

CRA Moves to ORC

Early in 2024, when it was apparent there was a large majority of boats with VPP-based measurement certificates and the fleet showed that was the direction they wanted to go, CRA adopted the ORR-Ez system for boats whose PHRF handicaps were less than 111. The sport boat class had already moved to the ORC system the previous year.

This year, CRA made the decision to continue in the VPP-based system and the boats whose PHRF ratings were above 111 communicated to us that they now also wanted to become part of that rating system. Having tried the ORR-Ez system last year, however, CRA had some dissatisfaction with that system and so elected to move to the ORC rating system.

The ORC system is an International Rating System recognized by World Sailing. It issues over 10,000 certificates to boats of all types in 40 countries. Over 1100 certificates were issued in the USA last year. ORC is an objective, transparent and fair rating system, overseen by US Sailing in this country, unlike the ORR-Ez system.

The power of the ORC system to provide fair racing is in its recognition of the differences in performance potential among boats of different designs, with ratings that change according to course type and wind speed. Single rating number approaches, such as PHRF, simply cannot offer that kind of versatility. So, we're trading simplicity for fairness. That's what the racers wanted.

We had already moved away from Time-on-Distance scoring and into Time-on-Time scoring even with PHRF ratings. This, again, was an attempt to provide a more fair and representative result for racers. Finish places, however, are not as easy to calculate by each boat.

To assist with this, only ORC offers *Sailor Services* which allows you to easily select all the boats in your class and create a scratch sheet so you will know how much time you need to be ahead or behind an opponent as you progress in the race and you once again can know if you've won at the end.

With the fleet's decision to move away from PHRF, CRA will continue to assess the rating systems to provide the fairest racing possible.