

# AUSTIN YACHT CLUB KEEL HANDICAP FLEET

## RATING PROCEDURES

Revised February 12, 2010

1. Ratings will be assigned by the Handicap Committee based on a boat owner's completed application.
2. The PHRF Rating Certificate will be used to apply for a rating and, when completed by the Handicap Committee, will serve as the official rating certificate on file. A copy of the approved Rating Certificate will be furnished to the applicant.
3. In general, the committee will attempt to assign ratings consistent with the predominant ratings for the respective boats listed in the US Sailing PHRF Handicaps Book, and will be classified into one of four categories as to the rating's current status:
  - a. **TEMPORARY:** Ratings that are determined and set by a majority of available Handicap Committee members for a boat for which there is insufficient prior notice to develop a rating through the normal rating procedures (such as during a Regatta). Such ratings will be established using as much of the information identified in item #11 below as is readily available. All temporary ratings will be scheduled for full evaluation by the Handicap Committee at the next scheduled Committee meeting. Temporary ratings will then be changed to a REVIEW, PROVISIONAL, or OFFICIAL rating by the Committee.
  - b. **REVIEW:** All ratings which have been placed under review by the Handicap Committee for the current or next quarter. An OFFICIAL rating shall not be placed under REVIEW more than once in any given calendar year.
  - c. **PROVISIONAL:** Ratings undergoing long-term evaluation or consideration before they are deemed OFFICIAL may be assigned as PROVISIONAL ratings. These ratings shall be scheduled for subsequent consideration by the Committee either six or twelve months after being assigned this rating category. Specific factors to be evaluated during this evaluation period shall be reflected in the minutes of the Committee meeting where it is assigned, and considered at the end of this period. Examples of instances where a PROVISIONAL rating would be appropriate would be initial ratings for boats not previously raced at AYC or where inconclusive data was evaluated during a REVIEW of a boat's rating.
  - d. **OFFICIAL:** Ratings not presently under review by the Handicap Committee. The Handicap Committee may routinely assign Official ratings at any meeting where existing Official ratings exist for boats of the same class and type. Official ratings shall not be altered or changed except where outlined in the sections below. Official ratings may be placed in Review status only at the first meeting of each quarter.

4. Except in special circumstances such as a change in equipment or boat measurements that would, in the opinion of the Handicap Committee, result in a change in boat speed of 3 seconds per nautical mile or more, ratings will not be changed more often than quarterly. It is required that the individual boat owner/skipper making such changes notify the Handicap Committee prior to entering any race with such changes. Official ratings will be published at the beginning of each quarter.
  
5. Review of ratings by the Handicap Committee can be initiated by:
  - a. The Handicap Committee
  - b. An owner\* requesting review of his/her own boat/class.
  - c. An owner\* requesting review of any other boat/class.

\* An owner must be a member of AYC.

Requests for a review of a rating must be submitted to the Handicap Committee in writing by the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the first month in each calendar quarter, and must provide adequate justification for the basis for the review of the subject rating.

6. The minimum rating change after review will be 3 seconds per nautical mile. The maximum rating change will be 6 seconds per nautical mile, except as stated in sections #10, #12 and #13 below. Rating adjustments after review shall be effective the first day of the next calendar quarter after the adjustment is approved.
  
7. Rating changes for a given class will be applied to all stock boats of the same class.
  
8. Handicap Committee meetings will be held monthly with the 1st and 3rd meetings in a quarter being closed work sessions. The 2nd monthly meeting of each quarter will be an open meeting where individuals may present information on ratings under review or other information pertinent to the Committee. The quarterly periods will begin on January 1 of each year.
  
9. The owner(s) of a boat for which a rating change for that class is being considered by the Handicap Committee during the review process will be notified in writing at least 10 days prior to the open meeting of that review quarter. Owners and other interested parties will have the right to be present and to be heard at the open rating meeting held each quarter.
  
10. If an individual's boat is found to deviate from the configuration of a stock boat of its class, it is subject to immediate change in its rating as determined by a majority of the handicap committee. It is an individual's responsibility to declare deviations from the stock boat configuration; however,

evidence presented by another owner will be entertained. All boats are presumed to conform to the US Sailing PHRF Terms of Performance related to dimensions and condition as follows:

PHRF base handicaps are made on the assumption that:

1. the spinnaker pole length is equal to "J",
2. the spinnaker maximum width is 180% of "SPL",
3. the spinnaker maximum length is equal to 95% of the length of the jibstay i.e., .95 ,
4. the largest size genoa LP is equal to or less than 170% of "J".
5. the number of battens and length of battens are restricted by class rules or as permitted by PHRF fleet rules,
6. the boat is in racing condition,
7. the boat has a folding or feathering propeller, a two bladed solid propeller in an aperture or a retractable outboard motor, and
8. the hull and appendages are unmodified from the stock configuration.

Boats with established class rules are presumed to conform to the requirements of their respective class and may sometimes conflict with the Terms of Performance. Such one-design class boats shall be assigned a rating based on their class requirements.

11. Ratings will be established by the Handicap Committee utilizing data from some or all of the following sources. These sources are listed in the general order of importance (i.e. National rating data base information should be weighed over regional ratings, etc.):

- a. National data base ratings (US Sailing)
- b. Regional ratings
- c. Comparison of boat configuration to the configuration of other boats with known US-PHRF ratings.
- d. Comparison of ratings provided by other rating systems, e.g., MORC, Portsmouth, etc.
- e. Local race experience.

12. If, in the case of a boat which is new to the lake, and for which there is little or no national data available, it becomes obvious that a boat's initial rating is significantly in error, the Rating Committee may change that PROVISIONAL rating by any amount at any monthly meeting during the first two quarters of local experience. This change would be based on the experience of other stations, previously unknown information becoming available, or local results. At least ten days notice must be given to each boat owner whose rating is being considered for such change.

13. The Handicap Committee reserves the right to deviate from the general procedures outlined herein as in such cases as an obvious error in rating assignment which, in the opinion of the handicap committee, precludes fair and competitive racing. Changes in ratings under these conditions will be made only after notification to all owners of that class has been made in writing. A 10-day response

time will be allowed following the date of the letter of notification. Rating changes of this type can be made only with the unanimous vote of the Handicap Committee. Such rating changes must be scheduled to be placed in review status at the first meeting of the next quarter.

14. No member of the handicap committee shall be allowed to vote on any decision affecting the rating of any boat in which he/she has an ownership interest. No member of the handicap committee shall be allowed to vote on any decision affecting the rating of a boat that is also grouped into the handicap class of any boat in which the committee member has an ownership interest, and the class is also the handicap class within which the committee member sailed the majority of his AYC series races during the past year. The handicap classes shall be defined as those classes established at the most recent Annual Meeting of the Keel Handicap Fleet.

15. The Handicap Committee chairman will issue a written explanation of the Committee's decision relative to a particular rating, in response to properly written inquiry. An affected boat owner may submit a written request to the chairman for an explanation of the Committee's decision relative to any rating, which decision was made during the current or immediately preceding calendar quarter. The chairman shall issue a written response in the form of a letter (with a copy to the Secretary) to the affected yacht owner as promptly as possible, but in no event longer than forty-five (45) days after receipt of such written inquiry.