



A guide to IDRA-14 club racing at Clontarf Yacht and Boat Club (CY&BC)

Introduction

This document was put together over the 2008 season with the intention of getting all sorts of weird and wonderful historical details about our club sailing program written down on paper.

The main items outlined in this document are a list of the events we compete in during the regular club season, how points are allocated after each race and our handicap system.

List of Club Sailing Events

The following are annual the *main* "club" sailing events:

1. **Club Championships**. Run over six specified races. First past the post, no handicap. If a championship race is cancelled, for any reason, then the next non-starred race is designated a championship race. A single *discard* applies.
2. **Early Bird Series**. Run over the first six races held excluding *Sunday Series* and *starred* races. It is handicap based. A single *discard* applies.
3. **Officer's prize**, one specified race, handicap based. If not sailed on fixed date it is deferred to the next race that is not a starred or a Sunday race.
4. **Class Captain's prize**, one specified race, handicap based. If not sailed on the fixed date in question it is deferred to the next race that is not a *starred* race or a *Sunday Series* race.

5. **St. Brendan's Cup**, three specified races - handicap based. If not sailed on the dates in question the race(s) are deferred to the next race(s) that are not a *starred* race or a *Sunday Series* race.
6. **Points (Handicap) Series**, *all* non-starred club races - handicap based. Note: The *Sunday Series* races are not included in the points series. One discard allowed for every four races held.

Other Club Sailing Events

The following are some other events sailed by the IDRA 14 fleet at CY&BC.

7. **Club regatta**, more correctly known as "At Home". On the Saturday we compete for prizes supplied by the club. On the Sunday we compete for the *Sunbeam* trophy.
8. **Sunday Series**. A series of 6 races over three Sundays in May. These races are a series in themselves and do not count towards the overall points championships. **One discard allowed.**
9. **Frostbite Series**. This is an Open Series it will be governed by separate sailing instructions drawn up by the Sailing Ctte later in the year. We need to discuss this during the season.

Points allocation for IDRA 14 club racing

All of our club events, with the exception of the Club Championship events operate on the basis on the following *low-points* scoring system.

- a. A boat winning a race is awarded zero points
- b. A boat coming second is awarded 2 points
- c. A boat coming third is awarded 3 points and so on.
- d. A retired boat gets 1 more than number of starters
- e. A disqualified gets 2 more than number of starters.
- f. A registered club boat¹ which does not start a race is awarded the *higher* of
 - i. 8 points
 - ii. Number of starters plus 3

The Club Championship Series (a six race series) has traditionally been scored in a way designed to give a "reducing bonus" to the first three boats as follows:

- a. First 0 pts
- b. Second 1.5 pts
- c. Third 2.75 points
- d. Fourth 4 pts
- e. Fifth 5 pts etc.
- f. Retired gets 1 more than number of starters
- g. Disqualified gets 2 more than number of starters.
- h. Non Start gets 3 more than number of boats taking part in the whole series.

¹ A boat is considered "registered" when its owner has submitted his annual CY&BC *Declaration Form* to the class captain. This policy is considered *best practice* in other club classes.

The Handicap system

In general, an individual boat's finishing times during the regular sailing season are adjusted according to the IDRA 14 handicap system. This handicap system is unique to the IDRA 14 class at CY&BC². The great majority of club racing series are handicap based, in fact, the only non-handicap series are:

- The Club championship (6 races)
- "At Home", i.e. the annual Regatta.
- The frostbite series
- All "Open Events" for IDRA 14's run in CY&BC - E.g. "The IDRA Open".

Individual boats' handicaps

1. A boat's handicap is expressed in minutes deducted per hour. For example, a boat may have a handicap of 5 minutes, meaning that for every hour of racing, its time is reduced by 5 minutes. Alternatively a boat with a handicap of 1.25 minutes will be reduced a minute and fifteen seconds per hour of racing.
2. A boat's handicap normally reflects the relative performance of the regular helm and crew of that boat. Note: *Traditionally* the handicap stays with the boat, even if a more experienced helm or crew are in the boat for occasional races.
3. A boat's handicap is adjusted by an MS-Excel based spreadsheet at the end of each race it sails. This spreadsheet is highly complex and was originally written by Gerry Hogan of CY&BC.
4. New boats in the fleet are allocated a handicap at the discretion of the class captain and class vice-captain. Recently a new boat with inexperienced helm and crew was assigned an 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ minute per hour handicap at the start of the 2008 season.

Applying handicaps to determine race results

² Note: The E-Boat class at CY&BC *considered* adopting the IDRA 14 handicap system, however, they eventually adopted a simpler handicap system of their own.

1. It is the duty of the club race officer to record the sequence of boats as they cross the finish line as well as their individual lap and finishing times.
2. Individual boats have their finishing time reduced by a *time adjustment* which is based on their handicap.

(Put more simply, the higher a boat's handicap the greater the reduction in their finishing time.)

3. The Time Adjustment is computed using the following formula:

$$\text{Time adjustment} = \frac{\text{Length of race} \times \text{Handicap}}{60}$$

60

Example 1:

A race lasts exactly one hour. If a boat has a handicap of 5 minutes, then its finishing time is reduced by five minutes.

Example 2:

A race lasts 40 minutes. If a boat has a handicap of 6 minutes, then its finishing time is reduced by 4 minutes.

Example 3:

A race lasts 1 hour and 15 minutes. If a boat has a handicap of 2 minutes, then its finishing time is reduced by $2 \frac{1}{2}$ minutes.

Computing a new handicap

Note 1: This section is not for the faint-hearted!

Note 2: Two key concepts in this section are a boat's *unadjusted* and *adjusted finishing times*. To help the reader these are explained as follows:

1. The *unadjusted finishing time* is the time it took the boat to sail the race course.
2. The *adjusted finishing time* is the time assigned to a boat after its handicap is applied.

Currently, the handicap of each boat that participates in a race is updated after each race.

Increasing or decreasing a handicap

Assume Boat A participates in a race.

During the race Boat E was first to the line. Remember, this doesn't necessarily mean Boat E won the race due to our handicap system.

Whether or not *Boat A* gets a *decrease* or *increase* in its handicap depends on the difference between:

- ✓ The *adjusted finishing time* of Boat A, i.e. the finishing time given to the boat after its handicap has been applied.
- ✓ The *unadjusted finishing time* of Boat E (I.e. the first to the line)

If the difference is positive, i.e. the *adjusted finishing time* of Boat A is greater than the *unadjusted time* of Boat E, then Boat A will have its handicap *increased*.

On the contrary, if the difference is negative, i.e. the *adjusted finishing time* of Boat A is less than the *unadjusted finishing time* of Boat E, then Boat A will have its handicap *decreased*.

The amount by which a handicap is increased or decreased

Once the system has determined whether a handicap is to be increased or decreased, the next computation of interest is the value of the increase.

The general case is that a handicap is increased or decreased by a factor of the difference between a boat's *adjusted finishing time* and the lead boats *unadjusted finishing time*.

This factor is currently hard-coded by the system to be 0.2.

Example 1:

1. Boat X is first to the line after 55 minutes.
2. Boat Y finishes in 59 minutes but its adjusted time, based on handicap is 57 minutes.
3. The difference between the adjusted finishing time of Y and the unadjusted finishing time of X is +2 minutes.
4. This is multiplied by 0.2 giving 0.4 minutes and Y's handicap is increased by 0.4

Example 2:

5. Boat A is first to the line after 40 minutes.
6. Boat B finishes in 42 minutes but its adjusted time, based on handicap is 38 minutes.
7. The difference between the adjusted finishing time of B and the unadjusted finishing time of A is -2 minutes.
8. This is multiplied by 0.2 giving -0.4 minutes and Y's handicap is increased by -0.4

Maximum increases and decreased in handicap

Our system currently has a maximum increase or decrease in handicap of 0.5. I.e. No matter what the outcome of a race, each boat's handicap will not increase or decrease by more than 0.5.