



Intro to NHC

- NHC is an RYA-developed uniform scheme that can be easily adopted, it applies concepts known & used internationally to analyse and adjust handicap numbers
- handicaps individual boats, as no two boats are exactly the same – can account for:
 - size & configuration
 - weight of boat, LWL etc.
- any design (such as a one-off custom built cruiser) can be entered into the NHC “rating calculator” algorithm to calculate an NHC Base Number for it
- after this, each boat develops its individual ‘club number’, as the algorithm updates after each race, according to performance
- handicaps increase faster after good race results than they fall after poor results

- every boat must regularly be sailed to its true speed potential in order to win a series of races – consistent performance is key
- a boat that always places first will see its handicap increase gradually for about 6 races, then the adjustment tapers off to very small increments. Similarly a boat always placing last will be ‘helped’ for about 6 races
- Boats are scored on corrected times, with the lowest corrected time scoring 1st place, etc
- NHC is a progressive handicapping system, thus every boat that takes part in a race will have its handicap adjusted by the results software. For example, 2 identical C&C27s will start the season with the same handicap, but they will diverge after the first race, based on performance/finishing place
- RUST has used NHC for 5 years very successfully, with the best boats and racers consistently placing at the top of the fleet

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