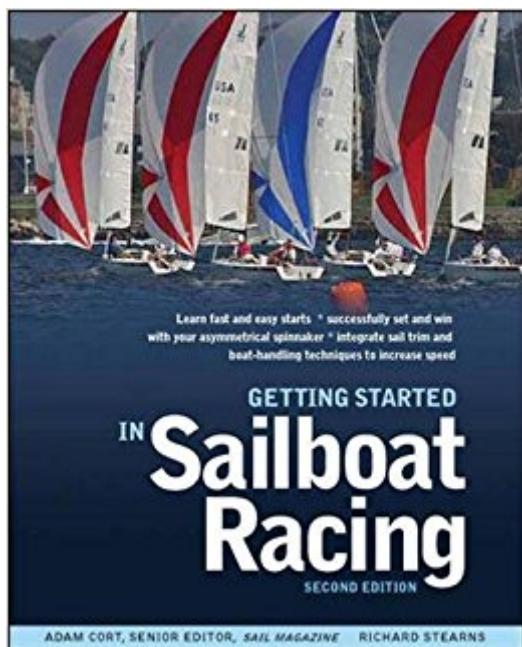


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# Getting Started In Sailboat Racing, 2nd Edition (International Marine-RMP)



## Synopsis

Everything you need to race your way up through the fleet If you sail--even a little--you've probably thought about trying your hand at racing. Now you can stop thinking and do it. Getting Started in Sailboat Racing makes this endlessly fascinating lifetime sport accessible to anyone who wants to give it a try, whether you own a sailboat, are hoping to crew, or spectating from a nearby perch. This complete course in racing fundamentals breaks the racing experience down into bite-size pieces, making the process easier to understand and reflecting the leg-by-leg nature of a typical race. With scores of helpful illustrations, this user-friendly manual takes you around the buoys, explaining new rule changes and tactics that apply to each part of the race. You'll learn how to: Execute quick, competitive starts Maximize speed and efficiency on the windward leg Maneuver for position around the windward mark Take full advantage of downwind and reaching legs Handle the spinnaker (even when asymmetrical), and beat the crowd at the jibe and leeward marks Eke out every last bit of speed as you sprint to the finish There are few things in this world more satisfying than racing a sailboat. Get in on the action and find out what you've been missing. All you need is a competitive spirit and a little help from Getting Started in Sailboat Racing. "Cort and Stearns deftly break down racing, from start to finish, into basic elements, making the sport more accessible by giving the novice a strong understanding of the fundamentals . . . this book should be required reading for anyone wanting to get out on the course. The book goes into enough detail on tactics and sail trim to make the average sailor not only comfortable on the racecourse, but competitive, as well." -- SAILING "With Cort and Stearns' enthusiasm for the topic and straightforward advice, it's hard not to read this book without picturing yourself rounding the buoys just ahead of the rest of the fleet." -- Soundings

## Book Information

Series: International Marine-RMP

Paperback: 224 pages

Publisher: International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press; 2 edition (May 14, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0071808264

ISBN-13: 978-0071808262

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.6 x 9.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 50 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #204,206 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #167 in Books > Reference > Encyclopedias & Subject Guides > Sports #186 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Reference #188 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Sailing

## Customer Reviews

"Just the tutorial you are looking for...Cort and Stearns deftly break down racing, from start to finish, into the basic elements, making the sport more accessible by giving the novice a strong understanding of the fundamentals from which to build. This book should be required reading for anyone wanting to get out on the course. ...the book [will make] the average sailor not only comfortable on the racecourse but competitive as well." --Tm Gregiore Sailing 20091101 "An excellent resource." Sailing World 20051101

Adam Cort is a former editor and regular contributor to Sailing magazine. He is a lifelong sailor, has cruised extensively, and has sailed and raced dinghies, maxis, and most boats in between. Richard Stearns is an America's Cup veteran and career sailor, sailmaker, boatbuilder and boat salesman. He has participated in 39 Chicago to Mackinac races winning 5 times, competed in 5 Olympic campaigns, won multiple North American championships and competed in Worlds and hemispheric championships around the world. Stearns has compiled an impressive record of international victories including three wins in the Southern Ocean Racing Circuit (SORC). Rich has won championships in boats from the 11 foot Penguin dinghy to 70-foot yachts.

There's no better introduction to sailboat racing ever published. Many sailing books suffer from a surfeit of jargon, incomprehensible amateur prose and cute inside references...at least, that would be true for most of the dozens I have attempted to read. Cort and Stearns assume you have basic sail handling skills, such as the ability to tack, gybe and fly a spinnaker. Other than that, they start from scratch. They do a beautiful job of explaining each phase of a race--start, windward leg, mark rounding, downwind strategy, finishing--in clear and simple language. Every element is covered logically and with easy to follow examples drawn from their own extensive experience. The diagrams are simple enough to follow, but don't leave out anything. It's a brilliant piece of instructional writing that can be read over and over again, and I have given copies to each one of my own crew. If you want to race and want to win, get this book and read it many times. And don't skip the Epilogue, which is a poetic description of why we sail that has restored my sense of

proportion more than once.

As a beginner to racing, this book is a must. I am still reading, replaying last summer races, to find out what needs correcting, improving and, what went correct. Most situations that occur while racing is covered, It covers how, where, to sail a course. With tactics, compass headings and, when best to tack/gibe. This book is like a classroom, while reading I can replay practices and, racing event, see what I did, to what I should have done. I am still reading/rereading this book replaying scenarios, it's like an adult video game, Just Awesome ! I started with "One Design" by Dave Perry: w/out racing experience, for me wrong book. I will read One Design, after I absorb Sailboat Racing. Fair Winds, Fair Seas,

The book is very informative. It presents the information in a readable/learnable manner. Can't say enough good things about it! Although I have sailed for some time, I never learned to push a boat to the edge. This book teaches some of the nuances of trim that allow you to coax hull speed out of your boat on a regular basis- or get real close to it! HUGE issue---- I bought this as a digital book versus a printed copy. This is one of those books you really need onboard in a readable format. For example- the book addresses things like backstay tension for various points of sail. This is something that one really wants as a reference while sailing. If I had purchased a paper version it would have stickie-bookmarks for each point of sail. While it is theoretically possible to do this on a digital device, even on a 33 foot sailboat, managing a touch screen and reading it on deck as the spray is flying is "challenging". Bottom line- buy it!

I'm a racing newbie and this book was EXACTLY what the doctor ordered. I can't tell you if the information is expert enough, but for a guy like me, this is what I needed. It gets right through the basic rules, etc., and then into the fundamental strategy issues.

This book is exceedingly clear and easy to understand. I race Flying Scots and Ensign's, none too successfully, I might add. But this book will help for sure. Having read many small boat racing books from Stuart Walker (many) to Dave Perry to Ted Wells this effort by Cort and Stearns might be the best. It is unquestionably the best place to start.

This assumes you already know how to sail. But if you've never raced or you're just starting out or even if you're an experienced racer this gives you just what you need. It doesn't get into the gory

details of super fine tuning and tweaking which is good because for the beginner it concentrates mostly just on the big picture. It gives a terrific summation of the most common rules while not concentrating on the corner cases. So you'll be able to get out there and race without getting into too many protest meetings. I re-read this book before each of the first five seasons I raced and got more out of it each time.

This is a very well written book for the novice sailboat racer. It tells you everything you need to know to get started, however there is much more involved than just reading and understanding. There is much material to grasp and absorb, too much to take in during one reading. During my first series of races after I finished the book I still came in last place, not because the book was inadequate, but because the learning curve for racing requires much practice. Buying and reading this book is a worthwhile investment if you are serious about racing. Just be prepared to learn a little at a time and practice a lot. And better yet, take someone with you who is good at racing who can teach you as you sail. One of our sailing club's other members went from near last place to second place this past weekend after having a very experienced sailor as his crew. Sailboat racing is very challenging, but then how much fun would it be if it was easy?

Great book. You would think by its title it's an intro. Far from it, it starts with the basics but is quite thorough. The detail was too much to comprehend in a first read. Plan to dig deeper with the next read and be better versed this coming season

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