

Instructor Training 12

Setting a Triangle Course with offshore winds

Patrol Boat Practice

With an offshore wind, the beach may be in a wind shadow, or light flooky wind. So from the shore you can determine where you think the first buoy should go as it is closest to shore. But the PB will decide where the windward buoy goes when it's in enough wind.

In the PB you will need, 2 flagged buoys and one round buoy, instructor and another adult, and a small hand held flag

Launch the PB and head to the first predetermined area for this buoy. It needs to be out of the wind shadow, and with sufficient wind to set this course.



On the windward side of the PB lower the anchor, chain, rope and buoy, holding on to the buoy, check if the length needs to be shortened. This buoy is the top, windward buoy (closest to the wind).

Still holding on to the buoy, motor in neutral, using a small hand held flag, hold up so the wind can show you where the wind is going to, (the wind will be on your back, and the flag blowing away from you) to find where to put the bottom/, leeward mark.



Line up something to aim for on the horizon, in this case a distant tree. Before you go ahead towards that area, are you happy where this course will be? Thinking about possible drifting, rocks, boat path etc.



If all happy with course position, Let go of the buoy and head straight towards that point, for as long as you want the course to be. Stop again, in neutral, and lower the anchor, chain, and buoy on the windward side of the PB. Check length ok. This buoy is the Leeward, bottom mark buoy (furthest from the wind)



Now you can head off in straight line towards top mark until you are about half way between both buoys, take a sharp left, or right , depending on whether you are setting a Port or Starboard course. Photo shows a Port course. Head out far enough to make a triangle, further is better than not enough. Now over the windward side lower the anchor, chain, rope and round buoy, this is the wing gybe mark.



On your way back to shore, you can check the top and bottom marks are in line with the wind. In neutral, holding up your flag, the 2 flagged buoys and the tree, should all be in line with your flag.



Your course is set.

This may take some practice.

*Note, As the wind is always changing, your course may not stay perfect for long, you may have to move the top or bottom mark a bit, then you may also have to move the wing mark. You need to keep checking the 2 flags are going in the same line.

** Note about the WW Anchors and buoys. These are custom made for the shallow waters we operate in. So, if you use them outside the buoys, there is a chance they may not be long enough. Remember to check.