

Instructor Training 13

Setting a Triangle Course with onshore winds

Patrol Boat Practice

With the wind onshore, you will instantly feel it on your face, and, standing on the beach, you will have a good idea where the course should go, so you can determine from shore where first buoy could go, and distance from shore.

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

Launch the PB and head to the first predetermined area for this buoy.



On the windward side of the PB lower the anchor, chain, rope and buoy, but holding on to the buoy, check if the length needs to be shortened.

This buoy is the bottom/leeward buoy.

(Furthest from 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 coming from for the windward /top mark.



Line up your flag and spot something on the horizon to aim for, the lighthouse this time, are you happy where this course will be? Thinking about possible drifting, rocks, boat path etc? If happy, let go of the buoy and head straight to 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 Windward, top mark, (Closest to the wind)



Now you can head off in straight line to bottom 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 Starboard course. Motor out far enough to make a triangle, further is better than not enough. Over the windward side drop the anchor, chain, rope and a 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 lighthouse, should all be in line, with your flag.



Your course is set.

This may take some practice.

*Note; the wind is always changing, your course may not stay perfect for long, if you 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. They are custom made for the shallow waters we operate in. So if you use them outside the 200m buoys, especially at high tide, there is a chance they may not be long enough. Be sure to check.