**Start and Finish Area**

**Start**

**Staffing**

There are four categories of staff located in the Start area;

* The **Start Judge** who oversees the area
* Two **Timekeepers** who record the start times for the Competitors
* A **Pre Start controller** who checks the equipment marks or tags of the competitors prior to moving through to the Start area and
* Two to three **Boat Holders** to ensure adequate rotation of duties.

**Layout**

The preferred location for the Start Judge is in the immediate area of where the competitor is held in preparation for their race start. From this position the Start Judge can then ensure that the Competitor complies with the competition requirements and give any special instructions, if necessary.

Starts must be controlled from a platform that is fixed to the channel or bank and provide a safe, level, decked area for the Start Judge and technical staff. The platform should sit approximately 150mm above the water line and be located in, essentially, still water. It should not be so high as to allow the tail of the boat to float under the platform as this will potentially create a problem with the tail being snagged under the platform. A line or fixture should be marked or located on the platform so that each boat is held in an identical location. This start location should be so placed to facilitate television camera requirements if applicable. There should ideally be a low seat for the boat holder to sit with some degree of comfort.

The platform must be located within clear view of the enclosure where the timekeepers sit. This location will also allow the Start Judge to observe subsequent competitors and be able to confirm their arrival in the Start area and organise their attendance at the start platform.

The Start Judgemust also be positioned to ensure that the boat (or boats in Teams Categories) are correctly placed and held (if appropriate) at the start location and that the competitor’s correctly trigger the start beam.

There should also be an adequate area in the still water, adjacent to the platform, such that it would not interfere with the race line of the competitor held in the start location. This is the area where the 2nd and 3rd boats will be placed in team’s races.

In extreme weather conditions (sun or rain) consideration should be given to the provision of an umbrella for shelter for the Start Judge.

The Timekeepers need to be placed exactly on the line of the start beams so they can ensure that:

1. The electronic time has been correctly triggered as the boat crosses the beam, and
2. The backup timekeeper has a good line of sight along the beam line to record as accurately as possible the precise time the body crosses the beam line.

The Timekeepers are located in an enclosure, of two square metres minimum area, with a substantial cover to ensure good vision of electronic clocks within the enclosure.

The Start Judge and timekeepers should not be collocated.

The countdown clock should be placed so that it is clearly seen by both the competitor and the Start Judge and is best located close to the Timekeeper’s enclosure.

The Pre Start Controller is best located on the bank a suitable distance upstream of the Start Judge such that communication between them is easily achieved.

If communication between the Start Judge and the Pre Start Controller is not easily achieved, a radio communication system must be provided.

The Pre Start Controller’s location should be positioned such that all Competitors must pass, thus facilitating appropriate checking and recording of the equipment markings or tags with minimal interruption to the Competitor.

Access to the area around the Start Judge and Timekeepers must be restricted to Technical Officials and the appropriately accredited Timekeepers, boat holders and runners.

**Start list distribution**

It is critical for the Start Judge and the Timekeepers to receive the respective Start Lists (see *Print Distribution*).

**Communications**

It is most important for the Start Judge to have clear, effective and immediate communication directly with the Chief Judge. The Start Judge should only receive instructions or notification of race delays etc. from the Chief Judge. That notification should not be relayed through the Timekeepers.

The Start Judge also needs to be able to communicate effectively with the Pre Start Controller and the Timekeepers.

**Finish**

The Finish area is a complex zone where many functions with varying requirements are located. It is an area that requires careful consideration for layout and especially access control.

The functions that must exist closely together in the finish area are;

* The Finish Judge and Timekeepers
* Boat Control
* Media mixed Zone
* Doping Control

**Finish Judge and Timekeepers**

There are two categories of staff located in this area;

* The **Finish Judge** who oversees the area
* Two **Timekeepers** who record the finish times for the Competitors

The preferred location for the Finish Judgeis on the production of the line of the finish beams that mark the end of the race. This location is to allow the Finish Judge to assess the competitor and apply the Rules relating to the Finish.

The Timekeepers need to be placed exactly on the line of the finish beams so they can ensure that:

1. The electronic time has been correctly triggered as the boat crosses the beam, and
2. The backup timekeeper has a good line of sight along the beam line to record as accurately as possible the precise time the body crosses the beam line.

The Timekeepers are located in an enclosure, of two square metres minimum area, with a substantial cover to ensure good vision of electronic clocks within the enclosure.

The Finish Judge and Timekeepers should be collocated.

In the case of a teams event, the Finish Judge must also be able to determine if the team incurs a 50 second penalty (see rule 29.4.6).

The boundaries of the “on water” area at the finish must be clearly defined so that the Competitor remains within the view of the Doping Control and Boat Control staff at all times and there must be only one route by which the Competitors can leave the water (the pull out area). To avoid confusion the pull out area must be clearly defined.

**Doping Control, Boat Control and the Mixed Zone**

The Doping Control staff are usually located in this pull out area.

The pull out area must lead directly to the Boat Control station. See *Boat Control* for the requirements of this area. Ideally there should be a boat rack also located here for the storage of the Competitors boats if necessary. There must be a loud hailer or small portable public address system available for the Boat Controller to contact Competitors while they remain on the water, as well as oversee the movement of Competitors within the area.

The Mixed Zone leads from the Boat Control area. In this space the HOC and the Host Broadcaster shall create an adequate, separate and secure area in which commentators and/or the production staff of the participating broadcaster shall have access to interview and talk to the Athletes, before, during and after racing. There should be a minimum of two platforms established for TV interviews..

The commentators and/or production staff of the Host Broadcaster shall have priority of access and position within the zone over all other media

**Start and Finish Paperwork**

There are a range of forms required at Start and Finish.

The Start Judge, Pre Start Controller and Finish Judge use ICF report forms (see *ICF Forms*) on which all Competitors are recorded together with any notes or irregularities. The Boat Control will also use ICF report forms.

The Timekeepers use a form which displays the start list and allows space for them to write against each start the manual back up time and any necessary comments.

**Relevant Rules**

 9.8

9.9

19.5

20.4.1

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29.4.6