flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 30 minutes'. This changes Race Signals AP.
- 5.3 [DP] Flag D with one sound means 'Boats shall not leave the harbour'. The warning signal will not be made before the scheduled time or less than 45 minutes after flag D is removed with one sound.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 6.1 Race dates and time of first warning signals are scheduled as per the Altona Yacht Club Season 2025-2026 Racing Calendar and are available at <https://www.altonayachtclub.org.au/events/> and are amended from time to time.
- 6.2 The Sailing Committee may vary the Racing Calendar by displaying written notice of the change on the Notice Board at least one week before the change is to take effect.
- 6.3 Where the Racing Calendar designates a day as a "Re-Sail Day" for a particular series, any races in that series which have not been conducted according to the Racing Calendar may be sailed on that day.
- 6.4 Where the Sailing Committee varies the Racing Calendar, or where a race is re-sailed, the handicaps for the rescheduled race shall be those current as at the date on which the race is, in fact, sailed.
- 6.5 Unless otherwise specified in the Racing Calendar, the scheduled time of the warning signal for the first race of each race day is 1400 (as defined by GPS timing).
- 6.6 There will be two (2) races scheduled per day other than those races listed in Appendix B.
- 6.7 Extra races may be sailed on any day provided that racing does not become more than one (1) race ahead of schedule.
- 6.8 The Race Committee may signal AP over A after the final race of the day to signal "no more races will be started."

7. DIVISION AND CLASS FLAGS

7.1 Class/Division Class Flag

Class/Division flags will be either:

Div	Boats	Flag
1	All multihulls	Numeral Pennant 1
2	All monohulls	Numeral Pennant 2

Or

Div	Boats	Flag
1	Multihulls over 16 feet	Numeral Pennant 1
2	Multihulls 16 feet or less	Numeral Pennant 2
3	Monohulls with yardstick under 118	Numeral Pennant 3
4	Monohulls with yardstick equal to or above 118	Numeral Pennant 4
5	Junior/Novice	Numeral Pennant 5

8. RACING AREAS

8.1 The racing area will be on Port Phillip Bay near Altona.

8.2 Navigational markers, channel markers, and other aids to navigation are placed by Ports **Victoria** or other relevant authorities. They indicate hazards and form part of these Sailing Instructions. These marks are deemed **obstructions** under the *Racing Rules of Sailing*.

8.3 All boats shall:

8.3.1 Keep clear of navigation marks and hazards.

8.3.2 Pass all markers on the correct side as designated.

8.3.3 Exercise caution when in proximity to any hazard indicated by a marker.

8.4 Specific Hazards:

8.4.1 **Wise's (Seaholme) Reef:** Marked by a **port lateral mark**. All boats must pass on the seaward side and keep clear of the reef.

8.4.2 **Altona Reef:** Altona Reef is a submerged rocky reef marked by a South Cardinal mark. Vessels are warned that parts of the reef may be just under water, particularly at low tide.

8.4.3 **Altona Boat Ramp Area:** Navigational hazards exist around the ramp. Boats must maintain a safe distance, observe local markers, and proceed with caution.

8.5 Any boat that fails to comply with this clause, shall be subject to protest and may be disqualified **without redress (this changes RRS 61.1)**.

9. COURSES

9.1 Examples of Courses to be sailed are described in Appendix A. These are approximate and may vary in configuration at the discretion of the Race officer and Organising Authority (OA)

9.2 The course to be sailed will be drawn on the whiteboard in at the entrance to the boatshed and described during the briefing prior to racing

9.3 The course diagrams for each division will be displayed on the board at the entrance to the boat shed.

9.4 The course for the Commodore's Club Championship, Bill Smith Trophy, Fred Manning Handicap and Jack Bradley Handicap shall consist of a common course configuration for all boats.

9.5 The Commodore's Club Championship will be either all common windward-leewards or all common triangles, or all common trapezoids or other common course as specified by the Race officer and Organising Authority (OA)

9.6 The Red mark denoting the end of Seaholme Reef (Wise's Reef) is a mark of the course. As a consequence, all boats must pass this mark on its seaward side. Failure to observe this rule will result in disqualification (DSQ) without redress.

9.7 Altona Reef represents a navigational hazard (and is designated as an obstruction) and as such the Course Layer shall attempt to not lay any course where the rhumb line between two marks passes closer than within one hundred meters of the South Cardinal mark denoting the reef.

10. MARKS

- 10.1 The start mark will be a floating staff displaying an orange flag.
- 10.2 Marks 1, 2, 3 and 4 will be cylindrical inflatable pink buoys.
- 10.3 The ID Mark will be a conical inflatable orange buoy.
- 10.4 The Finish Mark is to be either:
 - 10.4.1 a cylindrical inflatable yellow buoy for a Tower Finish; or
 - 10.4.2 a floating staff displaying an orange flag
- 10.5 New marks will be as provided in Instruction 12

11. THE START

- 11.1 To aid in identification of when a starting sequence is about to commence, an orange flag will be displayed on the Committee boat no less than 5 minutes prior to the commencement of a race.
- 11.2 The starting line is between a staff displaying an orange flag on the race committee vessel (RCV) at the starboard-end and the port-end start mark.
- 11.3 The starting procedure shall be:

Signal	Flag	Minutes before Start
Warning	Class Flag	3
Preparatory	P, U or Black Flag	2
One-Minute	Preparatory removed	1
Start	Class Flag removed	0

This changes RRS 26.

- 11.4 [DP] Boats whose warning signal has not been made shall avoid the starting area during the starting sequence for other races.
- 11.5 Boats failing to start within 10 minutes after their starting signal will be scored DNS without a hearing. This changes RRS 63.1, A4, and A5.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 12.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.
- 12.2 The change shall be signalled by displaying Flag C with repetitive sounds, and a green triangular flag (for a change to starboard) or red rectangular flag (for a change to port) to indicate the location of the new course to be taken.
- 12.3 Subsequent legs of the course may be changed without further signalling to maintain the course shape.
- 12.4 Except at a gate, boats shall pass between the race committee vessel signalling the change of course and the nearby mark, leaving the mark to port and the race committee boat to starboard.

13. THE FINISH

13.1 The finish line shall be as notified in the pre-race briefing, and the club Notice Board prior to each day's racing.

13.2 The finish line shall be either:

13.2.1 Tower Finish: By rounding an ID mark thence passing between the Altona Yacht Club Tower and the finishing mark. Both marks are to be rounded on the port side; or

13.2.2 On Water Finish: Between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Race Committee Boat and the finishing mark (Orange flag on floating marker).

13.2.3 The finish line is an obstruction and any boat sailing through it, other than when finishing, shall be disqualified. [DP] Boats not racing shall stay clear of the finish line.

14. TIME LIMITS

14.1.1 Long Course: Boats failing to finish within 150 minutes, or within 30 minutes after the first boat in their division sails the course and finishes (whichever is later) will be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes Rules 35, A4 and A5.

14.1.2 Medium Courses (back to back races): Boats failing to finish within 90 minutes or within 20 minutes after the first boat in their division sails the course and finishes (whichever is later) shall be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes Rules 35, A4 and A5.

14.1.3 Short Courses: Boats failing to finish within 60 minutes or within 15 minutes after the first boat in their division sails the course and finishes (whichever is later) shall be scored Did Not Finish without a hearing. This changes Rules 35, A4 and A5.

15. HEARING REQUESTS

15.1.1 Protest forms are available from the Race Office. Protests shall be delivered to the Race Office within the protest time limit.

15.1.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day. The same protest time limit applies to all protests by the race committee and protest committee and to requests for redress. This changes rules 61.3 and 62.2.

15.1.3 Notices shall be posted within 30 minutes of the protest or the protest time limit, on the official notice board located at desk in the boat shed where competitors sign on, to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings shall be held in the upstairs observation lounge as soon as practicable.

15.1.4 For the purpose of rule 64.3(b) the 'authority responsible' is the measurer appointed by the organizing authority.

15.1.5 Breaches of Instructions 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, or **Error! Reference source not found.** shall not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes rule 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the protest committee so decides.

15.1.6 Breaches by the Race Committee or Sailing Committee of Instructions 6.2, **Error! Reference source not found.**, 17.6, 17.7, or 20 shall not be grounds for a request for redress. This changes Rule 60.1(b).

16. SCORING

- 16.1 Boats that join the series after one or more completed races will be given the DNC score for each earlier race.
- 16.2 When a class boat is replaced by one of the same design during the season, the aggregate points scored will carry forward to the replacement boat. The replacement boat shall be allocated a provisional handicap.
- 16.3 A replacement boat of a different design, class or change of ownership, shall be deemed to be a new entry.
- 16.4 Only boats listed on the Club's register that have submitted a season entry will be eligible to score series aggregate points.
- 16.5 Boats owned, helmed or crewed by Club Members who have not paid their Annual Yacht Club Membership fees shall be ineligible to be awarded race points, until such time as the fees are paid
- 16.6 Casual entries will be ineligible for trophies or series points but may be eligible for any "prize-of-the-day" at the discretion of the Race Committee. This changes RRS A2.2.

16.7 The following races or series shall be scored as follows:

- 16.7.1 The **Commodore Club Championship** will be scored based on Yachting Victoria Yardsticks, with separate divisions for monohulls and multihulls.
- 16.7.2 The **Aggregate Series** will be scored based on Altona Y.C. Handicap. There will be separate divisions for: monohulls with yardstick under 120, monohulls with yardstick equal to or over 120, multihulls under 16 feet, multihulls equal to or over 16 feet, and Juniors.
- 16.7.3 The **Bill Smith Opening Day Trophy** will be scored as a combined fleet race, based on Yachting Victoria Yardsticks;
- 16.7.4 The **Jack Bradley Trophy** will be scored as a combined fleet race, with the winner being the boat with most improved Altona Y.C. Handicap on that day;
- 16.7.5 The **Fred Manning Handicap** race will be scored as a combined fleet race based on Altona Y.C. Handicap.
- 16.7.6 The **Short Course Series** will be scored based on Yachting Victoria Yardsticks, with separate divisions for monohulls with yardstick under 120, monohulls with yardstick equal to or over 120, multihulls under 16 feet, multihulls equal to or over 16 feet, and novices.
- 16.7.7 The **Biddy Hu Cup** will be sailed in Pacer Dinghies without spinnakers. The crew must comprise of one adult (18 years of age or older) and one child aged 13 years or younger. There will be no handicaps applied to the results. All races shall count for the final result.

16.8 Discards

Series	Races Completed	Discards
Aggregate Series	1-5	0
Six races are required to be completed to constitute a series	6-9	1
	10-15	2
	16 or more	4
Commodore's Championship Series		
Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series	1-4	0
	5-7	1
	8 or more	2

16.9 Occasionally Members may be required to assist with the manning of the Rescue Boats in order for a race to be safely conducted. On these occasions, the Member shall be compensated by their boat being awarded average points from the whole series that count. This is on the proviso that the Member notates 'Duty' on the Sign On/Off sheet of that day. Duty compensation points shall be awarded to a boat a maximum of three times within the current season. A boat which does not race because its crew are rostered for race management or other official club duties on a particular race day may request the Organising Authority (OA) for an allocated score. Applicants for allocated scores are to email the Sailing Secretary: sailingsecretary@altonayachtclub.org.au

16.10 Allocated scores will be applied as follows;

16.10.1 The boat's allocated race score shall be the average of her previous five (5) race scores within this current season, prior to the date of the missed scheduled race identified in the request, excluding other allocated race scores.. In the event that five races have not been completed, the score will be allocated once five races are completed.

16.10.2 The scores of other boats shall not be changed.

16.10.3 A boat may be given an allocated score for a maximum of 2 Club race days per season.

16.10.4 This changes RRS A4 and A5.

16.11 Handicap System

16.11.1 Mixed Class OTB Championship: Australian Sailing's Yardstick system shall be used.

16.12 The Race Officer shall be notified in writing at least three hours before the race of any substantial change to hull, rig or replacement sails which are likely to change performance.

17. Safety Regulations

17.1 To be eligible for points all boats shall be required to have undergone a safety check and the safety check form completed and given to the Sailing Committee.

17.2 Each boat competing in the day's racing program is required to sign on prior to commencing their first race of the day.

17.3 Competitors are also required to sign off when they have completed their last race for the day by completing the necessary declaration within 30 minutes of the last boat coming to shore.

17.4 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the sailing committee as soon as practical.

17.5 Any boat which fails to comply with Instructions 17.2, 17.3 or 17.4 may be disqualified without a hearing from any races sailed on the day on which she failed to comply, or given such other penalty as the Race Officer decides.

17.6 On Strong Wind Warning days, a Sailing Committee meeting shall be held two hours prior to the scheduled race start to ascertain if conditions are conducive for the safe conduct of racing. The Sailing Committee shall look at all future predictions on the weather for the race and vote on whether to race or abandon the event which may be sailed at a later date.

17.7 If the two-minute average wind speed is consistently over 22 knots within one hour of a scheduled race start, racing will be postponed.

18. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

18.1 Substitution of competitors shall not be allowed without the prior approval or notification of the Sailing Secretary, Handicapper or Tower Operator.

18.2 Substitution of damaged or lost equipment shall not be allowed unless approved by the race committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the committee at the first reasonable opportunity (which may be after the substitution is made).

19. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 19.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules and sailing instructions. On the water, a boat can be instructed by a race committee member to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection (but not during a race).

20. OFFICIAL BOATS

- 20.1 Official boats shall be marked as follows; 'ALTONA RESCUE' and 'ALTONA PATROL' or as otherwise advised on race days.

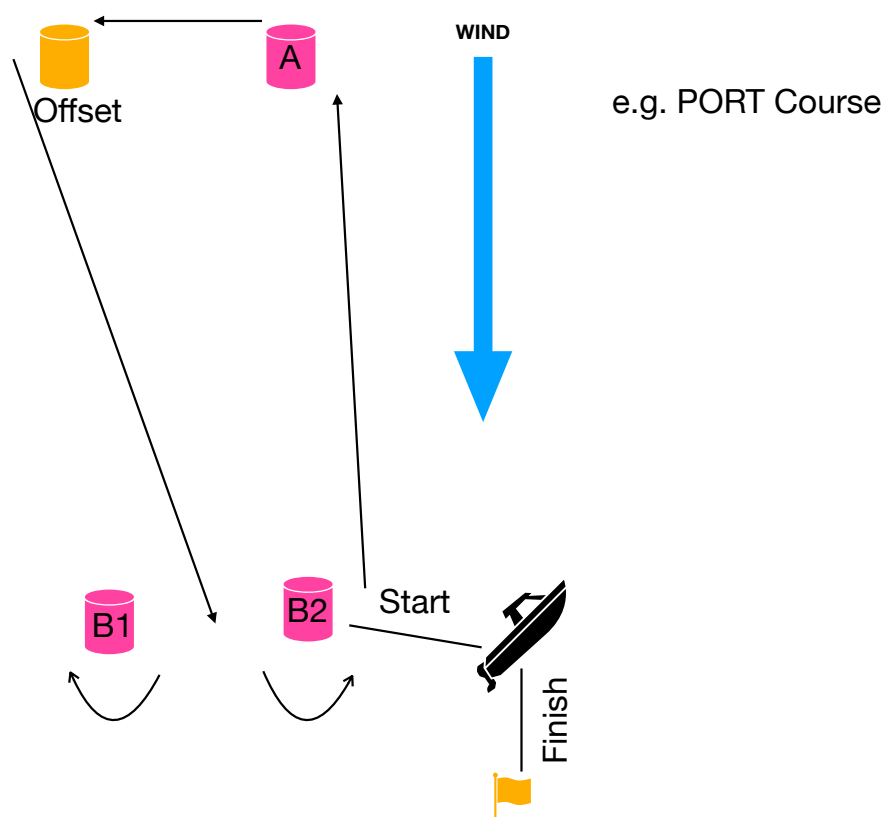
21. RISK STATEMENT

- 21.1 RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.

APPENDIX A – COURSES

EXAMPLES (Subject to Discretion of the Race Officer)

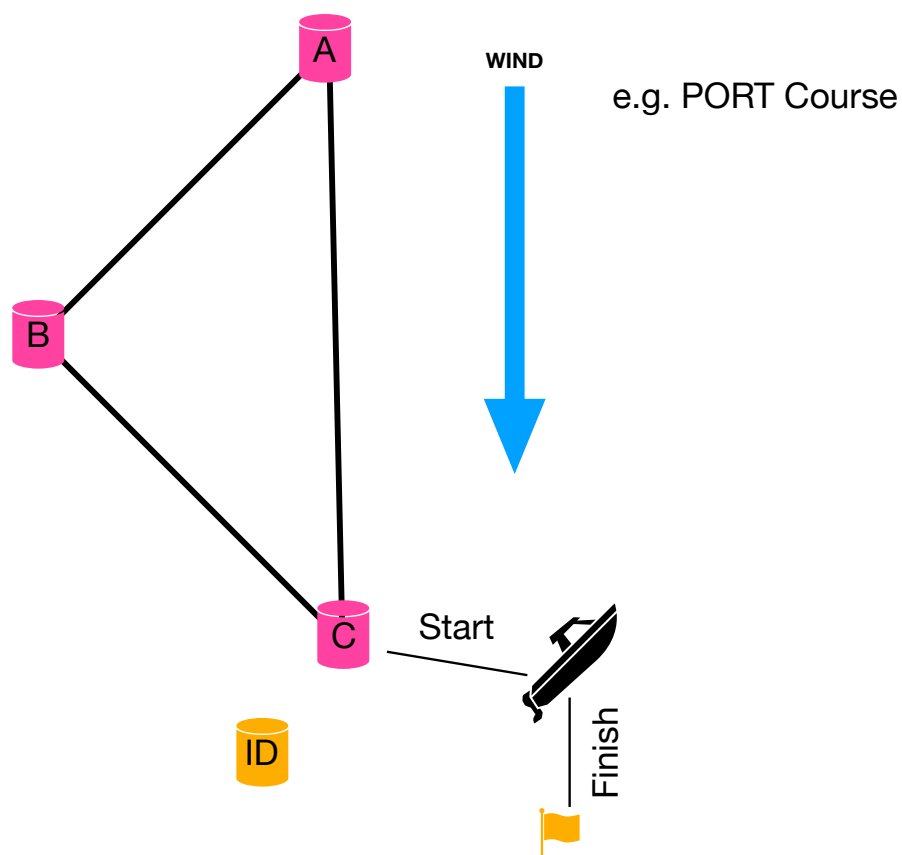
Windward – Leeward Course



Group	Mark Rounding Order
Mixed Fleet	e.g. Start - A – B1/B2 – A – B1/B2 - Finish

Mark	Description
Start	Pink Conical
Marks A, B1 and B2	Pink Conical
Offset Mark	Orange Cylinder
Finish	Floating staff displaying an orange flag.
ID Mark (optional)	Orange Cylinder

Triangle Course (May include Windward-Leward) 2

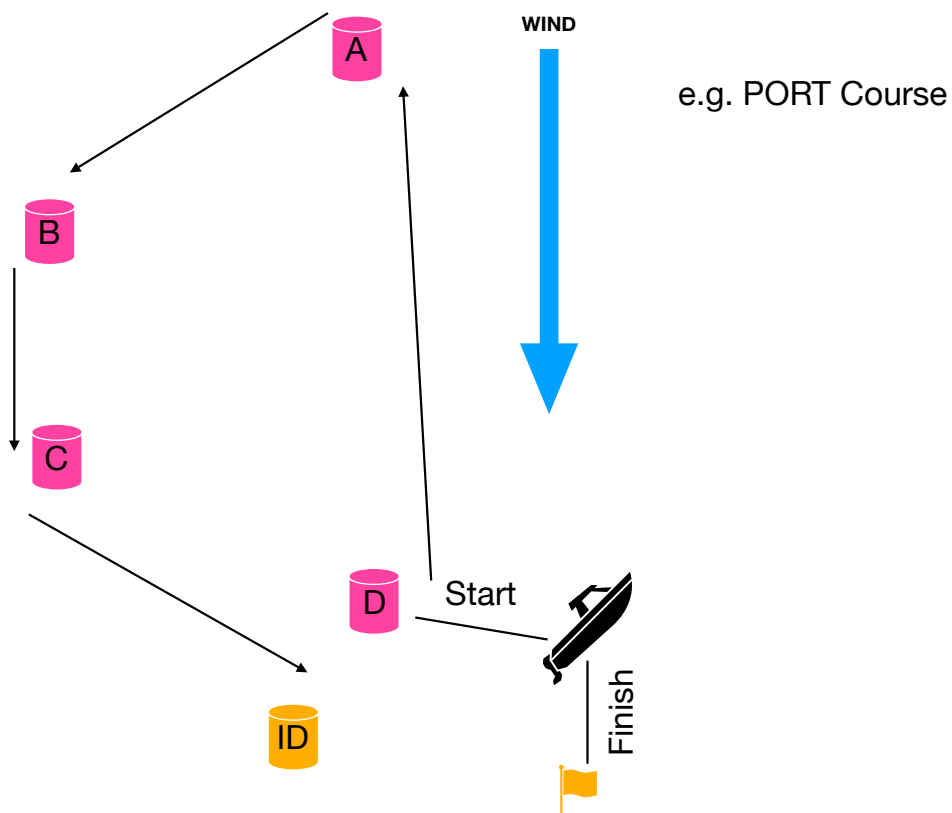


- All rounding marks shall be left to Port.

Group	Mark Rounding Order
Mixed Fleet	e.g. Start - A - B - C - A - C - A - C - Finish

Mark	Description
Start	Pink Conical
Marks A, B & C	Pink Conical
Finish	Floating staff displaying an orange flag.
ID Mark (optional)	Orange Cylinder

Trapezoid Course



All rounding marks shall be left to Port

	Mark Rounding Order
	Start - A - B - C -D Finish

Mark	Description
Start	Pink Conical or Orange cylindrical
Marks A, B, C, D	Pink Conical
Finish	Floating staff displaying an orange flag.
ID Mark (optional)	Orange Cylinder

APPENDIX B

Race Schedule -Additional Information

Special Race Days: Race Per Day **TBA**