

There appears to be consensus on trying to attract yacht owners (and captains) who may be overwhelmed with what superyacht racing has become over the years... and owners who participated in the past who no longer race.

There are a number of considerations that should be discussed and agreed to above and beyond naming this class. Being consistent with policy for this class at all regattas will be important:

1) Distinct features of this new class might include:

- For 3-day regattas, entrants may elect to race for 2 of the 3 days. If racing all 3, taking the 2 best finishes for scoring purposes;
- A special 'ORCs Club Certificate' – easier and less expensive (addressed in more detail below);
- Emphasis on fun racing with every entrant having a chance at a podium finish regardless of yacht preparation and talent aboard. ORC would be allowed to adjust handicaps between races to reflect the performance and capabilities of the yacht at that specific regatta;
- Shorter races – less challenging courses;
- Best starter award at conclusion of the regatta

2) Eligibility Criteria:

Would need to be clearly distinct and different from the racing classes:

- Requires a special 'ORCs Club' handicap certificate - simplified, less expensive application.
- Non-spinnaker (will drive the expense issue, making for less crew and ability to race with yacht's permanent crew);
- Roller furling jibs only;
- Should address 'professional crew' issue in some way. Not looking to eliminate professionals given the safe racing ramifications (the age-old problem of defining who is a pro, enforcing any limits, accounting for in the Club handicap);
- Captain not responsible for procuring Club certificate (see handicapping section);
- Would still require an RRS-Safety Afterguard Member.

3) Handicapping:

Simplify the handicapping process to ensure this is not a deterrent for an owner or captain. To that end, the Organizer, ORC and SYRA work together on this issue:

- Organizer and/or ORC play a role in procuring the 'Club' handicap certificate (not the Captain). Interface with designer, builder, sail maker and captain (ORC has a Club Certificate as part of ORCi);
- Very basic, simple 1-page handicap application;
- ORC has an Club Certificate as part of ORCi;
- ORC active with subjective assessments pre-regatta and on site (include a walk through on the yachts). Take into account items such as age of sails, condition of the bottom, number of additional crew, big name pros, etc.;
- Consider a % credit to yacht/owner that has never raced before;
- ORC to be active with the 'Observed Performance Factor' after each race with the % adjustment based on both "observed performance" and results that day;
- Establish that a clearly stated goal of this class is to have the series results in the balance going into the final race;
- Include an 'Owner/Driver' percentage adjustment to the handicap (encouraging owners to drive);
- Handicap adjustments to be made by a 3-person panel consisting of ORC and SYRA members (not the Regatta Organizer).

4) Financial:

No difference in entry fee. Free ORCs Club handicap certificate.