



Royal Ocean Racing Club
Rating Office
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THE CHANNEL HANDICAP SYSTEM

The Channel Handicap System rating rule is now widely used worldwide at a great variety of different levels, ranging from club and local series through such major events as Cork Week in Ireland and the King's Cup in Thailand.

The Royal Ocean Racing Club would welcome further spread of the rule and will support and encourage clubs wishing to use it.

CONFIDENTIALITY - No built in obsolescence

The rule is jointly owned and administered by the RORC Rating Office in Lymington, UK, and Union National pour la Course au Large (UNCL) in Paris, these being the only two offices from which certificates are issued. The rule algorithms are confidential to the two clubs, hence only two rating offices. This confidentiality of the rule prevents designers designing yachts to the rule and effectively prevents rapid obsolescence. This feature is central to Channel Handicap and will be maintained into the future.

WORLDWIDE USE - Europe to the Far East

From Lymington, we support not only our own domestic fleet but fleets in Ireland, Portugal, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Malta among others. In addition to the French fleet, UNCL handle fleets in Italy, Spain and elsewhere in the Mediterranean. When dealing with overseas yachts, we prefer to deal through a local representative which is often the secretariat of the local club or cruiser racer association. Our total fleet last year was 2600 boats, with another 2000 being rated by the French, some 4600 in total.

SELF MEASUREMENT - No expensive measurers

CHS has always permitted and encouraged owner declared measurement data. This will be maintained into the future, although some clubs and areas have always insisted that locally they should measure boats. More recently, we have introduced "ENDORSED" CHS. This requires that we should be satisfied as to the correctness of the rated data, generally by measurement by one of our RORC measurers. Race Committees may require endorsed certificates for some events. A CHS measurement manual is available on request to assist with local measurement if required.

ALL MONOHULL YACHTS CATERED FOR - Pilot cutters to Whitbread 60s

CHS is capable of applying a rating to any monohull yacht. In this respect, CHS in some senses leads other rating rules in that it permits such features as asymmetric spinnakers, carbon masts and water ballast. The rule is reviewed annually in light of new developments and past results. On this front we seek and actively welcome input and comment from the users.



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SIMPLE AND CHEAP - Just fill in the form

CHS is simple and cheap for the owners. A rating application form is printed in the CHS yearbook. An owner simply fills this in, writes his cheque for £5.00/m LOA and sends it to us. Certificates are returned within 1 to 3 weeks, depending on the time of year. Certificates are valid from 1st January to 31st December. Revalidation of an expired certificate will cost £44 in 1996.

ANNUAL PUBLICATION - To keep you informed

The CHS yearbook is sent at the beginning of January each year to holders of certificates the previous year together with a rating revalidation form. Apart from the CHS rules, the yearbook provides help to owners applying for their certificates by way of diagrams and definitions, race management recommendations, useful names and addresses, articles from invited authors and much other relevant information.

ANNUAL REVIEW - Tell us what you think

The RORC actively seeks input to the performance of the CHS rule. In the Autumn each year, the RORC hosts a CHS meeting at which representatives of both the various UK areas and overseas representatives can meet to discuss and recommend any changes for the following year. Areas and countries unable to be present at this meeting are encouraged to send written comment.

VAST DATA BANK - We may know the answer already

Many hundreds of different designs have now been rated under CHS. Basic data for all of these designs is readily available.

If you have any further questions, we should be delighted to help, either by phone to the number above, or in writing by FAX or letter or to CompuServe No. 100526,141.

Mike Urwin
Technical Manager
August 1995