

31.7 National Championships

Competitor Briefing -- Race Officer

1 My name is Barry O'Neill and I will be your R O for the event

2 On behalf of the R St G Y C I would just like to register a very warm welcome to you all

- We are delighted to once again welcome back the 31.7s for your National Championship

3 --- A lot of work has gone in to preparing for this event -- but

- The one element we cannot control is the weather
- Bottom line is I want to get you racing with the minimum hanging about -- so
 - we will have to deal with wind force issues as best we can – and
 - given this is a National Championship - we may need to race in strong winds and competitors should make the call as to whether or not the wind strength is beyond their capabilities -- there is

no stigma involved in making a mature decision not to go afloat if you have any reservations . **The No1 priority is safety for all .**

4 Committee Boat =

- Navy Cabin Cruiser with white top --
- Flying George ensign on the transom
- on the dock am Saturday
- We will likely locate in the west of the Bay -- West of Seapoint /Salthill area on Saturday in order to :
 - Avoid DBSC Club Racing traffic as best we can and
 - Sunday -- maybe closer to the harbour / middle of bay on Sunday when we have bay to ourselves
 - Important to tune in to the Event Channel (Ch 77) when the Committee Boat location will be confirmed once on station. We will transmit the location as Competitors depart the harbour .

5 To the Racing

- At mercy of weather
- Ideally Start on Time
- **The Start**
 - 5 Minute Sequence

- **Start Line =**

- between a Striped Pole flying an Orange Flag on the Committee Boat at the Starboard end
- and a Dan Buoy with Orange Flag at the port end (Hint = remember NOT to confuse the Black L Mark -- if laid at your start ? -- with the Start Line distance dan buoy mark with a flag)

4 Marks

- **Weather and Leeward marks = large black inflatables**
- **Spreader Mark at Windward = orange Tea Bag**
- **Finish line = dan buoy with a blue Flag located to windward of the bow of the Committee Boat --**

A key factor to underline is ALL Boats MUST:

- **round the tea bag spreader mark after the Windward mark -- and**
- **sail from the L Mark to the Finish line at the end of EVERY lap -- so = be warned please !**

Course:

- Windward /Leeward
- **Need to sail through the Finish Line at end each lap as per above and S I s**
- Take care to listen for hooter + S Flag re finish -- I may set a 3 or 4 Lap Race – and finish earlier ? I will be guided on this by time = target time of approx. 1 hour per race.

6 Race Management Policy

The Start

- First Start will be a Peter
 - If a General and OUR Fault -- e.g.
 - Line not square ?
 - Not long enough
 - Then I shall stick with a Peter.
- If a General - and FLEET Fault = “trigger happy” - I shall go to a U
- May stick with a U for the day in the interests of getting the races off quickly -- esp. if we have a narrow wind window !

Marks

- **Start Line** = dan buoy with Yellow Flag
- **W** = large Black Mark – with Tea Bag spreader mark
- **L** = leeward mark = Large Black
- **Finish Line** = dan buoy with Blue Flag

The Finish

- **Remember you need to complete each lap by sailing through the line at the end of EVERY Lap = Be warned !**

Subsequent Starts

- If I do not have to re - lay Start line I plan to go into sequence VERY quickly = NO hanging about
- So please stay close to Comm. Boat and watch out for sound signal for next race.
- if NO racing Saturday = May try to squeeze 3 or 4 races on Sunday

Mark Laying -- please assist

- Please help Rib Teams by staying out of the way -- especially while they stream Marks .

Good Sailing + Have Fun !

Barry