

Avalon Series – Shortening Course Guide for Yacht Coordinator

This guide is provided to the Yacht Coordinator as the representative of the Race Committee for the shortening of course for the Avalon Series.

The Avalon Series is a handicap start and relatively long race (circa 12nm) with a later start than the other race series at the club. The Race Committee encourages the Yacht Coordinator to proactively shorten the course if it appears that due to light wind conditions some yachts in the fleet will not finish within the time limit of 1800 hrs.

It is the expectations of the handicapper that the 'slowboat' in the Avalon Series will finish the course in around three hours. As such, when shortening the course due to light wind conditions, the course should be shortened from three hours after the start time. For a race which started at 1330 hrs, the course should be shortened from 1630 hrs.

The Yacht Coordinator should monitor the progress of the race with a particular focus on the early starters. The full course is measured at around 12nm. The 'Rp' mark is at 6.7nm; 'T' mark is at 7.3nm; 'S' mark is at 8.7nm; and the 'N' mark is at 9.8nm.

As a guide, the early starters should have reached the 'Rp' mark prior to 1530 hrs; the 'T' mark prior to 1545 hrs; the 'S' mark prior to 1600 hrs, and the 'N' mark prior to 1630 hrs.

If the early starters don't reach the mark by those times, the Yacht Coordinator should make preparations so that they are able to shorten the course at a position, as per the Sailing Instructions, at which the first finisher is expected to reach at or soon after 1630 hrs.

The ASC Yacht Sailing Instructions 2015/16 set out the procedure for shortening course. They are:

18. SHORTENING COURSE

18.1. If the Race Committee signals a shortened course (displays code flag S with two sounds or by hailing), the finishing line shall be:

- a) at a rounding mark (excluding Lion Island), between the mark and the mast of the Committee Vessel (or a Response Boat) displaying Code Flag S and the flag(s) of the division(s) to which the shortened course applies. Yachts shall finish by crossing the finishing line in the direction from the previous mark irrespective of which side of the mark the Committee Vessel is stationed; or
- b) on any leg of the course, between the mast of the Committee Vessel (or a Response Boat) displaying Code Flag S and a mark moored nearby. Yachts shall finish by crossing the finishing line towards the direction of the next mark or finishing line.