



Racing Tactics and Strategy

Nick Turney



Nick Turney



- Sail Maker For 10 Years
- North Sails Cleveland Manager
- North Sails One Design Team Member
- Professional Coach
- Professional Sailor



Strategy vs. Tactics



- Strategy- Gaining information about the race course and competition to gain the advantage
- Tactics- Positioning of your boat to implement your strategy



Strategy vs. Tactics

Strategy

- Weather Forecasts
- Breeze Trends/Research
- Tides and Currents
- Local Knowledge
- Knowing your competition

Tactics

- Starts
- Boat on Boat
- Mark Rounding's
- Racing Rules

Pre Race Check list



- Head to wind readings
- Upwind numbers
 - High and low numbers
- Downwind numbers
 - High and low numbers
- Starting line
 - Favored end
- Race course

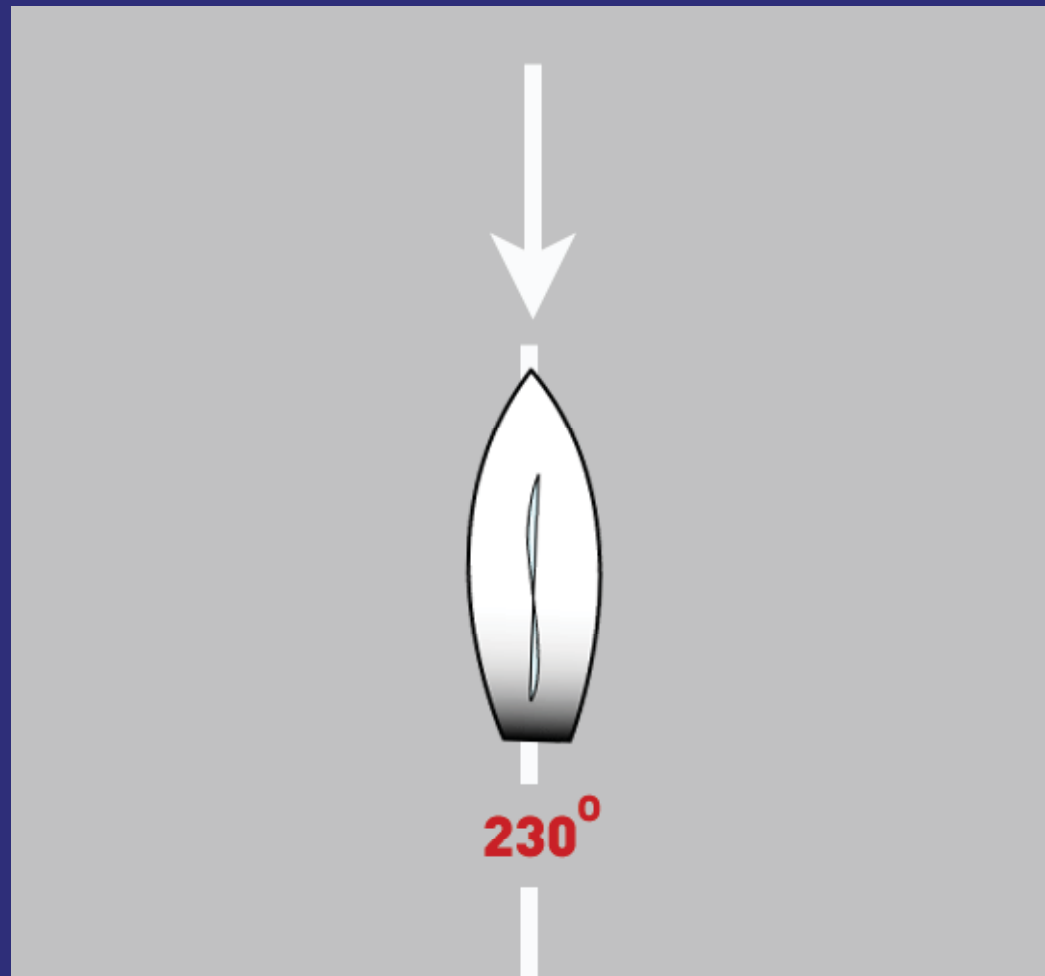
Checking Wind Direction



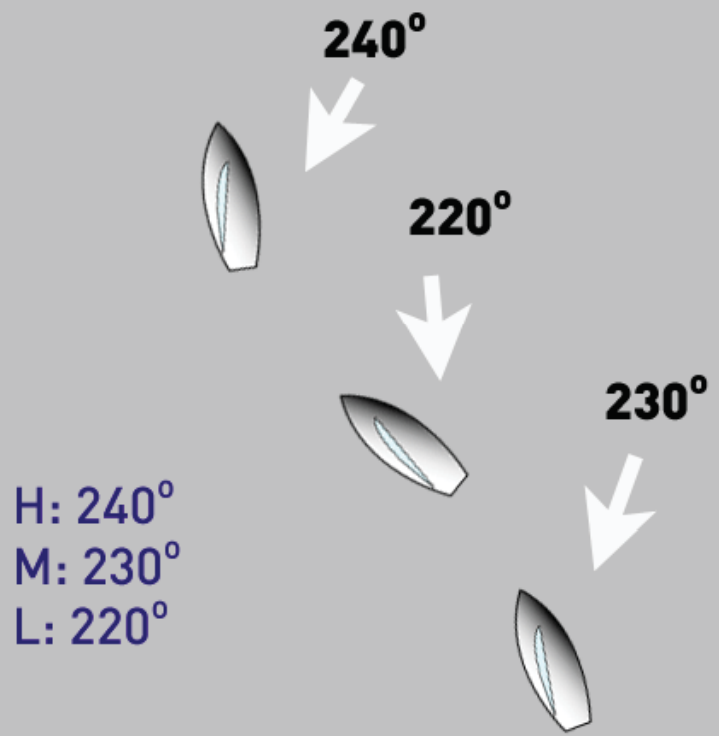
Head to Wind

Boom in Center

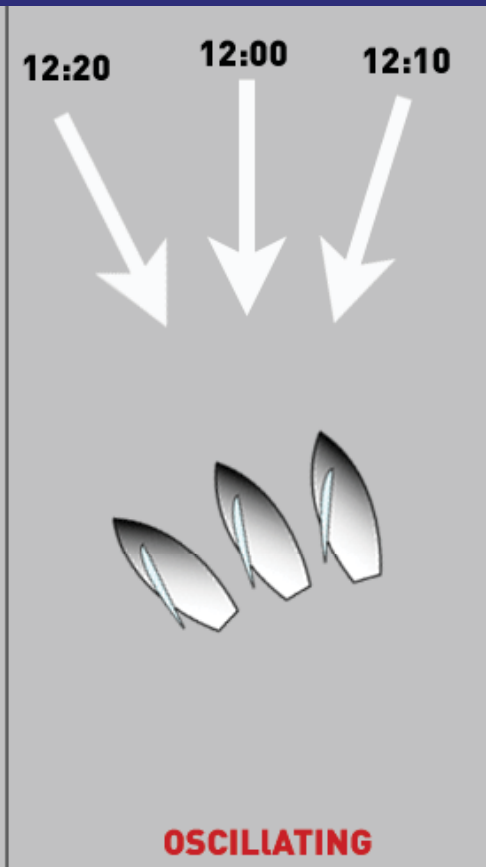
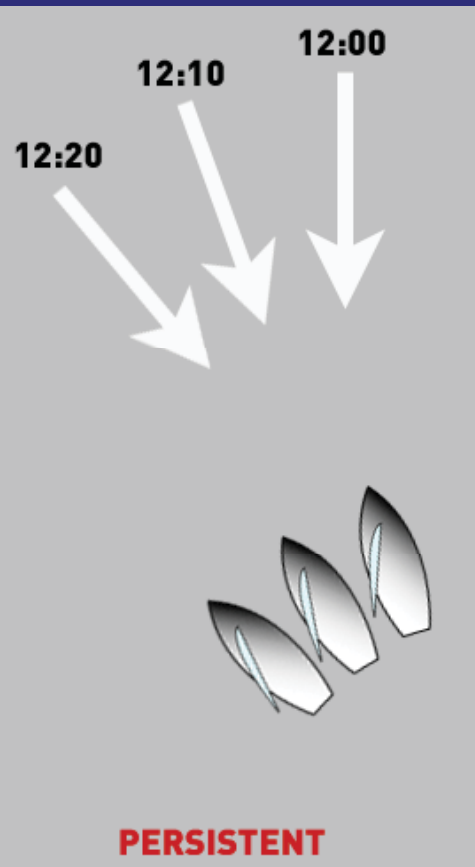
Boat is stopped



Gather Information Before Start



LOG EACH TACK



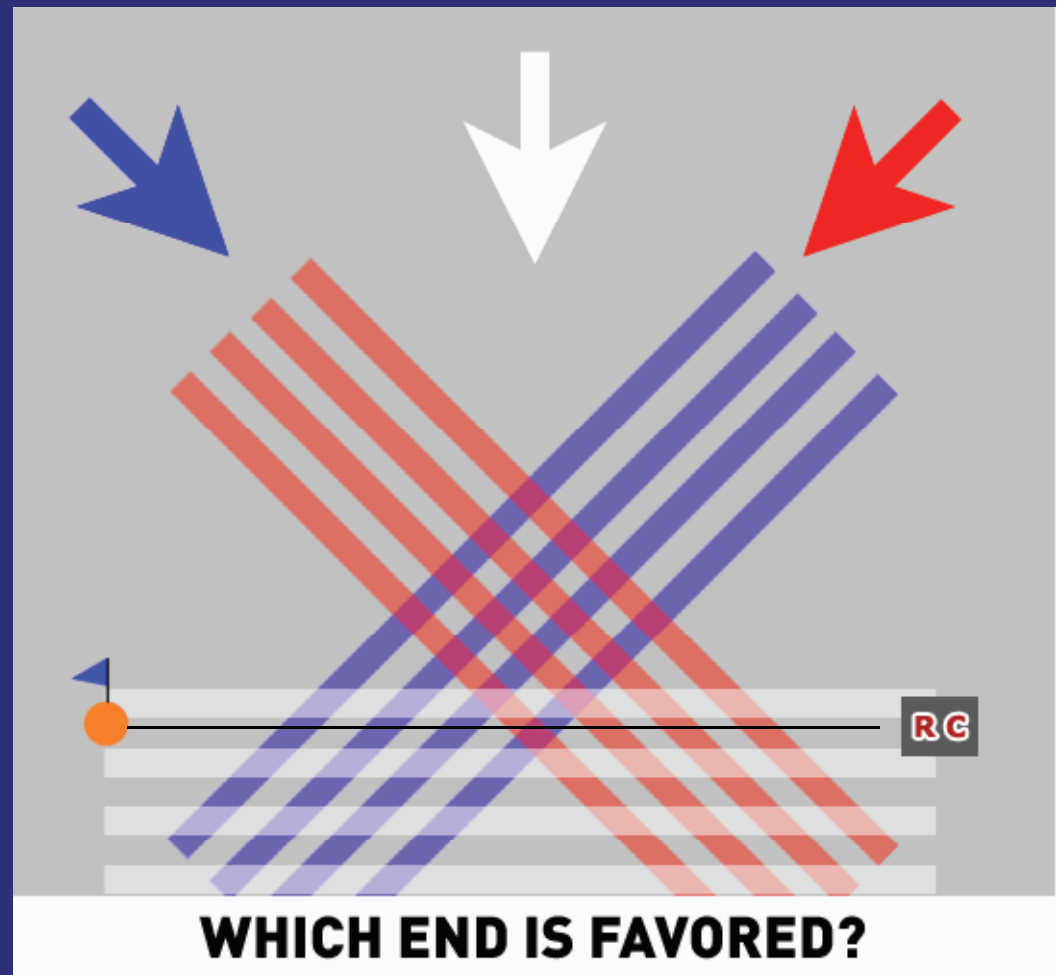
Starting Tactics



Start Line



- Head to wind
 - Bow position
- Compass
 - HTW vs. Line
- Starboard angle
 - High or low



Line Sites



- Sight thru the boat and pin end to a point on shore
- Very Important!

The Thirds Rule

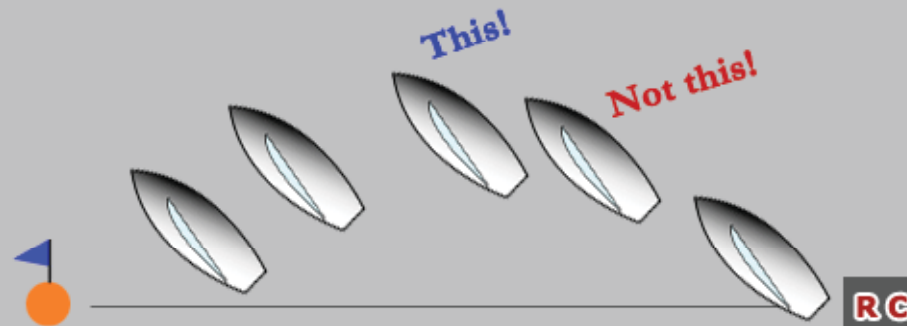


- Boat Third
- Middle
- Pin Third

Good Start is Key



THE START



Good Start

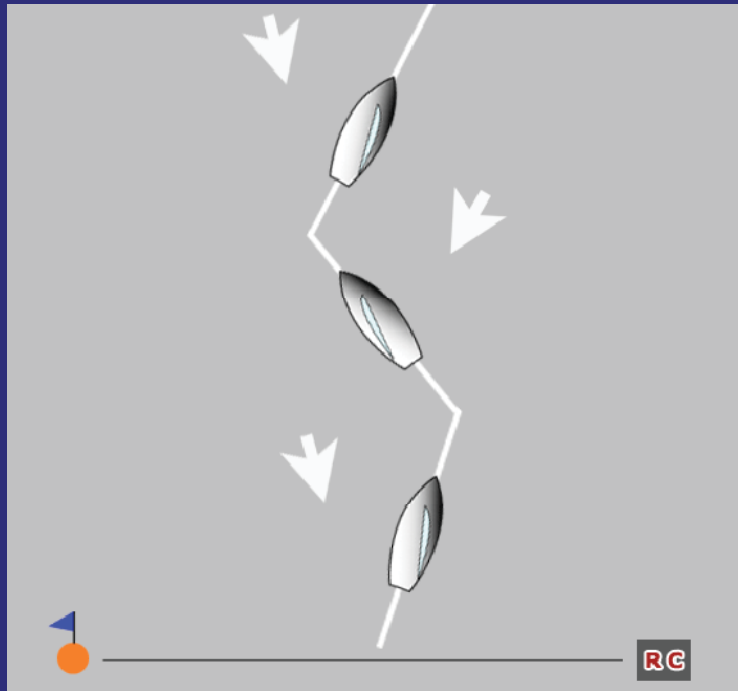


- Clear air
- Hole to leeward
- Options

Reading The Course



Goal is to Sail the Shortest Possible Course



This



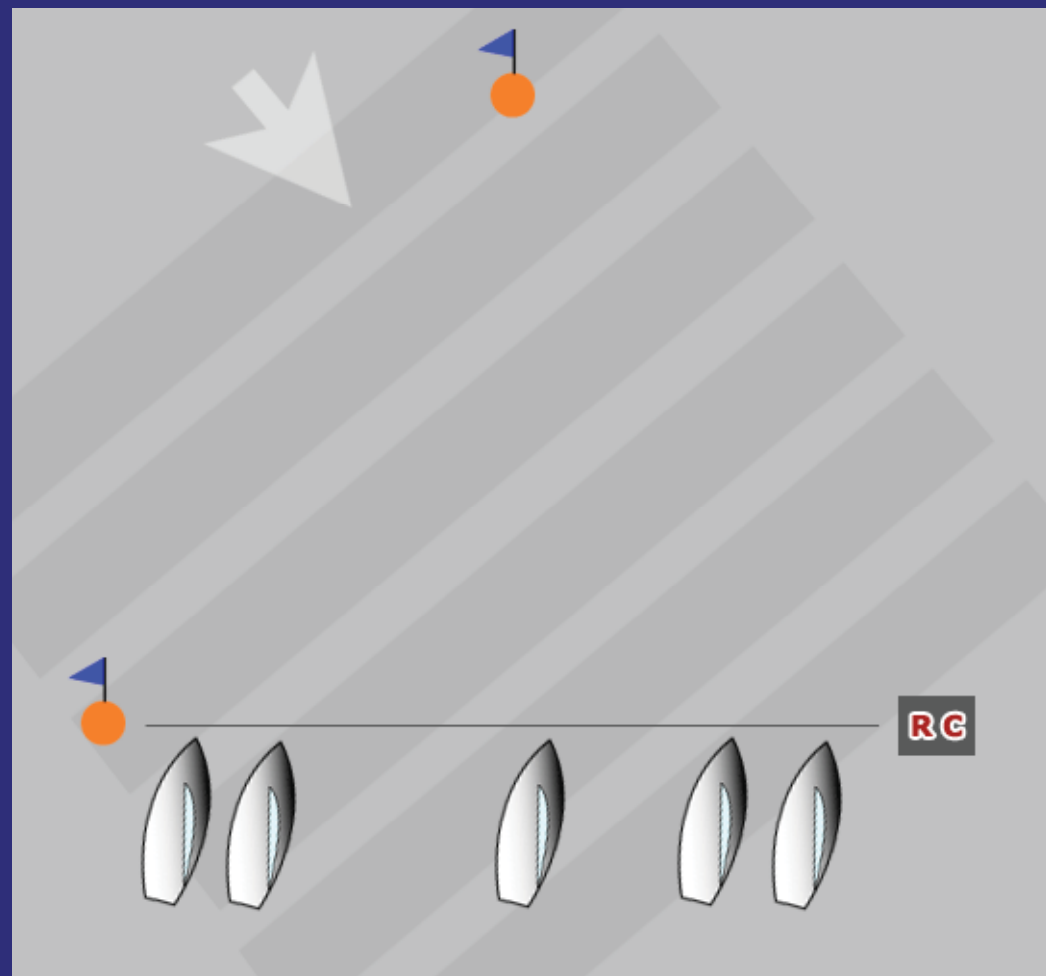
NOT This

The Ladder Rung Concept

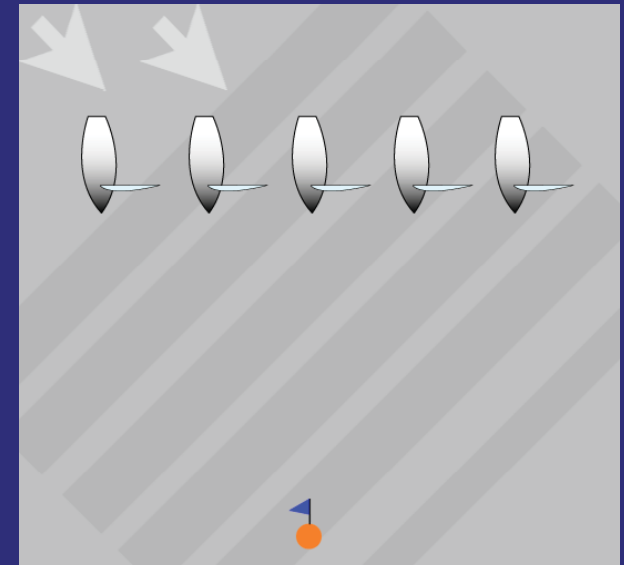
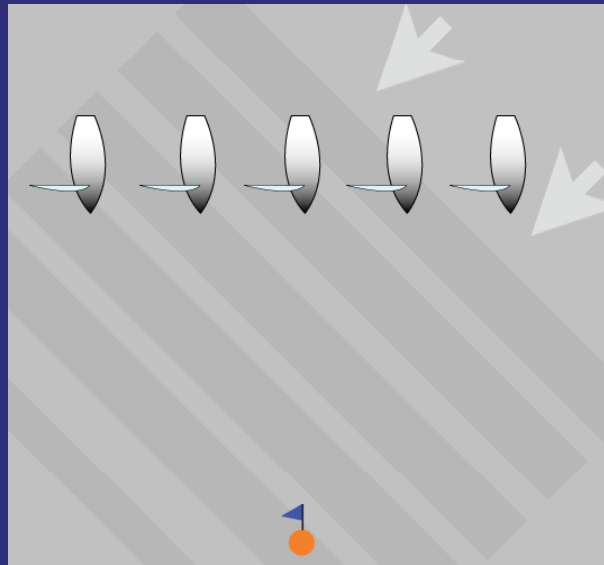
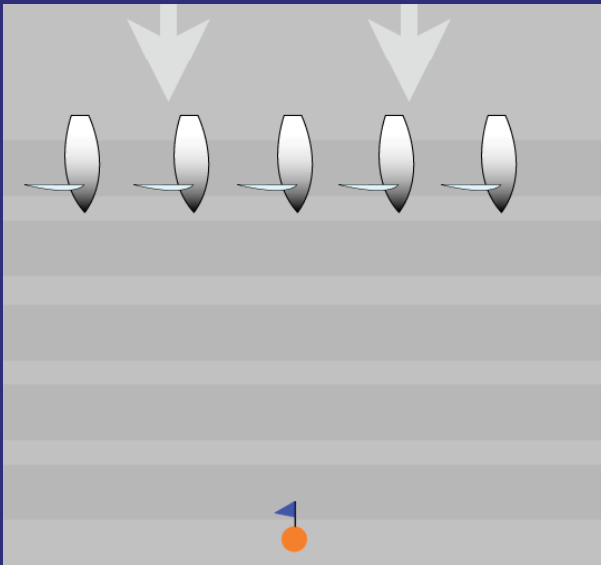


**Wind Shifts
Left...**

Those on the
higher rung
(to left)
gain



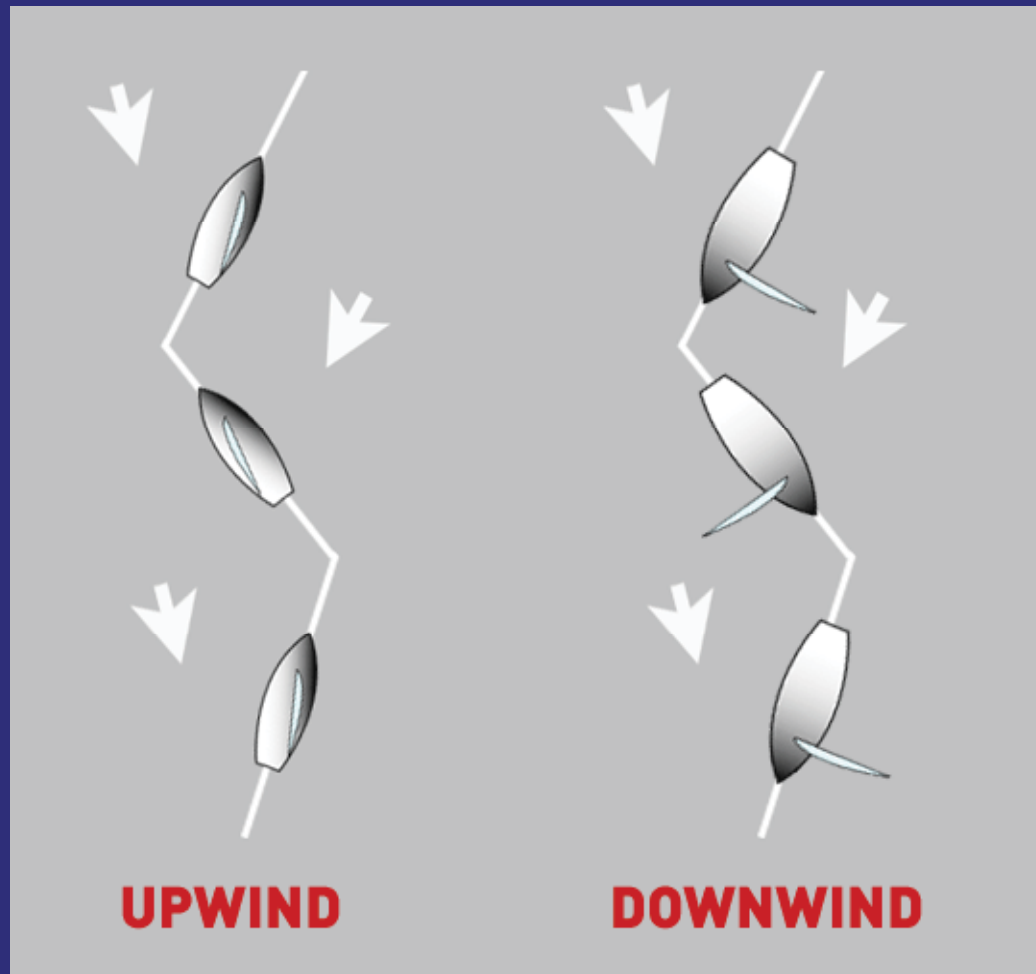
Downwind – Same Principles



Bottomline is..



Stay on
lifted
tack
upwind



Stay on
headed
tack
downwind

Reading The Course



- More Breeze
- Tide and Current
- 1st wind shift



Mark Roundings



- Plan ahead!
- When do I want to protect the inside?

Manage the Fleet



- Controlling Position
- Leverage Game

Sail Smart



- The third's rule
 - When should I get to layline?
- Avoid the middle
 - Play your edge
- Remember the last shift

Sail Smart



- Boat end favored and the breeze is shifting left?
- Game plan in a persistent right shift?
- When do I go for leverage or when should I manage the fleet?

Things to Remember



Upwind

- Pressure vs. Shift
- Persistent or Oscillating
- Stay in the Pressure
- Clear Lane vs. sailing the lifted tack

Downwind

- Stay in the Pressure
- Right shift= Gybe Set
- Left shift= Straight Set
- Clear Lanes

Rule of Thumb



First Leg

- Be conservative
- Do not lose too much

Middle Leg

- Risk/Reward

Last Leg

- Maintain good (hopefully) position!

Thank You and Good Sailing!



Nick Turney
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