

GATE START PROCEDURES

Issued on 4 October 2004

1. Gate starts may be used for some Port Stephens Yacht Club races and will be advertised in the racing program or Notice of Race.
2. The procedure for a gate start is as follows:
 - 2.1. A gate yacht is nominated by the Sailing Committee or the Starter and it drops the gate buoy. The gate yacht will be flying Flag G and the course flag(s).
 - 2.2. Five minutes prior to the start, the Warning flag is raised on the start yacht, and the five minute horn may sound.
 - 2.3. The gate yacht remains in the vicinity of the gate buoy.
 - 2.4. Four minutes prior to the start, the Preparatory flag is raised and the horn may sound. Yachts shall not now sail on the windward side of an imaginary line which would be the course of a yacht sailing from the gate buoy on a close hauled port tack.
 - 2.5. One minute prior to the start, the Preparatory flag is lowered on the start yacht, and a horn may sound.
 - 2.6. Just prior to the start time, the gate yacht sails hard on the wind on a port tack from the gate buoy.
 - 2.7. At the start time the Warning flag is lowered and the horn may sound.
 - 2.8. Yachts, other than the gate yacht, **MUST start on a starboard tack**, by passing between the gate buoy and the stern of gate yacht.
 - 2.9. The gate yacht remains on the port tack for a period of 2 minutes, during which time all yachts must have started correctly. After 2 minutes, the skipper of the gate yacht may tack or continue on the same course.
3. Awarding of points for gate starts are to be handled the same as for "normal" massed starts.