

## Why did my Pursuit Start Time change?

While most people have a view that their pursuit start time only changes based on their performance in the previous race, there are a number of other reasons it may change from week to week. While it is reasonable to expect that leading boats from a race are given a later start time the following week, and the back markers are more favourable start time, this is not the only reason.

Start times are calculated with the intention that all boats should finish at around the same time – slower boats start first while progressively faster boats start progressively later. But this then requires that the handicapper knows how long the race will last. Giving a slow boat a 10 minute head start might be generous in a 30 minute race but would be extremely unfair in an 8 hour race. So the first reason a start time will vary is the expected length of a race.

Consider the following where there is a race expected to last 60 minutes and boats start anywhere from 0 to 20 minutes after the start.



For the same boats with a race expected to run for 90 minutes, the start times also increase accordingly with each boat given a proportionally later start time.



Another factor that could affect start times is if an even slower boat enters the series, or the boat previously starting on 0 is to be given a better start time. As the boat can't be given a negative start time, all other boats are then moved a fixed amount later.



There are also other factors that could affect start times:

1. If a boat has a significant change of crew or equipment, the handicapper may apply a manual adjustment
2. If a boat starts several minutes after their published start time and finishes last in the race, their start time for the next race should not be altered.
3. If there is some exceptional weather condition that means that the finish times are out of line with expectations, the handicapper may decide not to change start times from one race to the next.

While there are a number of reasons a boat's start time may change, the most likely are:

- Your performance in the previous race
- The handicapper's estimate of the elapsed time of the slowest boat