

Cruiser Handicaps 2023

As discussed and agreed at the Skippers' Zoom Meeting 13-Mar-23
and at a further meeting on 27-Mar-23

- 1. Zero Option.** The Zero Option would let the system run exactly as before. Skippers would renew their ECHO certificates as usual. Seasons & Series would utilize the Dual Scoring system using NHC and ECHO908. Regattas & One-off Races would use CPH and ECHO908 as before. This is in accordance with the ISA's and ICRA's strong recommendation that all cruiser races be Dual Scored under rating and progressive handicap systems.
It was agreed that other options should be explored.
- 2. RYA Changes.** NHC (a progressive handicap depending on a boat's previous performance) is no longer supported by the RYA. The RYA has introduced a new rating system, YTC. As YTC is a rating, (a fixed handicap which depends purely on boat features and measurements), by its nature, it can't replace NHC, but it could replace IRC, which CLYC used some years ago.
It was agreed that NHC would not be used and that YTC would.
- 3. Rating: IRC or YTC?** The IRC rating could be used, but it costs about €150 per boat, depending on the boat size etc. YTC is as good as IRC and has the advantage of being free of charge.
It was agreed that IRC would not be used.
- 4. Progressive Handicap: NHC or pECHO?** The RYA's NHC system is an almost exact copy of pECHO. Base handicaps are issued for each boat type, similar to Standard ECHO numbers. An ideal alternative to NHC is pECHO, for which boats need current ECHO certificates (cost €50). pECHO, which uses ECHO908 starting values, is more versatile than NHC.
It was agreed that pECHO would be used, and that a refined version of ECHO908 would be used, based on 2022 race results. The replacement for ECHO908 would be ECHO870, whereby the Standard ECHO values for white sail boats would be multiplied by 0.870, rather than 0.908. It was later agreed that YTC would be used instead of ECHO870.
- 5. Open Regattas.** The Moneley Oyster Pearl cruiser regatta will implement Dual Scoring. pECHO is the preferred progressive handicap and YTC is the preferred rating, as they:
 - a. are non-local (meaning visiting boats can race with ECHO and YTC certificates)
 - b. entail minimal expense for skippers
 - c. work together well as a Dual Scoring systemThe other Open regattas (Blues on the Bay, Warrenpoint Regatta and CLYC Cruiser Regatta) would also need to use the pECHO and YTC Dual Scoring system, each with fresh starting values.
This was agreed.
- 6. Certificates.** Any boat intending to race in the MOP will have to have a current ECHO certificate and a current RYA YTC certificate. Local boats would all hopefully already have both of these.
It was agreed that all boats should obtain ECHO and YTC certificates.
- 7. CLYC Early, Mid, Late, October and All Seasons.** The Seasons Dual Scoring system would be run on pECHO as a progressive handicap, and ECHO908 as a rating. ECHO908 could be replaced by YTC. However, changing the ratings from ECHO908 to YTC would unfairly favour boats which use a spinnaker or gennaker.
It was agreed that ECHO908 should be replaced by ECHO870. It was later agreed that YTC would be used instead of ECHO870.
- 8. CLYC Regattas and One-off Races.** A boat's CPH would be its current pECHO value. ECHO908 and CPH ratings would be used in specified cup races as before.
It was agreed that ECHO908 should be replaced by ECHO870. It was later agreed that YTC would be used instead of ECHO870.
- 9. Handicap Blend.** After each race, a boat's finishing handicap, H_F , is calculated as a blend of its starting handicap, H_S , and its finishing Performance Index, PI_F . For Open events like the MOP, this blend would be set to something like 0.6 : 0.4 as follows:
$$H_F = 0.6 PI_F + 0.4 H_S$$
For Seasons, a more appropriate blend setting is 0.25 : 0.75. The NHC handicap blend is fixed at 0.3 : 0.7 which is not appropriate for short series, and so hasn't been used for these in the past.
This was agreed.
- 10. Long & Short Series.** Changing the handicap blend between short series (regattas) and long series (seasons) is therefore necessary and would mean that Open events could not be included in the Seasons results. This would reduce the number of Seasons races by 20. In 2022 this would have reduced the 75 programmed Early, Mid and Late Seasons races to 55.
It was agreed that Open events should be removed from the Seasons results.