HalSail FAQ

Where should I enter the results for a major event?

You need to make an early decision on the basic arrangement for producing results. There are four options.

Option 1 - Enter results on the committee boat using a tablet or phone as each boat crosses the finish line.

This is the quickest method, but it relies on a good team and a person dedicated to entering the data. This method should never he used alone. Results should always be written down on paper in the old-fashioned way, just in case anything goes wrong. Indeed most major events use a tape recorder to capture the results and two independent teams to write them down, in addition to anybody entering results directly on a phone or tablet.

This method is unlikely to be viable in a large regatta with boats that need to be timed across the line in quick order. It is not possible to find the correct boat and click its sail number when a whole group of boats crosses the line nearly simultaneously. On the other hand, if the boats are racing level so that you only need to get them in order, not time them, this method is much easier. If you get a little behind in entering results, it is easy to catch up when there is a lull.

You should consider applying an embargo policy when using this method, or misleading results will be on the web when only the first few boats have crossed the line. You can set the embargo by editing the series from the *Schedule* menu.

Option 2 – Score on the committee boat after each race. The race officer's team does the results on the committee boat, or in the starting hut if they are shore-based. This is an efficient option if the race officer is happy to dedicate at least one member of his team to it immediately after the finish of each race. Bear in mind, though, that if there are several races being run back-to-back this may be a busy time for the team. Also you have to be sure that there is a suitable place to do it in comfort and that you have a laptop with sufficient battery endurance.

Option 3 – Score in the club after each race. Results can be sent ashore by radio, telephone or RIB. This option can be as fast as Option 2 if there is somebody standing by to process the results as soon as they arrive.

You need reliable communications to the shore, which is usually best by mobile phone. VHF is an alternative, but ties up valuable radio time and clogs the air waves.

Make sure the person receiving the results over the phone or radio has a pre-printed form with line numbers on it. Read the results in blocks of ten boats and confirm that sender and receiver are both on the same line number.

An alternative way to get results ashore, which works remarkably well, is to photograph the hand-written results with a phone and sent the resulting file as an attachment to an email.

The person ashore needs to print provisional results and get them on to notice boards as soon as possible. It is useful to get them on the web immediately, marked provisional, so that competitors' friends and family can see them.

Option 4 – Score in the club at the end of each day. This is the simplest option, but also the slowest. Competitors will not see results until well after they have come ashore, by which time many may have gone home. You are likely to get late queries, very likely the next morning when people are keen to get back out on the water and need to know how they stand in the rankings.

Help index