



# Rowing British Columbia


## STAGGERED STARTS



### Overview



- There is nothing covering a staggered start in the Rules of Racing.
- We are starting to see the use of staggered starts more often than in the past – with adaptives and at Canada Cup.
- This should be requested as an Exception in the sanction application.






## The Mechanics

- If you are using a hand-held start, wait for all crews to be locked on before informing the crews as to which crew leaves when, and what the delay is.
- If you are using a floating start, inform the crews as to which crew leaves when, and what the delay is, BEFORE bringing the crews to the line.
- Make sure all crews know whether you will be using “Attention”, the flag and “Go” for every start, or just the first start.
- Have the Assistant Starter use a stopwatch to drive the timing. Start the watch when the first “Go” is given.

## The Mechanics

- Use the stopwatch to control the start for all staggers.
- In advance, determine how long you need for an “Attention”, the flag and “Go” [I need a minimum of 3.5 seconds personally].
- That allows you to determine how far ahead of the stagger time you should start speaking to have the “Go” on the dot of the stagger.
- Use the flag before each “Go” unless the stagger is too short to allow this.
- On-water Umpires should only be leaving the start line after the last crew has started. Where adaptives are concerned, this may require some form of static or zonal umpiring if the OC or CU requires it.



## The \$64,000 question

What if a crew goes early?

- Your action as a starter should be pre-determined between the CU and the Organizing Committee, and communicated either in the Regatta Package or during the Coxes and Coaches meeting.
- My personal preference is that the race continues, and the offending crew[s] be excluded after the conclusion of the race.

