

Tips for Setting a Course and Laying the Start Line

1. Include OL in the course to use for the finish. Easier, more comfortable and traditional than the alternative !
2. Try to make the first beat a true beat, so take the burgee out with you and arrange the course such that the burgee points at the first mark when you are at the start-line. You'll know if its perfect because the fleets will split to get to the windward mark. If the wind shifts after you have set the course or halfway through the start sequence, that's life and it's the same for everybody, don't worry. But the wind never shifts at Draycote!
3. Normally the start mark is also used as the last mark in the course, so boats start the 2nd lap at this point. However, the start mark does not have to be used again if there is another mark available which also gives a true beat. This avoids fast boats coming through the start line at the end of their first lap just as the Solos are about to start.
4. The finish line should be at right angles to the last leg. As the finish is usually OL, the second-last mark is usually J or K. Marks T and N are also useful, avoid marks which are a long way from OL or at an extreme angle, such as A or X.
5. Try to keep the course away from a windward shore, i.e. don't use C, D and E in a Northerly wind. Although you will have to use OL even in a Southerly wind, unless you want to finish the racing on the water. More comfortable in the OD box!
6. Don't send the boats into Toft bay (G) in windy or extreme conditions. We like it there, but the safety boats may miss a capsized or incident in the bay!
7. Don't set the same course twice. However good it was, we don't want to do it again.

Windstrength	Beam reaches	Broad reaches	Runs	Gybes
Up to 8mph	Short / not many	Avoid	Dead runs please	Yes
8 – 15 mph	Yes	Short / not many	Dead runs please	Yes
15-25 mph	Short / not many	Yes please	Not many	Not near the walls
25+ mph	No	135 degrees is good	Avoid	Avoid, Not near the walls

If in doubt, the course setting computer will offer you some good courses. Print a few out before you go afloat and use them as-is or as a basis for your own.