

# ORC Club Handicapping at SoPYC

*SoPYC has introduced an additional handicapping system for Saturdays, mid-week, frostbites, club championship for division 1 racing from Season 2021-2022. ORC Club will replace AMS and be added to the existing PHS (Performance Handicapping System) that has served the club well for many years.*

ORC Club uses the Velocity Prediction Program (VPP) to rate boats of different characteristics. It relies on the measurement of a boat and its sails, affecting their theoretical speed. Unlike PHS, ORC Club does not use the prior performance of the boat and its crew to determine the handicap. With ORC Club, a boat's handicap remains constant from week to week. Identical boats (with the same size sails etc.) will have identical ORC Club handicaps.

## What races will it apply to?

ORC Club will only apply to the SoPYC Saturday, mid-week & frostbite division 1 racing (Division 1 Club Championship is score on ORC Club) and will not apply to any other racing fleet at SoPYC.

## Why ORC Club?

There are several handicap systems available including IRC, ORCi, ORC Club and AMS. While a number of boats already have IRC, AMS or SMS Certificates, the SoPYC Division 1 Committee decided that ORC Club was the best option to encourage more boats to obtain a Measurement Rating as it provides the right balance of science and simplicity to generate a handicap at a lower cost to boat owners.

ORC Club works with all monohull boats ranging in size from sportsboats through to superyachts and everything in between. ORC Club has several key benefits over other measured handicap systems:

- Simplicity of measurement - ORC Club requires a small number of measurement points, and the ORC database already holds these measurements for over 128,000 boats.
- ORC Club is not type forming - ORC Club does not compare the characteristics of one boat against another. ORC Club measures how a racing crew can reach their boats theoretical performance potential
- It is relatively inexpensive to generate an ORC Club certificate (currently \$90 whereas ORCi is \$330 and IRC is \$33 per metre)
- ORC Club is an open rule - anyone can look at any other boats certificate and measurements that have been used. ORC Club enables skippers to do a test to see what impact any changes to their boat or sails has on their handicap
- ORC Club is widely used internationally and has recently seen rapid growth in Australia

Whilst ORC can be applied at a club in several ways, for simplicity SoPYC has decided to use the following elements of ORC Club:

ORC Club certificate has a Triple number system provides each boat a set of three ToT coefficients (we use Custom scoring options for Australia Coastal/Long Time on Time) for Spinnaker or Non-Spinnaker given for three wind ranges: -

- Low Range (less or equal 8 knots)
- Medium Range (between 9 & 16 knots)
- High Range (greater or equal 17 knots)

The Sailing Administrator shall determine at the end of each race the wind range to be used for scoring, by the average wind strength from Australia Bureau of Meteorology website, Weather Observations for Melville Water at Inner Dolphin Pylon.

Average wind speed calculation from race start time to last boat elapsed finishing time, to the nearest half hour observation, will determine either Low or Medium or High range ToT coefficients to be used for scoring.

Example ORC Club race BoM observations during race on Melville Water: -

Date/Time	Dir	Speed Knots	Gust Knots	Notes
27/04:30pm	S	15	20	Last boat finish to nearest half hour
27/04:00pm	SSW	16	20	-
27/03:30pm	SW	16	19	-
27/03:00pm	SW	14	17	-
27/02:30pm	SW	12	16	-
27/02:00pm	SW	12	15	-
27/01:30pm	SW	11	17	Start time for race
		<b>14 Average Wind</b>		

Sailing Administrator would select Medium Range ToT coefficients (between 9 & 16 knots) for each boat for scoring.

### Why are we doing it?

SoPYC Division 1 is implementing ORC Club in response to members seeking a measurement-based approach to handicapping in addition to the existing PHS. ORC Club provides an alternate to PHS on a boat's performance in a race. Unlike PHS handicapping, ORC Club handicap remains the same from week to week, regardless of how well a boat was sailed in previous weeks. "Sandbagging" is impossible with ORC Club.

### Am I required to race under ORC Club?

No – division 1 racing on Saturdays, Mid-week (Non-Spinnaker ORC Club) and Frostbites will have the following options:

- PHS only
- PHS and ORC Club

Racing under ORC Club is entirely optional. All boats in the division 1 racing will automatically be entered under PHS handicapping. Skippers will need to 'opt in' to also race under ORC Club. Skippers will NOT be able to enter ORC Club only. The entry fee for Saturday divisional racing is the same, irrespective of the handicap options selected. ORC Club entrants will have an additional score.

### **What are the benefits?**

The key benefits of ORC Club are:

- ORC Club handicapping provides an absolute measure of a boat's performance
- ORC Club provides a fixed handicap for all boats enabling skippers to have a constant reference point of their performance from week to week
- ORC Club allows identical boats to compete on the same handicap
- ORC Club certification provides a skipper with a chart of 'Boat Polars' where the ORC Club Velocity Prediction Programme (VPP) calculates target boat speeds of a boat across a variety of wind strengths and wind directions

### **What does an ORC Club certificate cost?**

An ORC Club certificate costs \$90 annually. Certificates expire 30 June each year and must be revalidated every year. Annual revalidation of a certificate costs \$90. As a special introductory offer, Australian Sailing is offering a 50% discount to all boats applying for their first ORC Club certificate, reducing the price of the certificate to just \$45 in the first year.

If a boat racing under ORC Club makes any changes to measurement on their boat (e.g., changing the size of their mainsail) they will be required to complete a new ORC Club certificate before using the new mainsail. A new ORC Club certificate costs \$45 and expires on 30 June, irrespective when the new certificate was issued.

An ORC Club certificate is issued to a specific boat, so even if there is a boat that has identical measurements to your boat, you are still required to have a certificate issued in your name. If a boat with a current ORC Club certificate is sold, the new owner needs to complete a change of ownership which costs \$45. The certificate usually takes a few days to be issued by Australian Sailing.

### **How do I participate?**

To race under ORC Club at SoPYC, you need to complete the following simple steps:

1. Complete ORC Club On-line Application Form, link [ORC - World Leader in Rating Technology](#)

NOTE: - If you wish to participate in mid-week jam races, request ORC club additional NON-Spinnaker Certificate it comes with no additional cost, with your ORC club (Spinnaker) Certificate.

You may need assistance with any measurements, contact our Division 1 Club measurers: -

- Peter Vlaar's mobile is 040 301 3224
  - Chris Hind's mobile is 043 996 7469
2. Chris Zonca at Australian Sailing [ratings@sailing.org.au](mailto:ratings@sailing.org.au) may need to contact you for additional information on your boat.
  3. Australian Sailing will work with the measurements provided to generate a certificate's
  4. Once you have made payment, Australian Sailing will issue you with an ORC Club certificate's
  5. Send a copy of your current ORC Club certificate's (eg Spinnaker & Non-Spinnaker) to our SoPYC Sailing Administrator
  6. Advise Sailing Administrator on ORC Club, series you wish to participate in Saturday, Mid-Week Jam, and Frostbites.

Note: If you have a valid ORCi certificate you DO NOT need to obtain a separate ORC Club certificate.

### **How do I get my boat measured?**

In the first instance, contact Australian Sailing and check what measurements they may already have on your boat. As the Offshore Racing Congress (ORC) has an extensive boat database, it's unlikely that you will need to get your boat completely measured. Your sail maker should be able to provide you with the measurement of your sails. ORC Club certificate uses self-declared measurements. You do not need to have an official measurer complete any measurement of your boat.

### **Who administers the ORC Club rule?**

The ORC Club Rule was created and is administered by the Offshore Racing Congress. The Offshore Racing Congress was established in 1969 and is based in London. The Offshore Racing Congress is responsible for managing the ORC Club rule, annually reviewing the ORC rule, and running ORC World Championships annually.

In Australia, the ORC Club rule is administered by Australian Sailing. All applications for an ORC Club certificate in Australia are made by an owner directly to Australian Sailing.

Contact: Chris Zonca Australian Sailing Ratings Manager  
Phone: (02) 9170 6917  
Mobile: +61 (0) 43 9739 455  
Email: [ratings@sailing.org.au](mailto:ratings@sailing.org.au)

### **How many boats are in ORC Club?**

There are over 125,000 boat certificates on the ORC database. Anyone can search the ORC database from the ORC website for a same or similar boat and its certificate.

**What impact will it have on existing PHS racing?**

The introduction of ORC Club will not affect existing PHS racing. Prizes and trophies for PHS will still be awarded to winners and placegetters in division 1.

**Where can I find more information on ORC Club?**

Further details on ORC Club can be found on the Australian Sailing website  
[https://www.sailingresources.org.au/ratingshome\\_2020/](https://www.sailingresources.org.au/ratingshome_2020/)

Go to <https://www.orc.org/> to search the ORC database for an ORC Club certificate. You will need to create a user ID and password from the top right corner.

For detailed information on the Velocity Prediction Program (VPP) and how it calculates a handicap, please select this link <https://www.orc.org/rules/ORC%20VPP%20Documentation%202020.pdf>

Still confused? Contact the SoPYC Sailing Administrator - Sharon Skinner  
[sailingadministrator@sopyc.com.au](mailto:sailingadministrator@sopyc.com.au) or call 9364 5844

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