

RFBYC KEELBOAT HANDICAP SYSTEM
FOR SATURDAY, FROSTBITE AND MIDWEEK RACING
October 2021

1 GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The RFBYC Keelboat Handicap System shall, where applicable, apply to all keelboat racing detailed in the RFBYC Sailing Handbook 2021-2022.

The goal of the handicap system is to allow a fair and realistic opportunity for boats of varying size, design and performance sailed in a competent and seaman like manner to achieve a podium finish. The system rewards boats that regularly compete and finish races.

The Handicapper, in consultation with the Yachting Operations Office, oversees the handicap system. The role of the Handicapper includes liaison with fleet captains, maintenance of the overall fair and reasonableness of the system, detection of irregularities and advising of manual adjustments when deemed necessary.

At the start of each season/series entered boats within a division/fleet are allocated a four-digit handicap based on previous performance evidence available at the time. A boat's race elapse time is multiplied by the handicap number to obtain the corrected time. It is this time that is used for scoring purposes.

The handicap system is performance based and supported by the Finishing Line race management software package. It is generally known as the TCF Pen 3 option. The software utilises the parameters outlined below to adjust and update handicaps for each race based on previous performance.

2. HANDICAP ADJUSTMENT PARAMETERS FOR SATURDAY KEELBOAT AND FROSTBITE SERIES

2.1 Saturday and Frostbite fleets handicaps are adjusted as follows:

2.1.1 First place getter will go up by 1.5%

2.1.2 Second place getter will go up by 0.75%

2.1.3 Top third of other finishes will go down by 0.15%

2.1.4 Next third of finishers will go down by 0.3%

2.1.5 Last third of finishers will go down by 0.45%

2.1.6 All handicaps are normalised to base handicap for all boats

2.1.6 Boats that are scored DNC, DNF, OCS, etc will not be adjusted

2.1.7 Boats given average points will not be adjusted.

2.1.8 Boats gaining three or more consecutive places will be reassessed by the Handicapper.

2.1.9 Boats entering for the first time or with a change of ownership that may substantially alter its performance shall be given a handicap of 1.0000 for the first three finishes. The Handicapper shall then make a reassessment to determine a suitable handicap.

3. HANDICAP ADJUSTMENT PARAMETERS FOR THURSDAY MIDWEEK SERIES

3.1 Midweek fleets handicaps are adjusted as follows;

3.1.1 First place getter will go up by 0.0200

3.1.2 Second place getter will go up by 0.0075

3.1.3 Third place getter will not be adjusted

3.1.4 Fourth to tenth place getter will go down by 0.0033

3.1.5 Eleventh and onwards place getters will go down by 0.0066

3.1.6 Boats that are scored DNC, DNF, OCS, etc will not be adjusted

3.1.7 Should there be 4 or less finishers a race there will be no adjustment

3.1.8 Boats given average points will not be adjusted.

3.1.9 Boats gaining three or more consecutive places will be reassessed by the Handicapper

3.1.10 Boats entering for the first time or with a change of ownership that may substantially alter its performance shall at the Handicapper's discretion be given a provisional handicap based on available information. A boat's handicap is provisional until it has completed 5 races. The Handicapper shall then make a reassessment to determine a suitable handicap.

4. SEASON AND/OR SERIES START

4.1 At the start of each season and/or series the Handicapper shall reassess all handicaps from the previous events and adjust the handicaps to group boats with similar performance ability.

4.2 The reassessment shall include analysis of previous finishing positions, margins and podium places.

4.3 The reassessment may also take into account expected conditions. For example, lighter wind for frostbite racing compared with stronger sea breeze summer conditions.