



Saint Croix Sailing Club

Handicapping Policy

Approved Jan 8th, 2024

The board of directors of the Saint Croix Sailing Club shall appoint a ratings committee in accordance with this document. It shall be the duty of the ratings committee to assign each registered boat a handicap based on the procedures defined in this policy and to assign registered boats into the number of divisions requested by the organizing committee. Any changes to this policy shall require the approval of the board of directors before going into effect.

The ratings committee shall consist of the following voting members:

- The ratings chair
- Two representatives for each division defined as of the time of the last annual meeting

as well as the following non-voting members:

- The race committee chair
- The organizing committee chair

The ratings committee shall be led by the ratings chair who shall be responsible for ensuring the committee fulfills its duties in accordance with this policy. A majority of voting members shall be required to be present in order to constitute a quorum. In the event that a committee vote results in a tie, the ratings chair shall cast one additional vote to break the tie.

Appointment of Committee Members

Ratings Committee representatives for each division shall be appointed by the organizing committee representative for that division. Representatives for the divisions shall have either been a skipper in the division or actively participated in racing as a crew member in the division in the prior season. Should the organizing committee representative for the division fail to appoint members to the ratings committee, the ratings chair shall appoint the representatives for the division.

Handicap Process

Determining accurate Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) ratings for sailboats is challenging. PHRF ratings vary based not only on the type of boat, but also configurations (boat modifications, sails, propellers, and others) and region (wind and water conditions). Averaging handicap data from multiple sources to determine PHRF ratings may result in flawed estimates of boat speed potential.



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In an effort to minimize bias while enabling competitive and fair racing, the St Croix Sailing Club board has agreed that all boats participating in the SCSC will be required to obtain a current PHRF certificate from the Midwest Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (MWPHRF). MWPHRF is a non-profit service corporation headquartered in Wisconsin. Their fundamental service is to assign performance handicaps to offshore monohull and multihull sailboats that compete in casual and championship racing, with minimal expense to boat owners. These certificates through MWPHRF will be up to date, maintained regularly, and are specific to our boats and our region of sailing.

MWPHRF Website: <https://www.mwphrf.org/>

Should a boat owner not obtain a MWPHRF certificate, then a PHRF rating will be assigned by the SCSC board. This PHRF rating will be less favorable than MWPHRF and will not be contestable. The SCSC-assigned rating will remain in place until the boat obtains a current MWPHRF certificate.

Appeals

Handicaps may be appealed by submitting, in writing, a handicap appeal including all relevant information detailing why the assigned handicap is believed to be incorrect to any member of the ratings committee. Any handicap appeal shall be decided by a jury consisting of at least one representative from each division. In case of a tie, the ratings chair shall cast one additional vote to break the tie.

Measurements

The ratings chair shall serve as the Technical Committee (per RRS 92) for any races where this policy applies and shall protest any boats in non compliance with applicable class rules or measurements upon which the handicap for a boat was based (per RRS 64).

Division Assignments

The ratings committee shall assign boats into the number of divisions requested by the organizing committee. Division assignments shall be based solely on the handicaps for the boat with the exception of one design divisions where the division assignment shall be based on the boat type. It shall be the responsibility of the ratings committee to define class rules and notify competitors as necessary.