

# YYC 'CLUB HANDICAPS' GENERAL INFORMATION & YYC POLICY

## General Information

1. The Port of Plymouth Sailing Association (PPSA) has discontinued central provision of handicaps and maintenance of a handicap list. Instead, the PPSA provides a toolkit so that the YYC can calculate our own 'Club Handicaps' but consistently across other Plymouth Clubs.
2. The YYC has appointed a Handicap Manager to handle the administration of handicaps. If a yacht does not have a RYA Base Number (e.g., a one-off design or brand-new class), then the owner must complete a data sheet to calculate a Base Number unique to that boat.
3. The 'Club Rating' is then calculated from the RYA Base Numbers using correction factors that adjust for the configuration differences between yachts (e.g., adjusting for different keels, propeller types, normal displacement/loaded for cruising and whether a yacht has a spinnaker). These Ratings are as fair as can be achieved without collating a comprehensive measurement profile of the yacht (e.g., for IRC) and can be used immediately for club series and passage races. They are at least as good as if not better than the old PY scheme, and the Club Ratings are scaled to be approximately the same as IRC ratings.

## YYC Rating and Handicap Policy

4. The RYA Base Numbers and PPSA Toolkit calculates a 'Club Rating' based on the yacht's measurements. However, unrefined ratings will struggle to allow cruising boats to compete on a level playing field with racing yachts, which often occurs at the YYC where there are insufficient boats to run both Classes (IRC Class 1 & Club Handicap Class 2). Therefore to bridge the 'performance gap' due to factors such as hull shape, crew expertise, sail plans etc (not allowed for in the measurement algorithms), the Club adjusts the rating using recent results.
5. It should be stressed that yachts wishing to race competitively should apply for an IRC Certificate which is considered the most accurate system currently in use.
6. When adjusting ratings to produce handicaps, care is taken not to reward poor sailing, a drawback of the strict application of the RYA's NHC system for a series of less than 6 races. Therefore, the Handicap Manager, with oversight from the Sailing Committee, uses the Club's results and the 'HalSail' handicap analysis software to calculate more mature handicaps that are moderated across the average performance of YYC fleet.
7. Changes to handicaps for a new season are agreed by the Sailing Committee at the end of the previous season, relying heavily on the Autumn Series results, which give the most accurate indication of performance for the whole fleet. Where yachts do not compete in the Autumn Series, then other race results can be considered, but will be less accurate.
8. Annually, the Handicap Manager will produce a list of 'Club Handicaps' for all yachts that race in Classes 1 & 2, with an indication of the percentage adjustment awarded by the Sailing Committee (moderated against the IRC Rating for Class 1, and the RYA Base Number for Class 2).
9. Club Handicaps are only adjusted during the season where significant discrepancies are apparent.
10. All yachts will be assumed to be racing 'with spinnaker' as the norm. However, where yachts sail shorthanded and with families, boats can sail off a 'White Sail' handicap number (i.e. without a spinnaker or cruising chute), which gives a more appropriate handicap. However, yachts must maintain a White Sail handicap for all races in a Series, having declared their intentions to the Yacht Secretary or Race Officer ahead of the Series.

*YYC Handicap Manager on behalf of the Sailing Committee*