

Hartsholme Electric Model Boat Club Plank Race

Rules of Engagement - Revision 2

1. The contest will take place at the Hartsholme Country Park Lake on the date set by the Competition Secretary. It will comprise a straight-running competition from the lower launching platform to the target. Note that there is no limit to the number of planks that a competitor may enter.

There will be two classes of Planks. Class A is those that are not using battery power and Class B is those with battery power.

2. The hull of each vessel must consist of a wooden plank of maximum size 48 inches long x 6 inches wide x 1 inch thick. Smaller dimensions may be used if desired and the plank may be shaped (for example, pointed at the front!)

Alternatively the plank may be constructed from ply sheet built around formers so as to resemble a plank or from such as foam blocks to do the same. The same maximum dimensions apply. This construction will give more buoyancy but, as with a real plank, no items may be mounted inside.

Note: Propeller shafts and rudder tubes may pass through as with a real plank.

3. The plank may **not** be built up at the sides to create a displacement hull but a superstructure of any construction may be used (if desired) to protect essential mechanisms from water ingress.
4. Underwater keels, fins, rudders, stabilizers etc. may be fitted as necessary to improve straight-running. When stabilizers (outriggers) are used then only one may be in the water at one time, this ensures that they are not used to provide extra buoyancy.
5. Once launched, the plank must proceed entirely unaided by the operator, although cursing and shouting at it (with due regard for the sensibilities of onlookers) will be permitted.
6. The plank may not be towed (or pushed) by another vessel or by a suitably-trained duck, dog or person dressed only in his underpants (or otherwise).
7. Now that electronic gyro steering units are readily available then the use of an auto steering device is not permitted.
8. Each plank will be required to make three attempts at the course. These will be spaced out in time to help share out the effects of changing weather etc. The final score for each plank will be the best score of the three. In the event of a tie then the second best scores will be taken into account.
9. Errant motor driven planks can outrun the rescue boat and waste a lot of time. To overcome this battery driven planks must have a receiver and some form of motor control. This may be an electronic controller or a servo operating a switch. The control is to be full 'on' or full 'off' – no selection in-between. No other operation via the receiver is allowed. The pilot will select 'off' when the plank has passed the target buoys or when he decides that it will miss them

Scoring

The object will be to score **as few** points as possible.

The target:

• 60 • 40 • 20 • 0 • 20 • 40 • 60 •

The target will be a line of eight buoys set one yard apart and about seventy-five to eighty yards from the launch point. This would give a 'bull', two 'inners', two 'middles' and two 'outers'. Scoring: Bull = Zero, Inner = 20, Middle = 40 and Outer = 60, and a miss = 80. Because only one run scores for the competition the actual value for these numbers does not appear to be critical.

The winner of the competition will be the plank which scores the lowest number of points on its best run. It's as simple as that. No allowance will be made for wind, rain, waterlogged planks, dense fog, planks being 'retrieved' by local dogs, declaration of war, terrorism, earthquake, tsunamis or Acts of God. Please note that speed is not a factor except insofar as we need to get three runs in for everyone before bed-time.

In the event of a tie between two or more planks, each will make one additional run and the nearest arrival to the centre of the Bull will be the winner.

It is to be hoped that all members will consider entering a plank. There must be enough boffins in our club that we can produce some sophisticated planks.