

Dinghy Racing Series Scoring and Handicapping

ABC's yacht racing includes series, regattas, individual events and training. Dinghy racing takes place in three series: Summer, Autumn and Spring, with the club's two-day Southside Regatta, a national selection event, attended by a hundred boats or more from around Hong Kong. Evolved from 1980s, the dinghy series now generally have three or four racedays per series with a planned three races per raceday. Racing is governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), organised by ABC and conducted under the Notice of Race (NOR) and Sailing Instructions (SI), available here

<https://www.abcmiddleisland.com/tong-po-chau-dinghy-series>.

The NOR describes the scoring system to be used in ABC's club racing. This is based on the RRS Appendix A Low Point System. Under this a boat's race score is her place (eg 1 or 2 or 3, etc). A boat which did not start would be scored number of boats held in the series +1, while one which did not finish is scored number of boats at start area +1. A boat's series scores is the sum of her race scores, excluding those which can be discarded. The number of discards depends on the number of races which were able to be completed by the series.

Boats eligible for the series range from 29ers, Lasers (standard, radial, 4.7, 2000), Quests, Fevas, Picos, Zests, Optimists and others such as Toppers and Aeros. Because of the large disparity in potential speeds, provision is made for separate courses for faster and smaller boats, signalled by flags on the start boat. The differences in boat speed potential are broadly balanced by multiplying each boat's elapsed time for a race by its handicap taken from HKSF Portsmouth Yardstick Number List 2020 (PYS) for Dinghies.

<https://www.sailing.org.hk/subpage/o6RmypfWKJexj5mPH?lang=eng>. These are based on the Royal Yachting Association (RYA) PYS numbers, updated annually on UK results annually. The NOR also provides one-class racing within the overall racing if sufficient entrants of a class apply, eg Optimists, 29ers, and can be on a scratch basis as agreed with that class.

Handicaps intended to provide an equal chance of winning are common to many sports according to competitors' capability according to their and their equipment's performance, for example golf, horse racing, and indeed keelboat racing in HK and elsewhere. Many keelboats race under the

measured IRC handicaps and this provides a fair system for boats' potentials, particularly those designed for such racing. Other boats with perhaps a wider range of designs and age race under the HKPN performance handicap system in which the handicaps are regularly adjusted to actual performance over many races, reflecting sailors' experience, ability and equipment condition - analagous to golf. These two systems relate respectively to a boat's performance potential, and to a boat plus crew's performance potential.

Current and recent NORs provide for ABC's dinghy racing results to be determined under the club's Performance Adjustment System, in which the skipper personal handicap of the helms of winners and runners-up and of last and second last are reduced or increased by approx. 1% and 0.5% per race.

The current results system continues to calculate boats' positions per race on both systems, see the results for the racing of 8th March 2020 *on page ??...or below??* - corrected time results are the shown under 'PYS' in column 9 and Adjustment System results under 'ABC Adjustment' in column 15. See also website https://136a6f9b-0d7e-4252-9206-49208b5f1a64.filesusr.com/ugd/9f9091_d7652fa72b4e4165bb06bad783ced610.pdf. The series results and prizes are awarded under ABC performance adjustment system.

In earlier days, when the Club had many visiting boats in its series (and for a long time conducted joint racing with RHKYC), results were given for both HKSF PYS handicaps and performance adjustment handicaps, in a similar format. However, as the outside participation fell, and with club participants happy with the performance adjustment system, the latter became the current basis for the racing.

Sailcom will poll active dinghy sailors for their current opinion on handicapping for future guidance.