

Northport Bay Yacht Club

2023 Racing Program

The 2023 Racing Program will include the Saturday afternoon Applebee Series and the Tuesday evening Sutton Series. Start time is generally 1 PM for Applebee Series and 5 PM for Sutton Series (Please note the Sutton Series start time is 1 hour earlier (5 PM) this year). At least 4 hours prior to each race, a text message will be sent to all racers with the time and course for that day's race. Occasionally, a start time or course may have to be adjusted due to a substantial change in conditions and will be announced via a text message sent at least 15 minutes prior to the scheduled start on Channel 72 and. Please text Glen VanOtteren (616-450-3674) prior to the first race the phone number we should use for the current season including any crew members you would like to receive these texts. Glen will be scoring the Applebee Series and Mike Cann will be scoring the Sutton Series.

The Race Committee allows spinnakers to be used for both the Applebee Series and the Sutton Series. Each skipper must "opt in" in order to use a spinnaker for a given race. If a skipper uses a spinnaker during a race, the skipper must text Glen opting in for a spinnaker use when reporting the boat's finishing time. Failure to opt in when using a spinnaker during a race can result in a DSQ. This will apply to both Applebee and Sutton race series. We will use two different PHRF handicaps – the Base PHRF ("Base Handicap") for those racing with a spinnaker (including asymmetrical, drifter, traditional spinnaker with a pole, etc.) or the non-Spinnaker handicap "NSHCP" for those racing without a spinnaker. The Base PHRF (when using a spinnaker) is generally 5-15 seconds per mile higher than the NSCHP (see attached NBYC 2023 Season initial handicaps).

NBYC has used the Time-on-Time (TOT) handicapping since 2018 rather than the Time-on-Distance system. TOT uses each boats PHRF ratings and calculates time corrections as a percentage of elapsed time (actual time from race start time to finish time) as follows: Corrected time = Elapsed time X 650/(550 + PHRF). (See attached article "Racers Guide to Time on Time scoring).

PHRF ratings have certain adjustments (adding time) if the boat has roller furling or a fixed 2 or 3 blade. We also add or subtract time from your handicap based on how each boat finished. We call this a "golf" handicap adjustment since it adjusts the handicap slightly for each race. It is calculated by using a boat that finishes about 40% from the top (Reference Boat). Then the difference between each boat's corrected finish time and the reference boat's corrected finish time is calculated. Boats with corrected time that is less than the reference boat, get a subtraction from their handicap while boats with corrected times more than the reference boat get an addition to their handicap, equal to 10% of the time per mile difference (this will apply both the Saturday Applebee Series and the Tuesday Sutton Series races). The maximum adjustment per race is 3 seconds per mile. Separate handicaps are maintained for Applebee and Sutton's race series.

Attached is the Race Committee 2023 Handicapping Sheet for each of the Applebee & Sutton Series, which shows how the BASE and NSHCP PHRF ratings are determined. We use the New England PHRF data base to obtain the BASE and NSHCP handicaps (where available)

to make them as comparable as possible. We are starting the season with an initial “golf” adjustment equal to the sum of 50% of your 2020, 2021 and 2022 “golf” adjustments to determine the beginning 2023 “golf” adjustment.

The Race Committee’s objective is to create a handicap process that gives as many boats as possible a chance to place in the top 3 finishers. In 2022 the Applebee Series races averaged about 6 boats per race with 4 different boats taking 1st, 3 different boats taking 2nd and 4 taking 3rd.

No extra points will be awarded for participation in special events. Scoring is as follows (changed from 2022): Every boat to start a race receives 1 point for participation. Also, boats finishing in the top five positions of each race will receive additional points as follows: 1st place receives 5 points, 2nd place receives 4 points, 3rd place receives 3 points, 4th place receives 2 points, and 5th place receives 1 point. As an example, the boat finishing in first position on corrected time will earn 6 points for that race. The boat with the most points at the end of the season is the Series Champion (there is 1 mandatory race “throw out” which will be excluded when determining the final standings for the season).

Please contact me or Glen if you have any questions or comments.

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