# Factors to consider when setting a course

Prepare to set the Course

**Factors to consider**

**Wind** – strength and exact direction – go on to end of jetty with a flag to check

**Wind shadows** – where are they

**Tide**  - which way is the tide running

* will the tide change during the race
* how strong is the tide

**How busy is the Marina Channel?**

**Length of race - this will depend on**

* **how many races** are scheduled
* **how much time** do youhave on the water
* **back-to-back or break** after first race then two back to back

**What sort of boats** are sailing?

- do you need two courses e.g. short one for slow fleet

- do you need to set an extra buoy

**Age and experience of the sailor**

Setting the Course

**Beat – Where is the beat going to be?** If you are not sure, talk to experienced members and get a consensus.

 **Try very hard to ensure there is at least one good beat on the course**.

**Wind Shadows** - avoid if possible!

**Tide**  - how strong is the tide - this can make a difference

**S**etting the Beat **across** the tide?

 – move windward mark **10o down tide** for every knot of tide

**Legs –** try to include **runs and reaches**

 **-** reaches should be broad enough to get kites up.

**Windward mark** - better to leave the windward mark to **Port** if possible – especially if it is the first mark

**Use the water** – Remember you can shorten your course. If you set one long lap and then shorter ones - you won’t be able to use average laps of shorten course. Short repeated laps are better in a light wind.

**Consider depth of water –** sometimes shallow especially near Monkey

**Average lap** - if you need to use average lap times the *course must have equal length laps*. You cannot have long and short laps or start on the water and finish on the club line.

**Average laps are used when some boats are much slower than others**- and can be stopped a lap earlier than the leaders. This is common in CYC handicap club racing

**LAKE** - **must** be to starboard

**Laying an extra Mark** - it is possible to ask the Patrol Boat to lay a mark. Either to make a shorter course for the Slow Fleet or a better windward mark for the Faster fleets.

**On water start?** Rig Jaffa/Patrol boat or consider Cyclone if on the water.

***SETTING THE COURSE - NEVER BE AFRAID TO ASK!!!!***