

MORETON BAY BOAT CLUB

Sailing Section

WAGS

Sailing Instructions

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1. Preamble:

Wednesday Afternoon Good Sailing (WAGS) events are fun “cruising in company” events sailed in Deception Bay. Spinnakers and other "extras" are not allowed. This does not exclude sail changes or the use of inner staysails, foresails or mizzens in the case of cutter, schooner or ketch rigs.

For these events ‘extras’ are defined as sails not permanently attached to a stay or spar on the centreline of the boat. Sails of the ‘Code’ genre or the like are ‘extras’. These pursuit events are conducted on the basis of a handicap start. The aim is to have all boats finishing within a relatively short time span. This facilitates the participants being able to socialise as a group at the MBBC clubhouse after each event.

All participants receive either a positive or a negative time adjustment after each event thereby ensuring a gradual distribution of prizes over time. This is a prescribed adjustment that penalises placegetters and rewards all participants. Consequently, a boat in cruising mode is not penalised unnecessarily.

The requirement for logging on/off by radio is generally not in force for these events. However, appropriate radio watch is a requirement. Single handed sailing is permitted provided at least one other participating boat is made aware by hail or radio. Members are encouraged to bring guests and socialise at the Moreton Bay Boat Club House after these events.

2. Eligibility:

2.1 Non-members and visiting yachts:

Non-members and visiting yachts are welcome to participate in a maximum of two (2) events (consecutive or otherwise). Such participants are deemed to be establishing a handicap and are therefore not eligible to receive prizes. Continued participation is subject to cl. 2.2.

2.2 Members and continuing participation:

The events are open to any yacht complying with the following:-

Compliance with Marine Safety Queensland safety requirements for the type and size of vessel sailed in partially smooth waters;

The owner or skipper of the yacht during the event must be a FULL member of the MBBC.

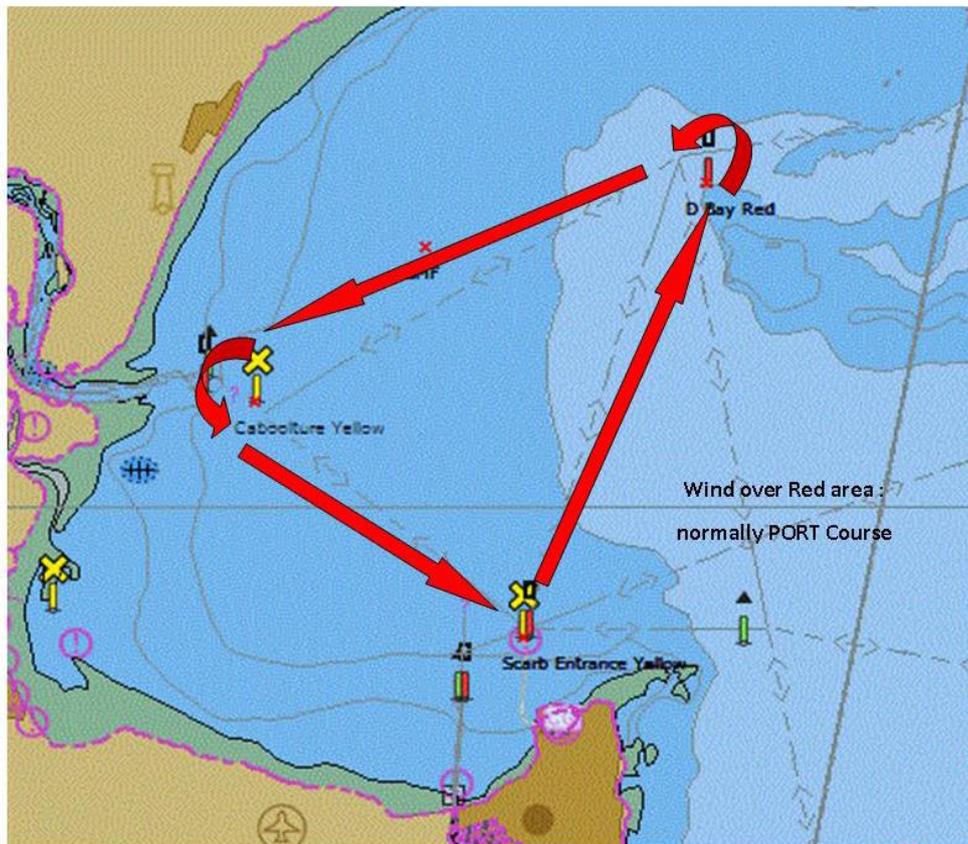
The above conditions must be met prior to the 3rd entered event in any sailing season.

4. WAGS Courses:

4.1 Port Course

- 1) Start (see Figure 5)
- 2) Deception Bay red beacon to port.
- 3) Caboolture River yellow fisheries beacon to port.
- 4) Finish (see Figure 4)

PORT COURSE MAP (Figure 2)



4.2 Starboard Course

- 1) Start (see Figure 4)
- 2) Caboolture River yellow fisheries beacon to starboard
- 3) Deception Bay red beacon to starboard
- 4) Finish (see Figure 5)

STARBOARD COURSE MAP (Figure 3).



5. WAGS Starting and Finishing:

Please be considerate of yachts starting before you and stay clear of the area in the vicinity of the start line so that you do not impede other yachts manoeuvring to start (Figure 4 & 5). This includes the area after the start line. After crossing the finish line please clear the finishing area before turning in to wind and dropping sails to allow other competitors to complete their race unhindered and in a safe manner. Motors are to be turned off 5 minutes prior to your race start time.

Avoid the immediate start area until you are due to start.

Figure 4
STARBOARD COURSE START or PORT COURSE FINISH



- The *transit* lines up with the East side of the New Baly Cara high rise.

Figure 5
STARBOARD COURSE FINISH or PORT COURSE START



5.1 The Start

Engines may be run until crossing the start line provided they are not used to gain an advantage. This is not to be considered the norm. It is to avoid congestion in the vicinity of the start line when very light conditions prevail and not to make up for poor planning. Anyone abusing this ruling will not be eligible for a prize and will be called upon to provide refreshments for the fleet.

The **Port Course** start line is a 50m long imaginary line being the west transit of the red lateral mark and the yellow special mark at the entrance to the Scarborough Harbour Leads.

The **Starboard Course** start is a 50m long imaginary line being the north transit of the first green lateral mark and the yellow special mark at the entrance to the Scarborough Harbour Leads.

5.2 The Finish

The **Port Course** finish line is the same as the starboard course start line.

The **Starboard Course** finish line is the same as the port course start line.

Note: Participants will need to judge the 50m limit.

If there is any doubt about your finish position, the skippers involved need to resolve their places. If unable to reach a resolution the prizes and penalties will be shared.

If the race is shortened due to lack of wind and only one mark is rounded then the new finish line will be the same as the start line

6. General Event Rules:

The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) published by Yachting Australia do not apply to these social events. However, the International Rules for the Prevention of Collision at Sea (COLREGS) are statutory and remain in force at all times.

The aim of WAGS is for all participants to have a social sail in amiable company. Differences of opinion are settled socially at the MBBC after the event.

These events are “pursuit” events during which overtaking is the fundamental objective. This requires special attention to Rule 5 (Look-out) and Rule 7 (Risk of collision) of COLREGS. If in doubt assume a risk exists and take early preventive action (Rule 7 (a)).

Should an engine need to be started to avoid contact with a mark of the course or for any reason affecting safety, that boat will not forfeit a time adjustment but will be ineligible for a prize.

Skippers and crew in these events sail a variety of yacht types and possess varying levels of sailing experience. That being the case, some will be quite comfortable sailing in close quarters, while others may not. Skippers are required to give ample room when boats pass or converge. If close quarter sailing is anticipated, crews are requested to make contact by any means suitable. VHF 77 is preferable for advising intentions if time permits.

Operational radio communication facilities are mandatory for each participating yacht. The designated communication channel is VHF 77.

For safety assistance, Redcliffe Coast Guard use VHF 16, 73 and 81.

The event shall be abandoned when a gale force warning is current and involves Moreton Bay.

If a strong wind warning is current, the skipper may sail at his or her discretion taking in to account the capabilities of his or her vessel and crew. The events should be abandoned in any case where conditions are deteriorating and becoming potentially unsafe.

The decision to abandon is based either on the weather forecast prior to the event or the deteriorating condition during the event. The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) issues a report for Moreton Bay as well as a specific Wind Warning for Coastal Waters and Moreton Bay.

To check if there is a current wind warning for Moreton Bay, access the BOM web page <http://www.bom.gov.au/qld/forecasts/moreton-bay.shtml>

To be fair to all who may need time to travel to the bay or rig trailer yachts, the forecast at 11.00 am is the cut-off time. A strong wind warning at 11am means the race is cancelled unless it has a Westerly component.

Subsequent decisions are based on information available at the time. On completion of the event, participants are encouraged to meet at the MBBC for presentation of prizes and crew interaction, where the highlights of the day may be revisited.

7. Start Times:

Start times are adjusted after each event and the revised times emailed to members. This information is also available from the club website at www.mbbc.org.au

Participants must start on or after their designated start time. If a boat starts before its designated time it will be deemed not to be competing and will not be eligible for a prize or start time adjustment. Placed yachts are penalised by a start time adjustment.

All participating yachts that complete a significant part of the course (or have been becalmed) and are not placed, will receive a start time adjustment.

The official race will be abandoned if there are two (2) or fewer boats starting. No prizes or time adjustments will be given.

8. Start Time Adjustments:

All participating boats that do a substantial part of the course will start one minute earlier on the following Wednesday.

9. Prizes:

Boats	1st prize	2 nd Prize	3 rd prize	Penalty Mins
2 to 4	0	0	0	Forward 1 minute
5 +	12 Stubbies	8 Stubbies	4 Stubbies	6/4/2

10. Marks of the Course:

10.1 See figures 2 & 3

10.2 All positions refer to WGS84 Map Datum. Start and Finish: Refer figures 4 & 5

Mark	Description	Position (approx.)
CR	Caboolture River yellow beacon	S 27° 9.2' E 153° 03.90'

DB	Deception Bay red beacon	S 27° 7.6'	E 153° 07.65'
SH	Harbour Outer Entrance Leads	S 27° 10.9	E 153° 06.08'

11. Safety Requirements:

Maritime Safety Queensland has determined that these events are not likely to have an effect on shipping and therefore do not require an Aquatic Event Authority. That determination is based on the MBBC Sailing Section and participating skippers fully complying with certain conditions. These conditions are summarized as:

1. The MBBC SS emergency plan cites the Redcliffe Coast Guard as the local volunteer rescue organization. Notwithstanding, the Coast Guard should not be called for assistance unless the matter is serious. Other participants' offers of assistance could be accepted provided vessels and crew safety is not compromised.
2. All participating vessels and operators of such vessels must comply with the Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 2004 and the associated Regulations. This includes the COLREGS.
3. The COLREGS apply equally to all mariners within or around the aquatic event area. This is particularly pertinent to boats at anchor, boats working and boats plying the Scarborough Harbour entrance.
4. Notwithstanding item 3 above, because these are organized events, participants must give way to all shipping. To clarify, shipping is deemed to mean any commercial or recreational shipping in the area.