

**Sedgemoor Model Boat Club**  
**Fast Electric Racing** (excluding Club 500 series)  
updated May 2021

The Wednesday evening and Sunday Winter Series will be for both Mini Mono RTR and Mini Hydro classes as recognize by the Sedgemoor Model Boat Club. On some occasions a round in a series may exclude one of these classes as decided by the Fast Electric Section Secretary. See separate sheet for the specific class rules.

**1. DUTIES**

All drivers taking part at a round will be expected to do a duty when they are not racing a boat themselves, this will be on a voluntary bases. These duties will be for Race Officer, Lap Counter, Lap Caller and if the numbers allow a Race Observer and/or feeding the wildlife to clear the course.

**2. Officer Of the Day (OOD);** will normally be the Fast Electric Section Secretary. If he/she is not present another member will be asked to do this duty. The OOD is responsible for running the meeting overall which includes delegating other duties, deciding on the course layout and size, and if required who and how many boats are in each heat race. They will also decide how many races are to be run at the round. He/she may call a Skippers Briefing if it is deemed necessary but this is not a requirement.

**3. Race Officer (RO);** is responsible for overseeing a specific race and/or heat. Must call all skippers for the race start and will decide if there is to be any delay to the start. Once all boats are ready to start they will start the race with a verbal call of between 5 to 10 seconds. Must also give warning of any dead boats or wildlife on the course (see rules 15 & 16) and from time-to-time give notice how much time is left to race. When the race is finished he/she must record all the drivers lap score from the lap counter including any "missed buoy" penalties. The RO will decide if a race is to be stopped early or abandon and together with the OOD can disqualify any driver from a race and/or in extreme cases the entire meeting.

**4.** The OOD or RO can disqualify a driver for driving in a manner which causes wildlife distress at any time during the meeting. This includes any test runs before, between or after the races have taken place.

**5. Lap Counter;** check the lap counter is set and displaying the correct boat race numbers. Records laps completed by all boats as called by the "Lap Caller"

**6. Lap Caller;** calls clearly all the boats as they pass the start/finish line and decides if any boats have jumped the start.

**7. Race Observer;** will note any boats which miss buoys and inform the Race Officer at the end of the race. Assist in warning of any dead boats and any wildlife on or near to the race course.

**8. Wildlife feeder;** (if the numbers of entries allows) will feed any wildlife birds during a race to encourage them to clear the racing course.

**9. Course layout**

The course layout on the lake, the size and position of the buoys will be decided by the meeting OOD or his deputy. Whenever possible the course will consist of at least 5 marker buoys with 4 of these set out in a rectangle shape for an oval shaped course. One marker will be placed centre and just above the bottom 2 to be used as a lap counting/finishing line.

**10. Race & Heat format**

Whenever possible the first race of each round will start as close as possible to 7pm for the Wednesday night series and 10am on a Sunday morning for the Winter Series. The number of boats in each heat will be decided by the OOD. If during the meeting the numbers racing is reduced due to retirements, the remaining boats may be put into one heat only providing the majority of drivers agree

### **11. Starting procedure for Mini Mono RTR boats**

Boats will all start together from the bank and head to the far top left hand buoy and then turn clockwise around that buoy and onto the oval course. The first lap will be counted by the Lap Counter.

### **12. Starting procedure for Mini Hydro boats**

A "mill time" procedure will be used for Mini Hydro boats. The RO will call for the boats to start their mill time. They then have 10 seconds to circle around the bottom right hand buoy in a clock-wise direction. All boats must have launched and cleared the start/finish line area within the first 5 seconds; anyone that fails to do this must join in behind the last placed boat as the race starts. Boats may approach the start line at any speed, as the RO counts down the mill time. No boat may stop dead in the water or cross the start line before the start is called, any boats that do, will have 1 lap deducted from their race score. The lap counting starts only after the mill start is completed.

### **13. Late starter**

If a driver is late to start a race for any reason they can still join in that race but must do so without obstructing other approaching boats. In this circumstance the boat **MUST** not cross the racing line but take a wide line heading to the top left hand marker buoy.

### **14. Missed buoys**

If a boat misses a buoy it must continue to race but will have 10 seconds penalty added to its race score. If a second buoy is missed during the same race another 10 second penalty will be added, thereafter one lap will be deducted for each and every missed buoy. (ie: 3 missed buoys would score a 1 lap, plus 20 second penalty)

### **15. Dead boats**

If a boat stops on the water during a race or becomes stuck in a marker buoy the driver of that boat must immediately give a verbal warning of its position on the course to the other drivers. The RO must repeat the warning and the boat position clearly to all the other drivers. Only once the RO has given a warning shall the boat be considered as a "dead boat".

Any boat which makes contact with this boat **after** it has been called by the RO will be disqualified from the race and must withdraw immediately. The race (for the offending driver) will score as 0 laps; however, this race may still be included as a discard.

If during a race a drivers boat "comes back to life" after it has been called as a dead boat it may continue to race. The driver involved must give a clear verbal notice to the others still racing including the RO who will also make others aware the boat has re-joined the race and that there is no longer a hazard.

A boat can be retrieved if it's near to the bank but only if it is safe to do so. It may be re-launched to continue racing providing there are no approaching boats. The rescue boat (including a radio controlled rescue boat) may be used to retrieve a dead boat during a race but only if it is well clear of the course and then only with the consent of the RO. If a boat is retrieved in this manner it may not then re-join the race under any circumstances.

### **16. Wildlife on the course**

The RO will warn skippers of any wildlife on or near the racing course giving its approximate position. Drivers are required to take any suitable avoiding actions, such as slowing down and/or leaving them appropriate room so to not cause them unnecessary distress. If this is not done to the satisfaction of the RO and/or the OOD they have the authority to require any driver to withdraw their boat immediately and will be disqualified from that race. This race may still be included as a discard.

## **17. Finishing lap**

On hearing the race finish call/signal, competitors must continue to race to the start/finish line. The Lap Counter will immediately stop counting any boats. The race will continue for a maximum of 45 seconds when all boats will be timed (in seconds) as they cross the finishing line. The Race Officer will note the time in seconds assisted by the Lap Caller and/or Lap Counter. This additional lap is added to all scores for boats that cross the line within the 45 seconds. Any boat that fails to cross the finishing line within 45 seconds will be timed as 0 seconds or DNF (Did Not Finish) although their lap scores and any penalties during the race time will still be counted.

## **18. Points scoring & discards**

Places will be decided by the driver who has the highest lap score for a race including those in a separate heat race. If there is a tie for the laps scored, then the boat with the lower finishing times in seconds will be placed higher. If this also ties the drivers are considered to be equally placed and will be awarded equal points.

19. The RO may have to stop a race early to clear the course of wildlife or recover a sinking boat. Depending on the circumstance the RO can ask drivers to stop their boats immediately and restart the race from their positions. In some cases they may have to be removed safely from the lake, in which case the full race may be re-run if time permits. Once the lake is clear, the race will be restarted for the remaining time (including Mill Time). If a race is stopped and restarted the two race lap scores and finishing times plus any missed buoy penalties will be added together.
20. At least 1 race in any class must be completed at a meeting for the overall points to be awarded.

## **21. Score correction**

A driver may ask the OOD for the lap counting to be corrected if he/she thinks there has been a mistake with their lap score. The OOD may consult other competitors directly involved in the race, the RO, Lap Counter and/or Lap Caller to assist. He may adjust the results if he/she feels a clear mistake has been made and inform all those involved.

The OOD decision is final.

## **22. OVERALL SCORING**

Points will be awarded depending on the finishing places at each round. The scoring for each race will be as follows;

1st place 21 points, 2nd- 18, 3rd-16, and so on to 1 point for 18th or over places.

## **23. Discards**

The drivers lowest race score will be discarded from their overall series score. The discard system is as follows;

1 to 3 races = 0 (no discards), 4 to 7 races = 1 discard, 8 to 11 = 2, 12 to 15 = 3, 16 to 19 = 4, 20 and over races = 5 discards

In the event of a tie the person with the higher discard score is placed, if these scores also tie, then a count-back system will be used on the most 1st places, then 2nd etc.

## **24. MEETING CANCELTION**

A meeting can be cancelled by the Fast Electric Section Secretary or his deputy due to a Blue-Green algae outbreak, bad weather or any circumstances deemed to be unsafe. If a meeting is cancelled it will be withdrawn from the series.