

Quick Guide: Club Sailing: Laying a Start Line off the Start Box

The intention is to have fair and safe starts for WBBC Club Racing.

To be fair:

- The start line to be laid at right angles to the wind experienced at the Start Line. (*)
- The line to be long enough to accommodate all starters in the biggest fleet.
- Use the correct White and a Red Cylindrical Buoy to comply with Club Sailing Instructions.
- The White Cylindrical Distance Mark **MUST** be laid for every start.
- The Distance mark must be at the right distance off the rocks and just behind the Line.
- The whole length of the Start Line must be well within the layline to top mark so every sailor must tack at least one time.
- The race officials need to see the finishing boats clearly to record times accurately.

To Be safe:

- A distance mark must be laid for every start.
- The distance mark to be the right distance off the rocks for the wind strength and direction.

The length of the Anchor lines on the inner buoy should be no more than **5 meters (excluding the chain)** for optimal holding and quick accurate laying onto the Start Line with Start Boat Guidance on VHF Channel 77. The water depth out from the club that is used for the start line slopes from <3m to ~5m.

Discussion:

Length of the Start Line:

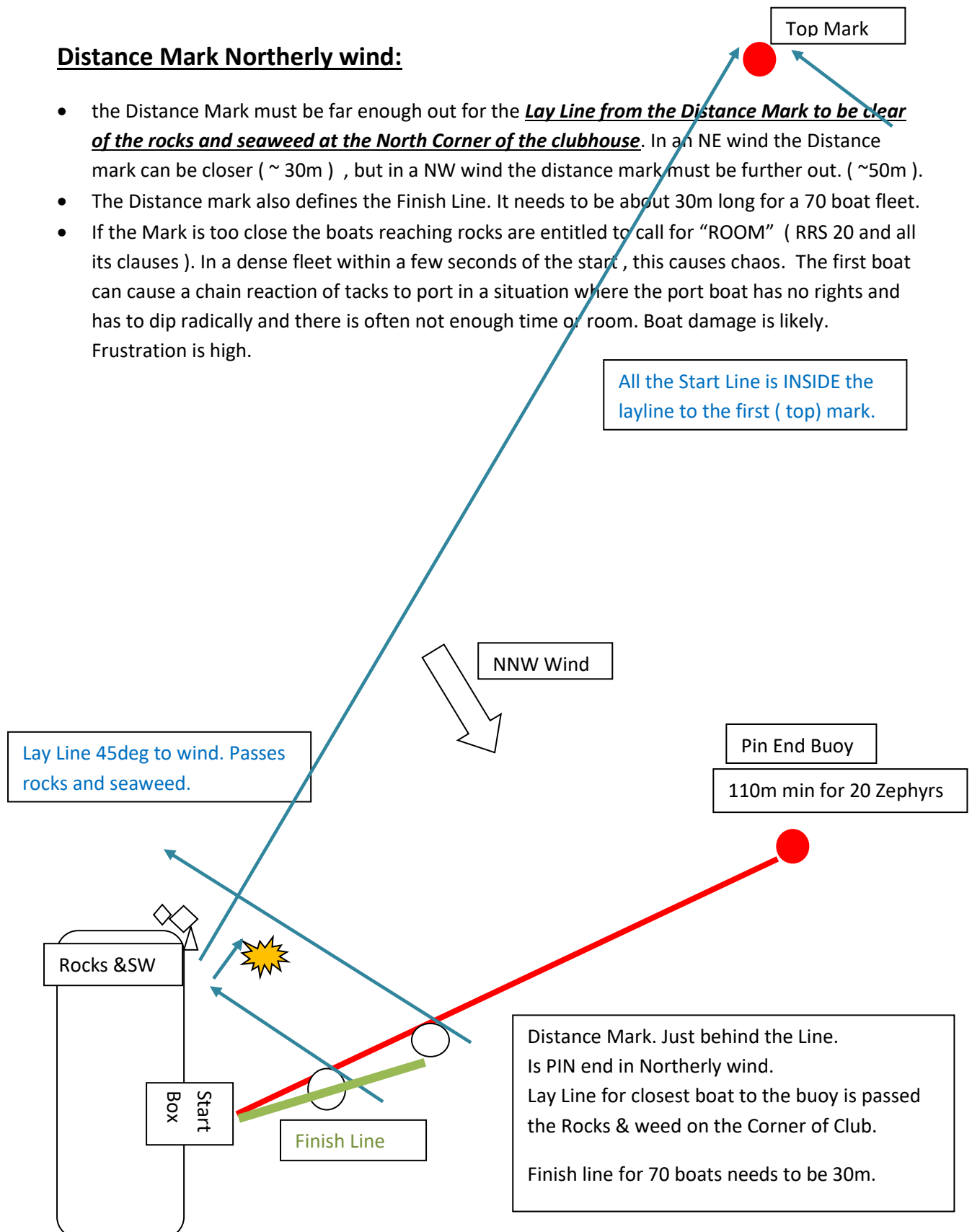
- YNZ Race Management Guide recommended length is: Length Overall x Fleet Size x 1.5
- The fleet that demands the longest start line is the Zephyr Fleet.
- **Default: At least 110 meters for 20 boats.** This is between Distance Mark and Pin

Distance Mark = Finish Outer Mark: Basic

- The Inner Distance mark has TWO roles.
 - It defines the Inner end of the Start Line (the Outer end is the Red Spherical Buoy)
 - **It defines the Outer end of the Finish Line. (the Inner end is the line on Start Box)**
- The Distance mark should float, after the anchor is set, less than half a boat length (>1.5m) **BEHIND** the Start Line as seen from the Start Box.
- It should never float on course side (OCS) of the line.
- It must be at **least 30m off the rocks**, minimum, in every wind direction and strength.
- This **30m** becomes the length of the Finish Line.
- The **stronger the wind, the further off the rocks**. Capsizes at the start in a string NE wind can quickly push boats beyond the safe operating zone of the Rescue boat near the rocks.

Distance Mark Northerly wind:

- the Distance Mark must be far enough out for the **Lay Line from the Distance Mark to be clear of the rocks and seaweed at the North Corner of the clubhouse.** In an NE wind the Distance mark can be closer (~ 30m) , but in a NW wind the distance mark must be further out. (~50m).
- The Distance mark also defines the Finish Line. It needs to be about 30m long for a 70 boat fleet.
- If the Mark is too close the boats reaching rocks are entitled to call for “ROOM” (RRS 20 and all its clauses). In a dense fleet within a few seconds of the start , this causes chaos. The first boat can cause a chain reaction of tacks to port in a situation where the port boat has no rights and has to dip radically and there is often not enough time or room. Boat damage is likely. Frustration is high.



Distance Mark: Southerly wind

- The distance mark needs to provide a safe and legal passage to behind the start line from the ramp or beach, so that late starters can arrive at the start line without crossing the OCS (On Course Side) area and interfere with earlier starting fleet during their start sequence.
- **That should be at least 30m off the Rocks.**
- The Distance Mark **also** defines the Length of the Finish Line. This needs to be at least 30m for a 70 boat fleet all finishing in a short time.
- If a start is under “U” flag (RRS 30.3) without a Distance Mark , then it would be impossible to attempt to enter the Starting Area behind the line in the last minute without being UFD as the forbidden Triangle would extend from the line on the Start Box to the Top Mark.

