



## **VETERAN HANDICAP EVENTS OPERATING NOTES 2009 Revision**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Racing under a National Standard of Handicapping was introduced as a means of expanding the opportunities for Veteran Competition in Regattas and Long Distance Events.

An Age/Performance characteristic has been established on which a table of time differentials between Veteran age Categories is based. This enables competitors in dissimilar categories to compete against one another on fair terms.

The Characteristic was based on 1000m race times and aimed at Regatta competition. Early indications showed that it was also applicable to longer race times so it was adopted for Heads, the range of Standard Times in the Handicap Table being extended to cover the race times involved.

Over the years there has been a very strong growth in Veteran Rowing so that considerably more data is now available on age/performance which has led to a comprehensive review of the effects of ageing being carried out. This has shown that while the age/performance characteristic used for Regatta competition is still sound, the loss of boat speed with age over the longer race times in Heads becomes progressively less as the duration of the race increases.

In this fourth revision of the Operating Notes the existing characteristic has been retained for Regatta competition but new characteristics have been established for application to Heads. The Handicap Table has been restructured to reflect more accurately the changes in age/performance for a wide range of Head race times. All Heads offering events run under Handicap Conditions should now use the revised handicap times in the Table in this 2009 Revision of the Operating Notes.

### **HANDICAP TABLE**

The Handicap Table sets out time differentials (handicaps) for each age category relative to Veteran A over a range of Standard Times. These are in two groups, the first related to Regatta distances and the second related to Heads.

The Standard Time is that which a winning Veteran A or Open crew or sculler would take to cover the course on the day of the event when all local conditions of course length, stream and weather have been accounted for.

The table may be used for any category of boat and for men, women, and mixed crews.

The Standard Time must relate to the nature of the event being raced e.g. eights or double sculls, men or women. Where a Regatta has limited information on the winning race times for some events the following table is a guide to the relationship between events for 1000m still water and wind conditions.

Where local conditions and course lengths dictate that higher or lower Standard Time values should be used all values in the table below should be adjusted in the same proportion.

For mixed crews a value mid way between the mens and the womens should be used.



### Standard Time

<b>Boat Type</b>	<b>Men</b>	<b>Women</b>
8	3.00	3.20
4x/4-	3.10	3.30
4+	3.20	3.40
2x/2-	3.30	3.50
1x	3.40	4.00

### OPERATING NOTES – REGATTAS

1. Purpose – The introduction of handicap events is primarily to create a race where otherwise there would be none. It is regarded as applicable where single crews in one age category have been entered in a particular event.
2. The Course – Crews should be started and finished level or recognising the natural stagger for all crews at these points for a particular course. Stake boats should be used if possible. The handicap time differential will be applied at the Start with the older crew being started ahead of the younger crew by the amount of the handicap.
3. Standard Time – The Regatta will determine the Standard Time to be observed and the appropriate handicaps from the Handicap Table.
4. Informing Competitors – The Standard Times and handicaps to be used in handicap events must be made known to competitors no later than before the race programme begins.
5. Start Procedure – The start procedure recommended is based on counting out loud the handicap being given. Once the Starter has seen that the crews are ready he will say "Attention – Go – 10 – 9 – 8 ... 3 – 2 – 1 – Go". The second crew will start on the second "Go" without being named. The count will be in whole seconds and in the example given would represent a handicap of 11 seconds.
6. A Stop Watch must be used to ensure an accurate countdown. The Starter should explain to the crews the method he is to adopt.
7. Readiness – Between the start of the first and the second crew it is the responsibility of the crew last away to maintain itself straight and ready for the start. The countdown will assist in this.
8. False Start – In the event of either crew carrying out a false start the race should be stopped in the normal way. A second false start will lead to disqualification under the normal rules of racing.
9. Umpires – When competing crews are at different points along the course in the early stages Umpires should be alert to either crew gaining advantage by departing from its allotted station.
10. The Finish – This will be judged in the normal way. The crew finishing first will be declared the winner.



## IMPORTANT NOTE FOR REGATTAS

It is recommended that competition under handicap conditions be limited to crews in adjacent age categories as far as possible.

Regattas are particularly requested **not** to assemble all Veteran entries in one boat type into one event, using the Handicap system as justification. This is a misuse of the system. The following is an example of the right way of dealing with a typical entry.

### COXED FOURS

Entry	Wrong Way	Right Way
3 in C category )	)	1 Event for C/D
1 in D category )	)	D races with the appropriate handicap
	) one event	
1 in E category )	)	1 Event for E/F/G
1 in F category )	)	All race with the appropriate handicap
1 in G category )	)	for each category

The **wrong way** can result in a final between widely different age categories with a huge handicap in what becomes a time trial. This is not a satisfactory racing situation.

The **right way** ensures that the single veteran entries get an event in a realistic racing situation.

### OPERATING NOTES – HEADS

1. Application – Heads which offer Veteran categories may find entries limited in any one category, particularly in the older age groups. Competition in any one category is limited or nonexistent. To create a generalised category for Veterans clearly favours the younger crews irrespective of the true merits of the older competitors. With the handicap table for long distance events it is now possible for HOR's to allow limited numbers of Veterans to compete against one another fairly.
2. Standard Time – This will be determined from the finish time of the winning Veteran A or Open entry on the day.
3. Corrected Time – The Handicaps for each category will be determined from the Handicap Table once the Standard Time is known and will be deducted from the finish time of each crew to produce a corrected result from which the finishing order may be determined.



**VETERAN HANDICAPPING DATA – 2009**  
**REGATTA DISTANCES – TIME DIFFERENTIALS – SECS**

**STANDARD TIME**  
MINS : SECS

**AGE CATEGORIES**  
TIME DIFFERENTIALS - SECS

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1.00	0	1	2	5	7	9	12	15	18
1.10	0	1	2	5	8	11	14	17	21
1.20	0	1	3	6	9	12	16	20	24
1.30	0	1	3	7	10	14	18	22	27
1.40	0	1	4	8	11	15	20	25	30
1.50	0	1	4	8	12	17	22	27	33
2.00	0	1	4	9	13	18	23	29	36
2.10	0	1	5	10	14	20	25	32	39
2.20	0	1	5	10	15	21	27	34	42
2.30	0	1	5	11	17	23	29	37	45
2.40	0	2	6	12	18	24	31	39	48
2.50	0	2	6	12	19	26	33	42	51
3.00	0	2	6	13	20	27	35	44	54
3.10	0	2	7	14	21	29	37	47	57
3.20	0	2	7	15	22	30	39	49	60
3.30	0	2	7	16	23	32	41	52	63
3.40	0	2	8	17	24	33	43	54	66
3.50	0	2	8	17	25	35	45	56	69
4.00	0	2	8	18	26	36	47	59	72
4.10	0	2	9	19	27	38	49	61	75
4.20	0	2	9	19	28	39	51	64	78
4.30	0	2	9	20	29	41	53	66	81
4.40	0	2	10	21	30	42	55	69	84
4.50	0	2	10	22	31	44	57	71	87
5.00	0	2	10	22	32	45	59	74	90

**LONG DISTANCE EVENTS – TIME DIFFERENTIALS – MINS/SECS**

10.00	0	.05	.16	.35	.52	1.11	1.35	1.58	2.22
11.00	0	.05	.17	.37	.55	1.15	1.40	2.05	2.30
12.00	0	.05	.18	.39	.58	1.19	1.45	2.11	2.37
13.00	0	.05	.19	.41	1.01	1.23	1.50	2.17	2.44
14.00	0	.06	.20	.43	1.03	1.26	1.54	2.22	2.50
15.00	0	.06	.20	.44	1.04	1.28	1.57	2.26	2.55
16.00	0	.06	.21	.45	1.05	1.29	1.59	2.28	2.58
17.00	0	.06	.21	.45	1.06	1.30	2.00	2.30	3.00
18.00	0	.06	.21	.45	1.07	1.31	2.01	2.31	3.01
19.00	0	.06	.21	.45	1.06	1.30	2.00	2.30	3.00
20.00	0	.06	.21	.45	1.06	1.30	2.00	2.30	3.00
21.00	0	.06	.21	.44	1.05	1.29	1.58	2.28	2.57
22.00	0	.06	.20	.44	1.04	1.27	1.56	2.25	2.54

**Example :- 1000m - Coxed Four - Standard Time 3.20.**  
**Handicap C - D= 8 secs. F- G= 9 secs.**