



Lunenburg Yacht Club Race Program

HANDICAP SYSTEM

- 1) The LYC Handicap Ratings will be calculated and adjusted, if required, three times per season and reflects individual yacht performance. The LYC Race Committee (majority committee vote) reserves the right to make any changes to the LYC Handicap System as necessary. Any changes will be posted on the official LYC Race Notice Board.
- 2) All LYC yacht handicaps will start at the average of the previous years capped LYC ESPN¹.
- 3) All LYC yacht handicaps will be re-calculated and adjusted at the end of June, July and August or prior to the beginning of a new monthly series.
- 4) All races with a minimum number of four yachts finishing with the exception any "FUN" races (e.g. Friday Flotilla Fun Races) qualify for the purpose of handicapping calculations.
- 5) Individual Yacht handicap adjustments will be made according to the following guidelines:
 - i) An ESPN¹ rating will be calculated for each yacht finishing a race, providing a minimum of four yachts finish.
 - ii) If a yacht's calculated ESPN¹ rating for a given race is 12 points greater or less than it's current NSYA Handicap, the rating number used in the monthly/yearly ESPN¹ calculation shall only be a maximum of plus or minus 12 points its current NSYA Handicap.
 - iii) Each yachts monthly/yearly ESPN¹ rating will be the calculated by the following formula: The ESPN¹ rating total (the sum of all race qualified ESPN¹ ratings) divided by the number of qualified races (at least four yachts finished the race).
$$\frac{\text{ESPN (total)}}{\text{number of races}} = \text{ESPN average}$$
 - iv) Each yacht will be adjusted according to its LYC Handicap from the prior handicap period.
 - v) LYC Yacht Handicap adjustment criteria
The individual yachts averaged ESPN¹ performance rating for a given period (month/year) will be compared to the previous period LYC handicap rating, if the difference is :

faster than - 9	Handicap goes down 9 Point ²
faster than -6 and less than or equal to -9	Handicap goes down 6 Point ²
faster than -3 and less than or equal to -6	Handicap goes down 3 Point ²

less than or equal to - 3	No Change
less than or equal to + 3	No Change
slower than +3 and less than or equal to +6	Handicap goes up 3 Point ²
slower than +6 and less than or equal to +9	Handicap goes up 6 Point ²
slower than +9	Handicap goes up 9 Point ²

- vi) A minimum of four eligible races are required to calculate a monthly ESPN¹ average.
- 6) Yachts new to LYC will be given the established NS-PHRF rating for their class or, at the discretion of the LYC Race Committee, may be given the current LYC handicap of an existing similar Yacht . Yachts with no established NS-PHRF rating will be given a provisional handicap to be reviewed after four races. Provisional handicaps may, based on the yachts performance, change by 3 or more points² at the discretion of the LYC Race Committee.
- 7) A yacht's LYC Handicap Rating will be no lower or higher than +12 to -12 of the designated NSYA PHRF Rating.
- 8) Yacht handicaps will be adjusted on a "per race" basis for yachts choosing not to fly a spinnaker provided that it is noted on the Race Sign Up sheet. An individual yacht handicap adjustment will be minus 18 points² for a masthead spinnaker and minus 12 points² for a fractional spinnaker.
- 9) There will be no 'per race' handicap adjustments made for a yacht choosing to sail without certain non-spinnaker sails in her inventory.
- 10) Sail, propeller and other changes will affect handicaps according to present NS-PHRF guidelines. <http://www.nsyans.ca>
- 11) All yacht owners wishing to race (other than Friday Night Fun Races) must have an up-to-date yacht data NS-PHRF sheet on file with the LYC Race Committee. It is the yacht owner's responsibility to inform the LYC Race Committee of changes in inventory or equipment which would affect the yachts handicap calculation according to NS-PHRF guidelines.

Notes:

¹ESPN (Estimated Speed Potential Number) is defined as the rating that a Yacht achieved in comparison to the median placing yacht. (rounded up). This is sometimes called BCR (back calculated rating). ²Points are PHRF Seconds/mile

Date	Revision	Author	Change
July 7, 2008	2008.1	Ian Mann	Correct version of published document. Start Version Log. Change wording of # 2 to remove specific year.
April 2009	2009.1	Ian Mann	Changes to align with NS-PHRF sec/mile
May 2011	2011.1	Ian Mann	Change capping to NSYA not LYC