

SOLWAY YACHT CLUB

VARIABLE HANDICAPS WITHIN A CLASS

Introduction

Most classes of dinghy and keelboat use the RYA's Portsmouth Numbers (PN) for handicap racing. However, certain classes permit older boats to use different handicaps from the formal RYA ones. In particular, at SYC, these classes are the Flying Fifteen and the National 12 although other classes, notably development classes such as the Cherub, also permit variable handicaps.

Use of Variable Handicaps

The club discussed this difficulty in 2013 and made the following decision. This applies to all club events. National events and traveller series will follow the regulations for such events.

- 1 When such classes compete in an event open to sailors of various classes from outwith the club, the PN issued by the RYA for the class will be used.
- 2 When such classes compete as a class, whether there are sailors from outwith the club or not, the prime fleet will use the PN issued by the RYA and the other fleets within the class will use the informal PNs most recently issued by the class association.
- 3 When such classes compete in internal club competition, the handicaps will be as in 2 above.

Flying Fifteens

Flying Fifteens are split into three sub-classes; Gold, Silver and Classic. The sub-class is decided by the sail number as follows:

Gold	3401 upwards
Silver	2701 to 3400
Classic	up to 2700

Note that these are the divisions for the UK; internationally, Gold starts at 3201.

Also, certain boats after 2700 that have the older design of hull are treated as Classic in the UK. See the UKFFA website at <http://www.flying15.org.uk/classic-and-silver-f15> where full details are laid out.

The prime RYA PN is 1013 for 2015 (1017 for 2014). On 24th November 2014, the UKFFA issued informal PNs based on 1017 but has not issued any subsequently to take account of the reduction in the RYA PN for 2015. The club therefore currently uses the 2015 RYA PN for Gold and the November 2014 UKFFA PNs for Silver and Classic. These are:

Gold	1013
Silver	1030
Classic	1045

See <http://www.flying15.org.uk/News/articleType/ArticleView/articleId/2267/PY-Handicap>.

National 12

N12s are split into the undernoted sub-classes decided largely by sail number although a foiling rudder affects boats from 3415 to 3518. The prime RYA Portsmouth Number is 1064 as shown below for the latest boats.

Sail Nos	Construction	PN	Year built
1-1152	Ribbed Clinker	1170	1936-1953
1153-2073	Earlier Glued Clinker	1145	1953-1963
2074-2511	Later Glued Clinker	1135	1963-1970
2512-3100	Four Plank era	1130	1970-1980
3101-3414	Smooth Hull era	1104	1980-1996
3415-3518*	Double Bottom	1089	1996-2008
3519+	Foiled Rudder Boats	1064	2008 +

*Boats within this age range with a foiling rudder should be allotted the current RYA PN

See http://www.national12.org/private/Guides/n12_recommended_handicaps.pdf .

Lasers

Lasers do not fall into the above protocols as each variant (Radial, 4.7 etc.) has a formal RYA PN.

Status of this Document

The principals of this document were agreed by the Committee in 2013 and were also agreed by a meeting of the FF class at Kippford Week that year. A formal document was issued in August 2013 and subsequently updated (for certain FFs around sail number 2700) in September 2014. This document expands and updates the September 2014 document but does not alter the principals. It also incorporates classes other than Flying Fifteens as the Committee decision applied to all classes with variable handicaps.

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