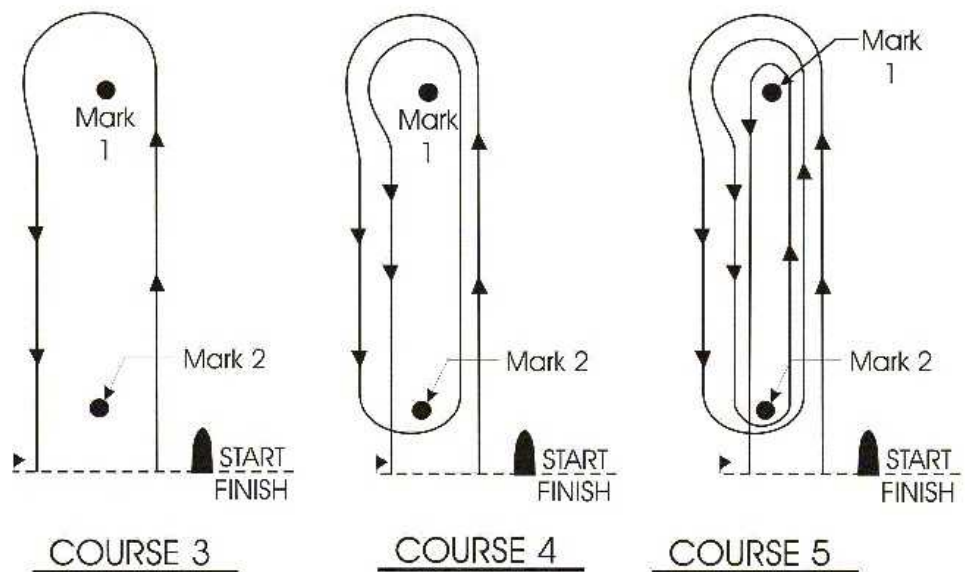
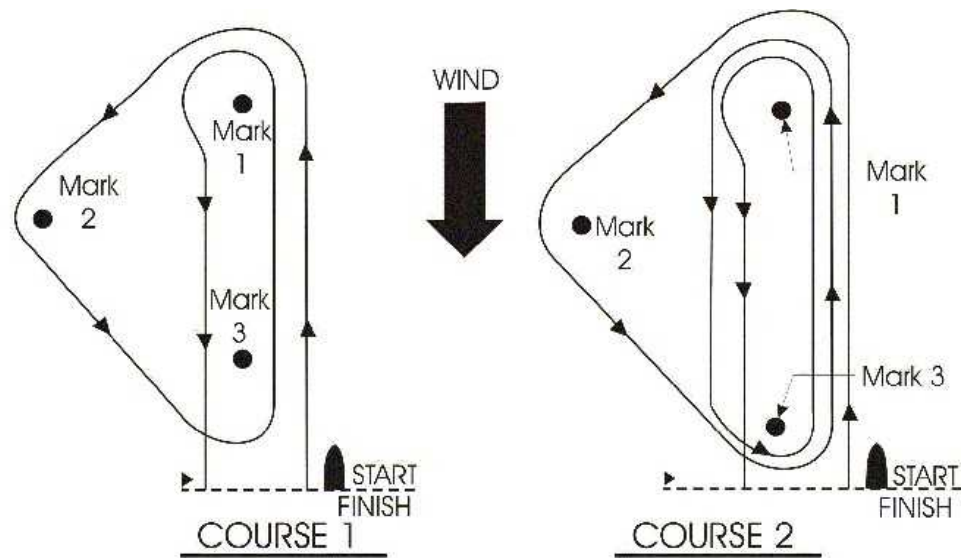


CYC 101_(Racing)

-- Courses

The following are typical sailing race courses. The race committee determines and sets the race course depending on conditions (wind, waves, and sailor experience.) Note that these courses are oriented to the wind direction. The race committee can change the course before the race starts depending on conditions. A regatta may consist of several races that are scored together to determine a winner.



Mark 1 - Windward
Mark 2 - Jibe
Mark 3 - Leeward

-- Start and Finish lines

The start and finish lines for the race are shown as a dotted line in the course diagram. Note that the start and finish lines are usually at the same place. The race committee usually uses a committee boat and a buoy sometimes referred to as the pin. Then the starting line is between the committee boat and the pin.

The boats are required to stay behind the starting line before the final start signal. There is a strategy to which end of the line is the optimal to start from. Boats will typically move back and forth near the start line trying to position themselves at the start line when the final start signal is given. There are a number of signals before the final start signal to indicate the countdown to the final start signal.



Once the start is signaled the boats can cross the start line onto the course. Any boat that crosses the start line early may cause the whole group to re-start the race or they may be individually recalled to re-start the race.

-- Marks

Buoys are used to mark the course. They are named based on where they are located on the race course. For example: the Windward Mark, as you can see from the course diagram, is the buoy closest to the wind. The location of the marks are controlled by the race committee and can not be changed during the race. It is difficult to determine which boats are ahead of others for a majority of the race but... at the marks it becomes clear.

There are specific right-of-way rules for rounding marks and no one is allowed to touch the mark with any part of the boat.

I would recommend watching a race at any of the marks.



-- Committee and patrols

The race committee is located on the committee boat and is responsible to:

- set the race course, start / finish line and all marks
- be aware of all the boats that are participating in the race
- communicate to the boats in the race what the course is
- Provide count-down and starting signals
- Monitor the start to assure boats don't cross before the start
- Record times of all boats when they cross the finish
- review any violations that occur during the race.

The patrol boats provide the race committee a way to set and adjust the race course and are a safety measure for issues that can occur on the water; before, during, and after the race.

-- **Right of way**

The diagram to the right shows the boat on the starboard tack, B, has the right of way over the boat on the port tack., A. This gets important when you are watching the start of a race and usually at or near marks. There is a lot of movement back and forth near the start line before the race starts but this rule applies throughout the race.

