



Frequently Asked Questions: Vic-Maui Handicapping System

Q: Why does Vic-Maui have its own handicap system?

A: Vic-Maui developed the Vic-Maui Handicap System (“VMHS”) to encourage the participation of a wide variety of boats with differing characteristics and minimize the time and expense to owners of obtaining additional measurements. A major feature of the system is that it takes into account the specific weather conditions expected during the race.

Q: How does the VMHS work?

A: As with many other offshore distance races, including Transpac, Newport-Bermuda, and Chicago-Mackinac, the Vic-Maui race uses a boat’s measurements and a proprietary Velocity Prediction Program to predict performance. The measurements can come from any measurement certificate, or known set of hull profiles. While measurer verified information produces the most accurate results, boats without detailed measurements may be assessed based on the VPP results of known boats with similar characteristics.

Q: Which Velocity Prediction Program does the VMHS use?

A: The VMHS uses the ORR program which is administered by U.S. Sailing.

Q: Then why not just use ORR data, instead of the VMHS?

A: The VMHS takes ORR data as an input and adjusts for factors which are specific to typical Vic-Maui race conditions and to the boats being rated. Calculations made by our handicappers allow owners avoid the expense of additional, formal measurements.

Q: How does weather impact the VMHS?

A: The adjusted ORR data is used in conjunction with a Vic-Maui weather matrix based on actual experience in more than 10 years of Vic – Maui races. This process correlates the VPP predictions with the expected amount of time sailing at different wind strengths and angles to arrive at a single time allowance specific to the Vic-Maui race.

This allowance is given as a single "time on distance" number and is used with the great circle distance of 2308 nautical miles to determine overall time corrections.

Q: What does a boat receive when it obtains a VMHS rating?

A: The boat receives a VMHS rating certificate with measurements and a table of predicted performance data.