

# **Sooooo you want to race in the BSIR**

A simple guide to get you started

By Ted Drossos & Gary Sebouhian

**Option One:** The simplest way to get started in racing is to crew with someone else. There are always skippers that need crew and would be thrilled to have you aboard. Come down to Long Island Yacht Sales, 41 Degnon Blvd, Bay Shore, NY 11706 on Tuesday evening at least an hour before race time so we can get you on a boat.

**Option Two:** Just do it yourself by following these simple directions. In this article we're going to explain what you need to know in order to race in a typical BSIR pursuit style race from start to finish.

## **BEFORE RACE DAY**

1. Get a boat and some friends together for an evening of fun.
2. You'll need the typical sailing equipment that you would normally use when you sail in the evening: working running lights, a VHF radio, flashlight and a compass, chartplotter or GPS.
3. You need to register one week prior to your first race in order for your handicap and your starting time to be determined. Register by contacting:

Ted Drossos

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4. You'll need a copy of the "Course Descriptions," the chart with the "Marks of the Courses," and the "Starting Time Offset Spreadsheet." All of these can be downloaded from the [sbccracing.org](http://sbccracing.org) website. Although it's not necessary, print a copy of the "Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions" and read it. It will explain in greater detail some other information unique to the BSIR such as how handicaps are adjusted throughout the season.

## **RACE DAY, BEFORE THE START**

### **Starting Area**

All of the Bay Shore Invitational Races (BSIR) start at Buoy #1 in Great Cove, 0.8 nautical miles south of the Bay Shore Marina.

### **Checking in**

When you arrive at the starting area, hail the committee boat on VHF channel 72 and broadcast your boat name and sail number. You should receive an acknowledgement from the committee boat.

### **Course Number**

Fifteen minutes before the start, the course number will be announced on VHF channel 72.

### **Course Description**

Look at the "Course Description" sheet to see the order of the buoys that will be used for tonight's race. It will indicate all the buoys that must be rounded and in which order they must be rounded to complete the race. It will also indicate how each buoy has to be rounded.

## Determine Your Starting Time

After the course is announced look at the “Starting Time Offset Spreadsheet” to determine your actual starting time. Since this is a pursuit style start, each boat racing will have a different starting time. The slower boats will start before the faster boats. Below is a sample “Starting Time Offset Spreadsheet.” For this example we will be using course #4 to illustrate how you will determine your actual starting time. Look at your spreadsheet and follow the selected course number column down until it intersects the row with your specific boat information. There are many courses so it is important that you select the course column that corresponds to the course that was be announced on VHF Channel 72. The information in the box where the row and column meet is your “Starting Time Offset.” The “Starting Time Offset” is the number of minutes and seconds that you should start racing after the “Base Starting Time” horn has sounded.

Series		Course								
BSIR Spring 2020		1 or 2	3	4	5 or 6	7	8			
		Distance	2.91	3.64	4.26	4.48	4.51	4.76		

  

Boat Name	Sail #	Captain	PHRF	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss	mm:ss
Integrity	11	Figueroa	233	00:49	01:02	01:12	01:16	01:17	01:21
Wind Dancer	378	Pfister	231	00:55	01:09	01:21	01:25	01:26	01:30
<b>Your Boat Name</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>Your Name</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>01:04</b>	<b>01:20</b>	<b>01:34</b>	01:39	01:40	01:45
Snoopy	682	Deruvo	223	01:19	01:38	01:55	02:01	02:02	02:09
Sabbatical	2803	Drossos A	222	01:21	01:42	01:59	02:05	02:06	02:13

If the race is scheduled to start at 7:00 pm, that would be considered the “Base Starting Time.” If your “Starting Time Offset” is +01:34 (1 minute and 34 seconds) you should add this to the “Base Starting Time” and that will be your “Actual Starting Time”.

Example:	“Base Starting Time”	7:00:00 pm
	“Starting Time Offset”	+01:34
	“Actual Starting Time”	7:01:34 pm

In this example, you would start at 1:34 (1 minute 34 seconds) after the “Base Starting Time.” Based on handicaps, boats will be starting at different times.

## RACE DAY, THE START

### Starting Sequence

There will be multiple (4-5) rapid horn blasts one minute prior to the “Base Starting Time” horn. One minute after the multiple rapid horns, a single long horn will be sounded precisely at the published start time as indicated in the SBCC yearbook and the sbccracing.org web site. This long single horn marks the “Base Starting Time.”

### Starting Line

The starting line is defined by Buoy #1 and a temporary mark set out by the race committee. You must pass between these two marks when it is your turn to start. The starting line is always

perpendicular to the first leg of the course. Please keep the starting area clear for those boats that are about to start in order to avoid congestion at the starting line. It is very important that no boat be on the course side of the starting line after the “Base Starting Time” until your specific start time.

## **RACE DAY, AFTER THE START**

### **Running the Course**

Sail fast. Pass the marks of the course as indicated in the “Course Description” leaving each mark on the correct side of your boat. For instance if the course description indicates “6” starboard then you must pass buoy “6” leaving it on the starboard side of your boat – the right side. If the course description indicates “6” port then you must pass buoy “6” leaving it on the port side of your boat – the left side.

Oh, and try to pass as many boats as you can and try not to let any boats pass you. It’s like a bunch of boats cruising while trying to get to the destination before everyone else. Pretty simple so far.

### **Marks**

The “Marks of the Courses” chart will show you the location of all the marks (government buoys) used for every BSIR race throughout the season.

## **RACE DAY, THE FINISH**

### **Finish Line**

There will be a specific Finish Line that boats must pass through and this line will be described in the Course Description. Boats must finish by passing between buoy “1” and a mark set out by the race committee. When crossing the Finish Line, buoy “1” must be left on the same side of your boat as the previous mark of the course.

Boats that finish the race should call the committee boat on VHF channel 72 indicating their boat name and sail number. You should receive an acknowledgement from the committee boat. Boats that finish the race should also note their GPS finish time and the boat that finished immediately ahead and behind them. This information will be used if there is a discrepancy with the order of finish as recorded by the committee boat or in the event the committee boat had to leave station.

## **RACE DAY, AFTER THE RACE**

### **The after race party**

Come to Long Island Yacht Sales for the post race get-together and enjoy the fun and camaraderie with your fellow racers.

## **BETWEEN RACE DAYS**

### **Information**

All updates and the support information discussed here can be found on the sbccracing.org website. Race results and photos are posted there after every race.