Racing Tactics and Strategy

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- Sail Maker For 10 Years
- North Sails Cleveland Manager
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Strategy vs. Tactics

- Strategy - Gaining information about the race course and competition to gain the advantage

- Tactics  - Positioning of your boat to implement your strategy
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Pre Race Check list

• Head to wind readings
• Upwind numbers
  – High and low numbers
• Downwind numbers
  – High and low numbers
• Starting line
  – Favored end
• Race course
Checking Wind Direction

Head to Wind

Boom in Center

Boat is stopped

230°
Gather Information Before Start

LOG EACH TACK

H: 240°
M: 230°
L: 220°

PERSISTENT

OSCILLATING
Starting Tactics
Start Line

- Head to wind
  - Bow position
- Compass
  - HTW vs. Line
- Starboard angle
  - High or low
Line Sites

• Sight thru the boat and pin end to a point on shore

• Very Important!
The Thirds Rule

- Boat Third
- Middle
- Pin Third
Good Start is Key

THE START

This!
Not this!
Good Start

- Clear air
- Hole to leeward
- Options
Reading The Course
Goal is to Sail the Shortest Possible Course

This

NOT This
Wind Shifts
Left...

Those on the higher rung (to left) gain
Downwind – Same Principles
Bottomline is..

Stay on lifted tack upwind

Stay on headed tack downwind
Reading The Course

- More Breeze
- Tide and Current
- 1st wind shift
• Plan ahead!
• When do I want to protect the inside?
Manage the Fleet

- Controlling Position
- Leverage Game
Sail Smart

• The third’s rule
  – When should I get to layline?

• Avoid the middle
  – Play your edge

• Remember the last shift
• Boat end favored and the breeze is shifting left?
• Game plan in a persistent right shift?
• When do I go for leverage or when should I manage the fleet?
Things to Remember

Upwind
- Pressure vs. Shift
- Persistent or Oscillating
- Stay in the Pressure
- Clear Lane vs. sailing the lifted tack

Downwind
- Stay in the Pressure
- Right shift= Gybe Set
- Left shift= Straight Set
- Clear Lanes
Rule of Thumb

First Leg
- Be conservative
- Do not lose too much

Middle Leg
- Risk/Reward

Last Leg
- Maintain good (hopefully) position!
Thank You and Good Sailing!

Nick Turney
North Sails