

## THE RYA PORTSMOUTH YARDSTICK SCHEME



### 60 Years of fairer racing

***PY Mission Statement: To allow sailing clubs to offer everyone fairer racing between different classes.***

#### **What is the Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme?**

The Portsmouth Yardstick Scheme is an empirical handicap system which aims to handicap boats based on their relative performance against the other boats they race with. Handicaps are allocated and administered by clubs to suit their local factors such as boat type, wind trends and water type as well as enabling the club to evaluate crew skill factor.

#### **Aims of the scheme**

- To give all clubs the tools to run the fairest handicap racing possible at club, open and national level events.
- To handicap any boat without the need for measurement
- To be easily administered by club members
- To keep a working relationship between clubs and the RYA

#### **Who can use the Portsmouth Yardstick?**

The Portsmouth Yardstick can be used by any club that is looking to hold almost any form of sail craft racing. Currently the Portsmouth Yardstick caters for a vast variety of clubs from larger clubs sailing on the open sea to smaller clubs racing on inland lakes and rivers.

The RYA recommends and publishes handicap numbers for a large variety of boats of varying performance and size. Currently, the scheme does not cater for kite boards or windsurfers due to

their varying performances in differing conditions, however the RYA are continually looking to develop the scheme and in future years it is hoped to be able to cater for all sail craft.

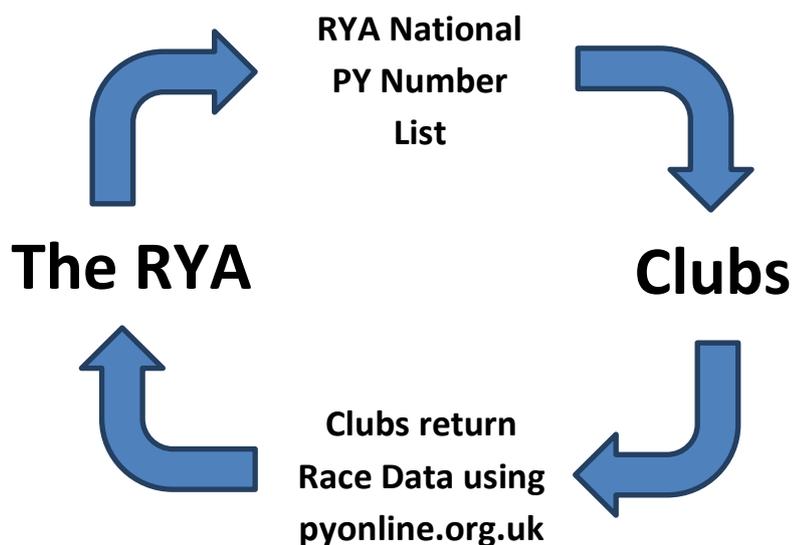
### How the scheme works

In order to score a handicap race each boats elapsed time (time taken to sail around the race course) must be converted to a corrected time (time converted based on a boats handicap). This is done by applying a simple correction calculation to each boats elapsed time. Please see the 'PY Using the Scheme' document for more information.

In order to hold racing under the scheme a club needs to compile a list of handicaps for the boats at its club. In order to help clubs with this, the RYA publish an annual list of national handicap numbers for the most common boats that are sailing in handicap racing. This list of numbers is based on the data that clubs have submitted to the RYA in their annual return. The annual return provides a summary to the RYA of all handicap racing carried out by clubs and which handicap number each club recommends for each boat.

Clubs are recommended to start by using the national list for boats that they do not have a Portsmouth Number for. Once a club has compiled a list of handicaps they should be carrying out a number adjustment calculation regularly to analyse their race results. From this, a club will be able to decide if any of the handicaps need adjusting to maintain fair racing. Please see the 'PY Adjustment & Club List' document for more information. Throughout the process it is important for the club to establish its known performers to ensure that clubs are not adjusting classes which do not need it.

Clubs submit race data to the RYA throughout the year via the [www.pyonline.org.uk](http://www.pyonline.org.uk) website. The RYA analyses the returned data and publish a national list of performance based numbers. Clubs can then decide if it's appropriate to use any of the national numbers within their club list. As such, both the national list and club list evolve as more data is captured. This can be seen in the diagram below.

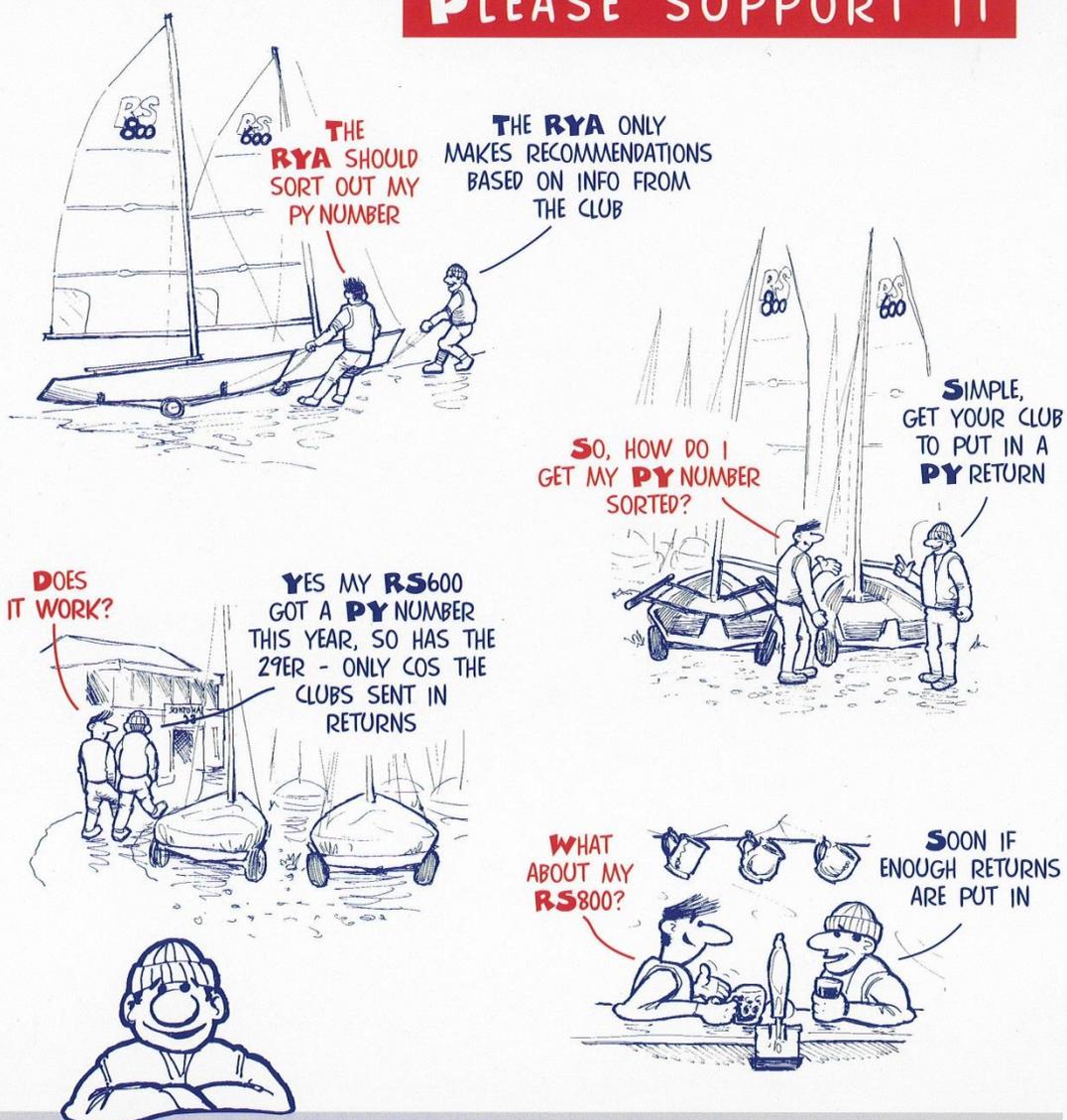


## Key Messages

- The RYA only makes RECOMMENDATIONS to clubs
- In order to run an effective scheme the clubs MUST take control of their own racing
- The clubs should develop their own handicap list to tailor for their local factors
- If a handicap is deemed to be "wrong" it is for the club to analyse race data and make an adjustment if required

# THE PORTSMOUTH YARDSTICK SYSTEM

PLEASE SUPPORT IT



THE PORTSMOUTH YARDSTICK SCHEME ONLY WORKS IF ENOUGH CLUBS SEND IN SUFFICIENT DATA. THEN IT'S VERY GOOD INDEED. MAKE SURE **YOUR** CLUB MAKES A RETURN.