

## SEPARATE STARTS

Separate starts have proved popular and will be the norm for races in the 2011 season. Separate starts apply to races in the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Evening (A & B) series. OODs have discretion to combine the starts only if there are compelling safety reasons.

Timings. The usual 5 minute start sequence applies to both fleets. It is recommended that all timings are taken from the digital timer in the control tower. Once it has been set running at the first start the digital timer should not be stopped.

The Fast fleet will start first. The Slow fleet's start sequence will commence 1 minute after the Fast fleet Class flag has been lowered. Thus, the Slow fleet race will start 6 minutes after the Fast fleet. (Unless otherwise advised it will be assumed that 6 minutes must be deducted from all finish times for Slow fleet boats.)

If the digital timer was properly set to run from the start of the Fast fleet race the following timings are relevant for the Slow fleet start sequence.

Digital timer reads:	01:00	Raise slow fleet class flag (Flag D) – Switch on first light.
	02:00	Raise the prep. Flag (Flag P)
	05:00	Lower the prep. – Switch on second light.
	06:00	Lower the class flag. - Switch both lights off.

(This process is shown in diagrammatic form on a card in the tower.)

Recalls. Recalls undoubtedly present the biggest challenge to OODs trying to operate separate starts. However, with fewer boats in each start group it is believed that the probability of premature starting is reduced.

Individual recalls in the Fast fleet should be dealt with in the usual way, i.e. the individual recall flag being lowered when all premature starters have returned or after 4 minutes. It is recognised that this could result in returning Fast fleet boats becoming mixed up with Slow fleet boats approaching the line to start but is unavoidable.

If there is a **general recall of the Fast fleet** the sequence for its re-start should commence as soon as all boats have returned to the starting area. The re-start should be commenced as quickly as possible since the Slow fleet will be kept waiting until the Fast fleet race has started.

Individual recalls in the Slow fleet can be dealt with in the usual way. If there is a **general recall of the Slow fleet**, the new start sequence should commence as soon as practical. Please make a careful note of how many minutes after the Fast fleet race started the 'new' Slow fleet race got under way. This is essential so that accurate results can be calculated.