

## Club Rating Goals

- Rank boats from fastest to slowest and handicap them so that a boat that significantly improves from one month/league to the next will have a good chance of winning league overall
- Consistent and understandable handicap so we know what we are racing for
- Give any boat a chance to win a race and produce several race winners in a league
- Boats competitive in IRC and Echo should have a chance of winning too
- The handicap should be relatively stable so that people know their handicap is and can race to it. Adjustments should be as small as possible month to month to avoid it feeling random.
- The handicap and reasons for adjustment should be published each month/league.
- The system should be reviewed monthly both statistically and manually by committee to see if adjustments are required.
- IRC and Club Rating will be used in all events. Echo will be used on Friday Night white sailing
- For spinnaker boats the maximum different from IRC should be 6% maybe
- For white sail boats the maximum difference from Spinnaker IRC boats should be 9%
- Boats not sailing regularly will be manually handicapped and can expect initial harsh handicap.
- The system should cater for boats that want to race short-handed, white sail or reduced sail sizes.

## Rules

The handicap for a month/league defaults to same as last month/league unless modified by committee. If a boat wants to change something that might affect the club rating they should notify the committee on or before the last day of the previous month. All correspondence will be by email. [melpcollins@hotmail.com](mailto:melpcollins@hotmail.com) Verbal requests will not be entered into system.

Although the aim is to have handicaps only adjusted downwards in exceptional circumstances this may be moved and a negative % applied. This would usually involve pro's on board or other exceptionally sailed boat.

At start of each month/league the committee will meet and publish the new handicap list.

## White Sail

A boat that moves from white sail to Spinnaker or visa-versa will have its handicap adjusted by 3%. For example, if handicap as .845 based on white sailing it would be adjusted to .870 for the next month/league. Both handicaps will be listed each month/league. But the competitor must pick one to sail with for the entire month/league.

## Reduced Crew

A boat that sails with crew below its IRC rating for the month/league can have its rating adjusted by 0.5% for each crew. So, if IRC rating says 7 crew and you race with 4 you get 1.5% change to your handicap. This must be notified on or before the last day of the previous month/league. It applies to the full month/league so you would be disqualified from racing if you sail with 5.

For example: Sea Hawk has a handicap of 0.884 and IRC crew of 7. If they sail with 4 crew for July League instead of 7 they would get 1.5% change so would get a handicap of 0.870. And a white sail handicap 3% below this. If Sea Hawk then decided they wanted to sail without #1 Jib for the event

they would get a further bonus of maybe .010 points to bring them to 0.860. This would equate to approximately 1.5 minutes corrected per hour.

Crew under 14 years of age are not counted. (Beginner Adult crew may also be considered if they are named in advance)

#### Reduced Sails

If you race with reduced or increased sail area an allowance will be made to your handicap. For example, 1720 that wants to only sail with small spinnaker will have a bonus of 20 points to handicap. Similar adjustments can be made for other boats on a case by case basis. This applies to the entire month/league.

#### Improved Crew or Better sails

No penalty will be implied for improving your crew or using better sails. At the end of each month/league results will be analysed and adjustments made based on performance. We want to encourage a better standard of sailing.

#### Special Events

For special events such as Ballycotton race, Coastal League we will allow boats to change their handicap so that they can sail white sail or short-handed. Any changes must be agreed two days before the event starts. For rest of regular season, the handicap will only change per month/league. This applies to White Sail, Reduced Crew, or Reduced Sails

#### Sandbagging

If the committee feels a boat is sailing well below its usual standards in a month/league we are unlikely to adjust your handicap. We expect everyone to play fairly.

#### Adjustments

The committee will make adjustments to the system each month, if necessary, and these will be published. For example if we discover 3% for sailing white sail is too small or too big we will adjust accordingly. Similarly, for other adjustments.

#### Publishing or Handicaps

The handicaps will be published monthly and reasons for adjustments will be indicated.

As this is a new system tweaks and changes are expected. These will also be published monthly.