Setting A Beam Reach Course From Shore

Finding the Beam Reach

This always depends on the wind, direction and strength, and is constantly changing.

To mark your starting point, take a small buoy with you into the water where you think it would be a good place to start - the line may have to be shortened, so it doesn't drift off course.
Put the buoy and anchor down, face into the wind.

Stretch out both arms in a line. The beam reach is from one hand to the other, and straight out to sea. Point your finger turn your head and spot something on the horizon (in this case horizon spot is a rock)
This is your beam reach to-day, from the starter buoy to the rock, or at least for now.

Now look at this course and check the following:-
Will it take the children too close to the rocks?
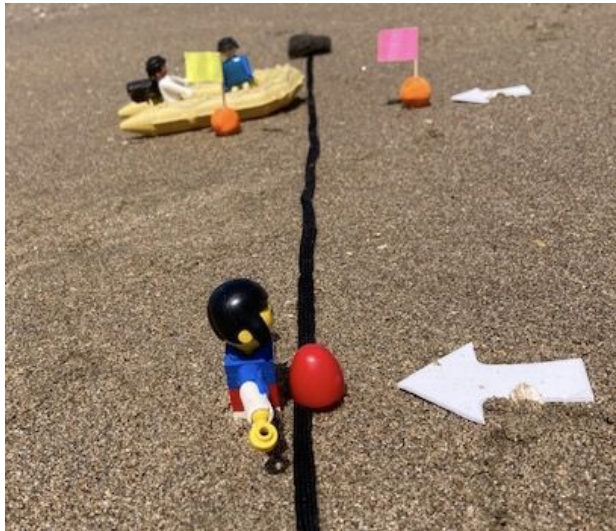Is it too close to boat launching path?
Is there enough room to extend the course?
Does it extend into the North side of the beach?

Just lift the buoy and walk left or right.
Repeat the process and set a new course until all happy.

Setting The Buoys For Gates On A Beam Reach.

*Black line demonstrates course (Beam Reach)

*Course minus black line

Discuss with patrol handlers where you think the buoys should go, stay beside your starting buoy so you can line up the spot on the horizon, signal the patrol boats to get the buoys in the right space.

Take into account the length of the anchor line, which means that the buoys will drift, so may have to shorten the line.
The 2 flag buoys flags should be blowing in the same direction as the wind.

If the wind does change, easiest thing to do is leap frog one buoy over the other, as the wind moves, this usually fixes it.

Course now ready for gates session.

Wind

The best case scenarios for beam reach sailing, gates for beginners, is for the wind to be **Off Shore,** in any direction, even if the course is parallel to the shore.
On Shore wind brings the waves, and could make boat handling, launching and retrieving more challenging, especially if the tide is in. A parallel course, onshore, **NE,** would be virtually impossible, if the tide was full in, with big waves. Children would be sailing along the wave breaking line.
Body boarding, and body board rescues, would be a better option. Also teaches the children to understand when it's not OK to go out sailing. But it is ok to do something safer in the water.