

East Coast Sailing Week 2006 RTYC

RTYC Policy on Portsmouth Yardstick Handicaps for NECRA Yachts at ECSW 2009.

This final policy statement follows the ECSW Steering Group's agreement that the conversion policy should be published. It also follows the FYCA policy issued in 2004, by Alex Mackay, FYCA Handicap Chairman with minor modification as explained below.

Introduction:-

Provision of fair handicapping is essential to promote good competitive racing at ECSW events. Most handicap racing on the Forth & Tay estuaries uses the RYA Portsmouth Yardstick scheme, whereas, most NECRA events use the NERR (North East Rating Rule) system. A process for converting between these systems must be established. The following outlines the approach adopted for ECSW 2004 by FYCA, and which was used at ECSW 2006 & 2007. Minor alterations have been made to the NERR to IRC correlation formula to close the regression coefficient to 0.99 in an analysis of all 46 boats with NERR & IRC values. This analysis was done by Jim Scott of FYCA.

1. NECRA Yachts with IRC Ratings:-

The Portsmouth Yardstick handicap for NECRA yachts with current or recent IRC ratings (e.g. 2004 or 2005) shall be converted from their IRC rating using formula (FYCA 2004) :-

$$\mathbf{PY = 850 \times IRC^{-1.187}.}$$

This Formula has been adopted by FYCA handicap committee following careful analysis of PY and IRC values for a range of yachts ranging from a Beneteau 39 to a Sadler 25. It removes the apparent 'skew' between the PY & IRC systems which would otherwise over-handicap the slower yachts and under-handicap the faster ones. The basis of this analysis is included in the FYCA Handicap Workshop presentation available on the web sight at:- www.fyca.org.uk .

2. NECRA Yachts with NERR Ratings:-

The Portsmouth Yardstick handicap for NECRA yachts with current NERR ratings, but no recent IRC rating shall be calculated in a two stage process. Analysis of NECRA yachts with both NERR and IRC ratings show that the 'best fit' conversion relationship between the two systems (analysis May 2006 – Jim Scott FYCA) is:-

$$\mathbf{IRC = NERR \times 0.9996.}$$

The resulting **IRC** rating estimate shall be converted to **PY** using the Formula in para. 1

i.e. $\mathbf{PY = 850 \times (NERR \times 0.9996)^{-1.187}.}$

3. Consistency check:-

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The Handicap Committee for ECSW 2009 shall review all PY handicaps generated by this process to identify anomalous values. Other sources of handicap & rating data are :-

RYA YR2 2005 listing of Portsmouth Yardstick Handicaps.

Irish SA ECHO list of generic IRC ratings.

Clyde Yacht Clubs Assoc. list of time allowances.

FYCA Yacht Performance Database 1996 – 2005

Byron Software Sail Race Management Cruiser Phrf & RYA PY correlation.

Where inconsistencies are found, every attempt shall be made to establish the fairest value and to explain the rational. It is also clear that in some cases, neither IRC nor PY values are correct, and the ECSW 2006 Handicap committee reserves the right to make further justifiable adjustments to promote fair competition.

John Knowles - Chairman ECSW 2009 Handicap committee 18/06/09.