Empirical Handicap Sub-Committee Minutes

The Empirical Handicap Sub-Committee met at 14:30 – 18:00 hours on Sunday 6 November 2011 at the Caribe Hilton Hotel, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Please refer to the ISAF website www.sailing.org for the details of the submissions referred to in these minutes.

1. Opening of the Meeting
2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
3. Status Report
4. Empirical Handicapping Worldwide
5. Standard parameters and Notations for Description of Boats
6. Strategic Plan and Future Work
7. Presentation of Special Topics
8. Listed Empirical Handicap Systems
9. Any Other Business

Present:
Nils Nordenstrøm (Chairman)
Paul Ansfield
Xinzu Gu

Apologies:
Daniel Pillons
Bas Edmonds
Riccardo Provini

Also Present:
Norbert Marin (Technical Co-ordinator)

1. Opening of the Meeting
The Chairman opened the meeting by asking the Committee Members and observers to introduce themselves.

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting
(a) Minutes
The minutes of the Empirical Handicap Sub-Committee Meeting of Sunday 7 November 2010 were noted and approved. The minutes can be downloaded at www.sailing.org/meetings.

(b) No comment was made on Matters Arising.

3. Status Report
(a) NORLYS – Norway
The Chairman explained a bit of history about NORLYS from its origins in Sweden and updated the Committee on empirical handicapping in Norway where the number of boats registered with the NORLYS, the dominating system inshore and offshore, is around 1800 (endorsed certificates) with the current number of boats registered with the MNA around 13,000. The chairman also gave a brief report about the major races organized in 2011 in the North and Baltic seas including the ORCi Europeans.

(b) LYS – Sweden
No report was given

(c) USPHRF & North American Portsmouth
Paul Ansfield explained how USPHRF is divided in 43 fleets through USA including Canada and Mexico although the primary body is in USA. The total fleet accounts for more than 14,000 boats with a certificate of some sort with some boats not affiliated to the system using the USPHRF database. Paul commented in the general
misconception among some sailors that their handicap is wrong when they lose a race when the reality is that in most of the cases it is the sailor who is not performing well. This was also observed by other committee members.

The Chairman commented in the good cooperation and communication between France and Norway where information and data is easily exchanged between both countries.

(d) RYA Portsmouth Yardstick
No report was given.

(e) PHRF Argentina
No report was given.

(f) HN France
Being unable to attend the meeting, Daniel Pillons sent a presentation which was presented by Henry Bacchini.

The presentation gave a quick overview about the OSIRIS interface which is used in France for ORC, classic boats and keel boats. There are currently more than 11,000 certificates issued. Henry Bacchini explained how the accuracy of the data obtained depends in the number of sailors inputting data into the program.

The committee engaged in a discussion on the amount of data collected and how it can be applied to a variety of rules. It was agreed by the Committee to support the universal measurement platform and its development.

4. **Empirical Handicapping Worldwide**

The chairman gave an overview of empirical handicapping systems worldwide.

5. **Standard Parameters and Notations for Description of Boats**

The responsibility for Standard Parameters and Notations for Description of Boats has now passed into the Equipment Control Sub-committee. The chairman considered relevant to keep this in the agenda for next year to monitor and discuss any progress.

Paul Ansfield commented on the Universal Measurement Platform and after a brief explanation and further discussion the Committee agreed in supporting its development. This should be formally reported to the Equipment Control Sub-committee and the Oceanic and Offshore Committee.

6. **Strategic Plan and Future Work**

The Chairman asked Norbert Marin to remind committee members and observers how to access the Rating and Handicap microsite in the ISAF website. The Chairman commented on some of the documents contained in it and urged all Committee Members and observers to send all relevant data and information to ISAF in order to be published in the website. It was noted that some of the links contained in the document called EH Websites and EH Systems which lists EH systems and links to popular rating rules, were not longer in use and the chairman urged anyone involved to send any updated links to the ISAF Secretariat for publication.

7. **Presentation of Special Topics**

Paul Ansfield commented in the idea of having a mid-year meeting but it was agreed that the costs of it made it impractical at the present time. The Chairman suggested electronic communication for the time being.
Flemming Nielsen (observer from Denmark) commented on the section dedicated to empirical handicap in the Danish Sailing Federation Website which includes a Velocity Prediction Program (VPP). He noted the fact that no log in is necessary to input data.

8. **Listed Empirical Handicap Systems**

9. **Any Other Business**

   There being no further business the meeting was closed.