

The Rules for 2000 Club Penalties Explained (updated 7/2008)

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As most of our members are aware, we have a experience-based handicapping system based on the owner's performance (like golf) in addition to the PHRF handicapping system (which tries to handicap only based only on the boat's performance). Here is how it works:

The basic idea is that boats that finish first, second, or third in their division get penalized 15, 10, or 5 seconds per mile, respectively, in the following year in the same race. In cases where the Block Island Race is considered two separate races, the penalty accrues for the best of the two races and applies to each race in the following year.

EXAMPLE 1: CAPPUCINO finishes second in the Cuttyhunk Race in 2008. She will carry a 10 second per mile handicap in the Cuttyhunk Race in 2009. That is, she will be rated ten seconds per mile faster than her normal PHRF rating (lowering her PHRF rating by 10).

EXAMPLE 2: BLUNDER finishes first in the outgoing half of the Block Island Race (considered as two separate races), but does not race back. Her penalty in following year is 15 seconds per mile for both races (out and back) whether the results are combined or not.

Here are some of the subtleties:

A. WORKING OFF YOUR PENALTY

Your penalty is reduced by five seconds per mile for each subsequent year that you come to race (even if the race is subsequently abandoned). If you don't come to race, your penalty is not reduced and you are marked DNR (Did Not Race). If you do race and place first, second, or third, you get the larger of your new penalty or your old penalty less five seconds. For the purposes of the "Block Island Race", coming to the start for either the outgoing or the incoming leg works off penalty.

EXAMPLE 1: FIZZY BELL wins the Prudence Island race in 2007. She doesn't come to the Prudence Island Race in 2008. Her penalty is still 15 seconds when she races in 2009.

EXAMPLE 2: WHO'S YO MOMMY finishes second in the Block Island Race in her class in 2007 and fourth in 2008. Her penalty for the Block Island Race in 2009 will be five seconds. If she finished second again she retains the ten seconds. If she finishes first the penalty goes up to 15 seconds in 2009.

EXAMPLE 3: PANAMA PURPLE finishes first in the Cuttyhunk Race in 2005. In 2006, she comes to race, but the race is abandoned before or after the start or PP starts and drops out (DNF). Her penalty in 2007 will be 10 seconds rather than 15 seconds. In either of those cases she works off her penalty as long as she checks in at the starting line for the race. If she does not come to play, she doesn't work off the penalty. So DNS (Did Not Start, e.g. did not come to the starting line) works off her penalty, but DNC (Did

Not Compete) does not.

EXAMPLE 4: BAD NEWS finishes second in the Prince Henry race in 2007 and third in 2008. Her penalty for 2009 is 5 seconds.

B. PENALTIES GO WITH THE OWNER (NOT THE BOAT) AND THE RACE (NOT THE DIVISION)

EXAMPLE 3: EVENING DANCE (owned by B. J. Spock) finishes first in the Prince Henry Race in 2007. Mr. Spock buys DANCES WITH WOLVES at the end of 2007. DANCES WITH WOLVES gets a 15 second penalty in 2008 for the Prince Henry. Mr. K. K. Kostner, who bought EVENING DANCE, starts off with no penalty in 2008 for the Prince Henry Race in 2008.

EXAMPLE 4: ALLIGATOR races in Cruising Class I for the Block Island Race in 2007 and finishes second. In 2008 she enters the Spinnaker Class. She keeps her 10 second penalty.

C. PENALTIES ARE NOT CARRIED FORWARD FOR MORE THAN FIVE YEARS.

To allow straightforward bookkeeping (done by volunteers), it is not possible to carry the penalties forward forever. Thus, five years is arbitrarily chosen as the limit. It is also thought that after several years the previous performance is less important to future performance.

EXAMPLE 5: INFLEXIBLE finishes third in 2003. If her owner does not sail in 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, her penalty would still be 5 seconds in 2008, but if she does not sail in 2008 her owner's penalty goes back to zero in 2009.