

Notes for Escort boat drivers

To ensure maximum safety for your crew and fairness for all crews, we have prepared some notes to assist the drivers of escort boats who are not familiar with outrigger canoes.

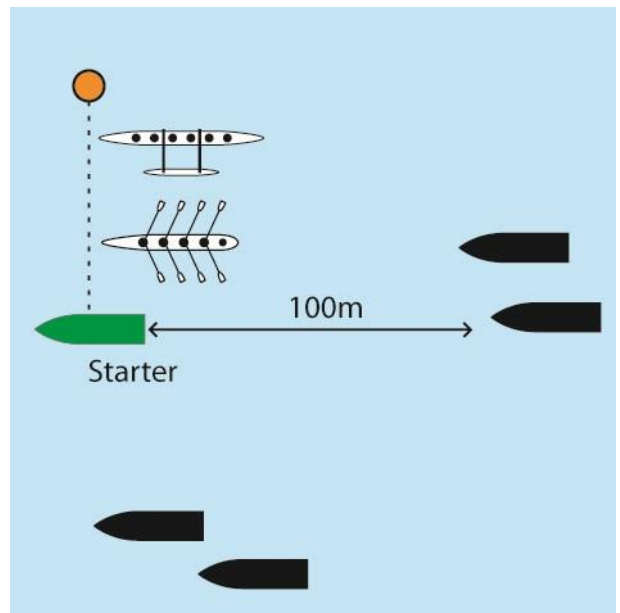
At the start:

To ensure an easy to manage and fair start, escort boats need to be well clear of the racing boats.

Please stay at least 100m behind the line, or behind the Starter (between the Starter's boat and Round Island).

Once the racing boats have started, please stay clear. They will want clean air and less wake!

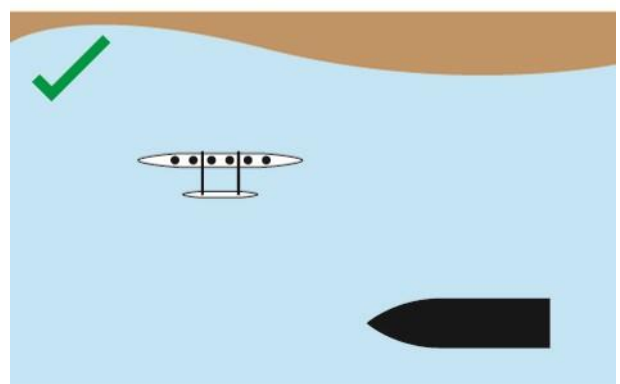
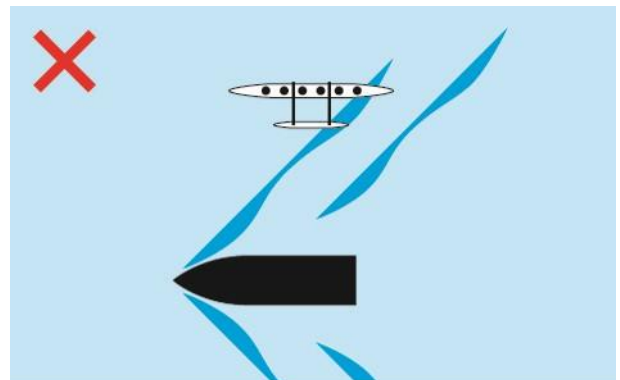
Congestion is a possibility at Ap Lei Chau if crews are changing in between the first two 'no change zones'. Be aware of this and if your crew is not planning a change here, please stay well clear.



Following your crew:

It is fun to get the spectators close to the racing crew, but there are some things to think about.

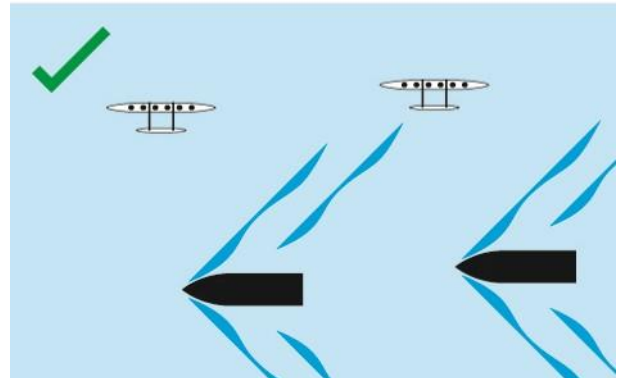
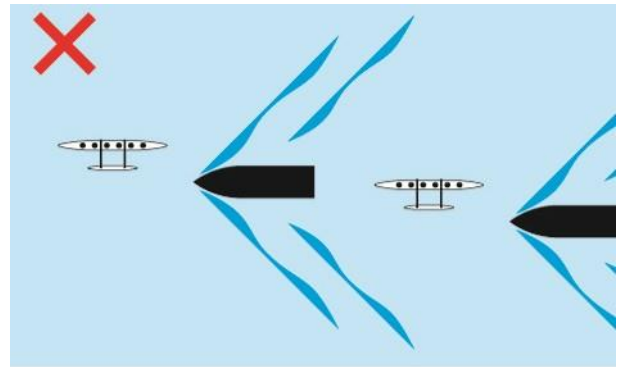
- it is considered unfair to allow a canoe to ride on your bow-wave
- the spectators and other noises (engine) can be distracting to the racing crew
- a safe distance is needed to allow for course changes, odd waves, capsizes etc.
- always travel slightly behind and to the sea ward side of the boat you are supporting.



When other crews are around:

If there are other racing crews nearby, you may have to alter your course. This is to prevent wake and exhaust affecting other crews and also to give them a clear view of the course.

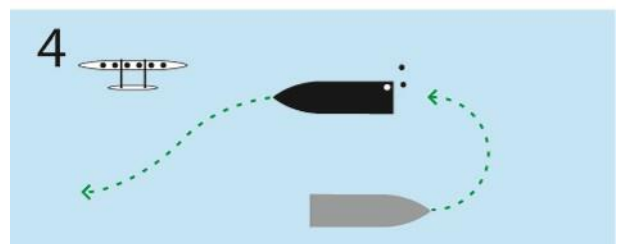
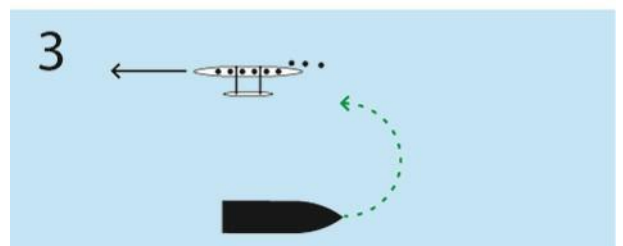
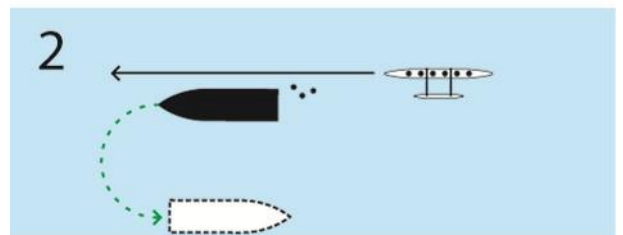
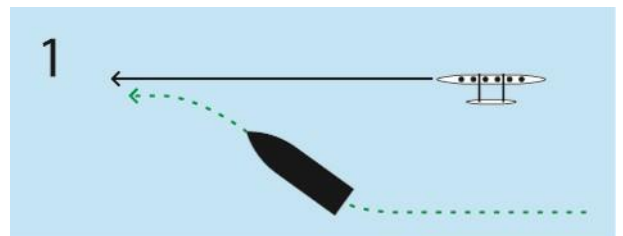
When following crews, do not cross the racing line of the crew you are supporting or that of other racing crews that may be close behind. Your wake creates unnecessary turbulence.



Sea Changes:

For safety and navigational ease, here are some suggestions for how to conduct a sea change.

- get clearly ahead of the racing crew (at least 300 metres) and steer closer to the racing line (1).
- do not cross the racing line of other racing crews that may be close behind.
- put engines into neutral gear, or cut engines, to reduce risk of propeller strike to paddlers entering the water. Paddlers should jump and not dive into the water (2).
- Paddlers should swim away from the support boat before engines/propellers are re-engaged.
- turn away from the course and wait (2-3).
- after change, circle back to near original position, stop engines/propellers and allow paddlers to swim to the support boat (3-4).



Victoria Harbour and the ferry terminals:

Victoria Harbour is very busy, especially near the ferry terminals. The ferries may not see a canoe or rowing boat, so the support boat should move closer to provide a more visible presence.

Ferries may not be willing or able to alter course, so your crew will need to take this into account and should slow down and steer behind any ferries.

Any 'near misses' may be reported to the Marine Department and could result in future events being cancelled so please be careful not to disrupt other marine traffic..

Kellett Island – traffic pattern

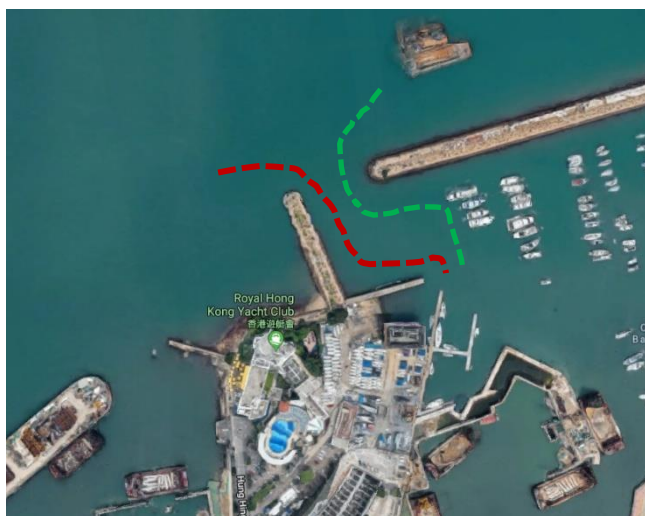
Racing crews have priority at all times entering and exiting the Causeway Bay Typhoon Shelter.

If another racing crew is preparing to exit the typhoon shelter, your escort boat will need to wait until the other racing crew (and their escort boat) has exited. There is an enforced 10 minute change over time for each racing crew.

Following the standard marine navigation conventions, boats enter to the starboard side of the basin entrance. Canoes head to the slipway and escort boats head to the Pontoon.

If multiple canoes and escort boats arrive at the same time, canoes always have right of way ahead of escort boats.

Escort boats should exit the basin behind their canoe. If another team's canoe is close behind, the escort boat must remain behind both canoes so that there is a clear and wakeless path.



Finish Line:

As crews enter Deep Water Bay and pass the north western point of Middle Island, Escort boats will immediately turn right off the race course and head to the Middle Island pontoon. Support crew will then have time to disembark and watch their team cross the finish line.

Note that speed restrictions are in force in Deep Water Bay and also the mooring area near the Club. Escort boats can drop off passengers at the pontoon at Middle Island, or wait for the Club sampan service.