

Race Committee and its role regarding Weather Guidelines

Instructions for Race Committee

1. Note the guidance in RRS 60.1
2. Safety of competitors is a prime concern.
3. Racing should be abandoned if a Gale Warning from the BOM is extant during the forecast Racing duration.
4. When forecast wind over the racetrack is likely to exceed 20kts the following should be considered.
 - Crew Experience
 - Impact of deteriorating weather
 - Visibility
 - Sea State
6. When required to make decisions concerning weather and sailing it is recommended the RC meet as early as practicable to make a decision and not later than one hour before the published start time.
7. The RO may decide to abandon racing up until the first boat starts, when conditions change and are no longer considered safe. The RO may also decide to abandon during the race in accordance with RRS 32.
8. One suitably qualified and experience member of the RC can be appointed to undertake responsibilities set out in RRS 92

Average Wind Conditions	Action
Below <5kn	<p>Race Start may be delayed (AP) for up to 1 hour after scheduled race start time. Course might be shortened before the start or during the race time.</p> <p>Race might be abandoned after the start.</p>
5Kn - 25Kn	<p>Normal Race Conditions – Above 20kn the Y flag shall be in-place for open boats.</p>
26kn - 33kn	<p>Strong Wind Warning – Racing is at the discretion of the RO and Sailing Committee. Safety of the Race Management team and Yacht Crews are the key considerations.</p> <p>Class wind strength restrictions may apply – skippers to make their own determination.</p> <p>Race may be abandoned or delayed start if weather conditions are due to moderate.</p> <p>Y flag will be in place for open boats (Couta, Etchell etc)– all crew must wear flotation devices.</p>

34kn - 47kn

Gale Warning – Race Abandoned (automatic)

Wind is made up of gusts and lulls. The Bureau's forecasts of wind speed and direction are the **average** of these gusts and lulls, measured over a 10-minute period at a height of 10 metres above sea level. The gusts during any 10-minute period are typically 40% higher than the average wind speed. For example, when the average wind speed is 25 knots, it is normal to experience gusts of 35 knots and lulls of lighter winds. Thunderstorm and squalls may produce even stronger gusts.

Wind warnings and gusts

Based on the 40 per cent rule of thumb, the table below shows the potential gust you could expect for different forecast average wind speeds and associated wind warning category.

Average wind speed (knots)	Gust strength that should be planned for (knots)	Wind Warning thresholds
10	14	
15	21	
20	28	
26 - 33	36 - 45	Strong wind warning issued
34 - 47	48 - 65	Gale force warning issued
48 - 63	67 - 88	Storm force warning issued
64 or more	90 or more	Hurricane force warning issued

Beaufort Wind Scale

The Beaufort wind scale measures wind speed according to the impact the wind has on the land and sea. Although the system is old (first developed in 1805 by Sir Francis Beaufort), it remains a widely used system to measure wind speed today. The table below describes what can be expected for each level of the scale and the relationship to the forecast average wind speed values.

Beauf. scale	Desc. term	Units in knots	Description on Land	Description at Sea
0	Calm	0	Smoke rises vertically	Sea like a mirror.

1-3	Light winds	10 knots or less	Wind felt on face; leaves rustle; ordinary vanes moved by wind.	Small wavelets, ripples formed but do not break: A glassy appearance maintained.
4	Moderate winds	11-16 knots	Raises dust and loose paper; small branches are moved.	Small waves - becoming longer; fairly frequent white horses.
5	Fresh winds	17-21 knots	Small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters	Moderate waves, taking a more pronounced long form; many white horses are formed - a chance of some spray
6	Strong winds	22-27 knots	Large branches in motion; whistling heard in telephone wires; umbrellas used with difficulty.	Large waves begin to form; the white foam crests are more extensive with probably some spray
7	Near gale	28-33 knots	Whole trees in motion; inconvenience felt when walking against wind.	Sea heaps up and white foam from breaking waves begins to be blown in streaks along direction of wind.
8	Gale	34-40 knots	Twigs break off trees; progress generally impeded.	Moderately high waves of greater length; edges of crests begin to break into spindrift; foam is blown in well-marked streaks along the direction of the wind.
9	Strong gale	41-47 knots	Slight structural damage occurs -roofing dislodged; larger branches break off.	High waves; dense streaks of foam; crests of waves begin to topple, tumble and roll over; spray may affect visibility.
10	Storm	48-55 knots	Seldom experienced inland; trees uprooted; considerable structural damage.	Very high waves with long overhanging crests; the resulting foam in great patches is blown in dense white streaks; the surface of the sea takes on a white

				appearance; the tumbling of the sea becomes heavy with visibility affected.
11	Violent storm	56-63 knots	Very rarely experienced - widespread damage	Exceptionally high waves; small and medium sized ships occasionally lost from view behind waves; the sea is completely covered with long white patches of foam; the edges of wave crests are blown into froth.
12+	Hurricane	64 knots or more	Very rarely experienced - widespread damage	The air is filled with foam and spray. Sea completely white with driving spray; visibility very seriously affected