

Dear (boat captain),

I am writing regarding the ORCs<sup>y</sup> handicaps for the yacht Xxxxxxxx. In collaboration with the ORC, we have reached consensus on a policy and procedural change that will have a direct effect on your handicap.

By way of background, in 2015 the SYRA engaged ORC to develop a fully transparent superyacht handicap rule and has continued their collaboration with ORC over this 8-year period. As you may know, the ORC's superyacht rule has always had a provision for subjective adjustments to handicaps, known as 'Observed Performance Factors' (OPF's). Please refer to ORCs<sup>y</sup> 307.1 b, attached here.

From the outset there has been consensus that it is highly unlikely that any VPP can fairly handicap all large, disparate, cruising yachts relative to one another. There were certain to be outliers, with many of the superyachts having performance compromises not found in conventional racing boats. The purpose of the OPF is for well prepared and well sailed yachts to have a realistic chance for a podium finish.

A number of the SYRA sanctioned superyacht regattas routinely request that the SYRA and ORC conduct a fleet review prior to their regattas to assess whether OPF's would be appropriate for regatta entries based on the criteria outlined in ORCs<sup>y</sup> 307.

In recent months a working party from the SYRA met with the ORC to review the current policy and procedures regarding OPF's under the ORCs<sup>y</sup>. It was agreed to continue with the practice of pre-regatta fleet reviews and to add post-regatta reviews, in order to take advantage of all that is learned at each regatta and apply it going forward. When it is determined pre or post event that an OPF is called for, then the yacht's captain will be so informed in a timely fashion.

Going forward, the ORC will retain full responsibility and authority for the ORCs<sup>y</sup> Rule and VPP. The SYRA and ORC will collaborate on any pre and post regatta OPF assessments with the SYRA making the final determination regarding any OPF to be assigned. The 2023 ORCs<sup>y</sup> Rule will be changed to reflect this policy.

In October, there was a thorough review of the 2019 and 2022 Bucket regattas, specifically to evaluate yachts that might require an OPF. The yacht Xxxxx was one of the yachts that came under review. Using observations and data from the Xxxx regatta and previous regattas, it was determined that a X% OPF would be warranted *under the 2022 VPP*. It should be noted that the 2023 VPP will be different than the 2022 edition, with a number of VPP issues being addressed and improved upon. As a result, the 2023 OPF percentage for the yacht Xxxxx will be dependent on the final 2023 VPP and may be different than the one based on the 2022 VPP.

If you or your owner have any questions, please feel free to let me know. We would be more than happy to schedule a call to address any concerns you might have.

Sincerely,

Peter  
Peter Craig  
Executive Director  
Superyacht Racing Association

(OVER)

## 2022 ORC Superyacht Rule

### 307 Observed Performance Factor (OPF)

307.1 A yacht's rating may be adjusted by an Observed Performance Factor (OPF). OPF is adjusting time allowances for yacht's performance for light and strong wind while effect on the wind ranges in between is calculated proportionally between light and strong wind. It is expressed in percentage of modification of time allowances. OPF may be applied between regattas or between races at a regatta by the ORC Rating Office when:

- a) the data and measurement information from the handicap/rating application form is insufficient to provide a detailed assessment of the yacht's speed potential, or it is submitted late, or
- b) there is evidence from race tracking data and/or from observed performance and timings that the yacht's elapsed time (for a race or part of a race) is significantly different from that predicted based on the rating allowances published on the certificate.**
- c) there is unusual class composition, where a class is comprised of yachts with significantly different sailing characteristics and/or rating values and it is assessed that the VPP will not rate the yachts fairly relative to one another. In this circumstance, the rating adjustment will be referred to as a 'Regatta Specific OPF' and will only be valid for that particular regatta.

An OPF will not be applied in those cases where a yacht's performance is clearly affected by tactical mistakes or poor boat handling, as determined by tracking and/or observation.

307.2 When an OPF is applied to a yacht that has a valid certificate, that certificate shall be withdrawn and replaced with a new one that will adjust all time allowances based on the assigned OPF. If the OPF is applied during a regatta, races scored with the withdrawn certificate shall not be re-scored and the new certificate, modified with the OPF, shall apply only to races thereafter.

d307.3 The decision to apply or not to apply an OPF is at the sole discretion of the ORC and shall not be grounds for request for redress. This changes RRS 60.1(b).