



Masters handicapping

Introduction

This note sets out the handicaps to be used in Masters events run under the Scottish Rowing Rules of Racing and gives advice on their use.

Tables are supplied for regattas and for head races

Regattas

The handicaps to be applied in regattas are shown at Annex A to this note.

Handicaps are a mechanism which attempt to allow different Masters categories to compete against each other. The handicapping mechanism can only compensate for age-related differences between crews.

Practice in Scotland has generally been to limit handicap races to crews which are in adjacent Masters categories.

The tables contained in this note are believed to be valid across a wider age-gap than older tables. However, their use across a wider range of ages should be approached with caution for the following reasons:

- Races with more than two or three categories involved are difficult to manage on the start
- Races with a large handicap are not interesting for competitors or spectators

Identifying handicaps to be applied

This is the responsibility of the Regatta Organising Committee.

Handicaps are set using a standard time for a Masters A crew.

The following standard times for 1000m are derived from the same dataset which was used to determine the handicapping tables themselves.

Open	Standard time	Women	Standard time
O 1x	03:42	W 1x	04:05
O 2-	03:31	W 2-	03:55
O 2x	03:23	W 2x	03:43
O 4-	03:13	W 4-	03:39
O 4+	03:20	W 4+	03:47
O 4x	03:09	W 4x	03:35
O 8+	03:04	W 8+	03:22

These times should be adjusted proportionately for regatta distances other than 1000m.

If these standard times are used alongside the handicaps set out in Annex A then a Regatta Organising Committee can make a good deal of handicapping information available well in advance rather than leaving crews to find out what the handicaps are when they get to the start.

Exceptional conditions

If weather or water conditions are particularly severe then regatta organisers may consider timing appropriate crews on the day to determine standard times for the regatta. This approach depends on suitable crews having raced early in the day, and is often not practical.

If this approach is adopted then competitors should be informed as soon as possible of the process being followed and of the resulting handicaps.

Applying handicaps

This is the responsibility of the Umpires at a Regatta.

The agreed procedure in Scotland is that handicaps are applied at the start of a race. This allows a race to the finish in which it is clear that the crew crossing the line first is the winner.

There may be exceptional circumstances where this is not possible, in which case communications to competitors must make this absolutely clear.

As crews prepare for the start, the Starter should inform crews which Masters category is recorded against them in the regatta programme and what the resulting handicaps are.

The actual start procedure is based on counting out loud the handicap being given.

Once the Starter has seen that the crews are ready they will say

'Attention - Go -10 - 9 - 8 -7 - 6 - 5 - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 - Go'.

The second crew(s) 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. A stopwatch should be used to ensure an accurate countdown. The Starter should explain to the crews the procedure being used.

Readiness - Between the start of the first and subsequent crews it is the responsibility of the crews later away to maintain themselves straight and ready for the start. The countdown will assist in this.

False Start - In the event of any crew carrying out a false start the race will be stopped in the normal way. A second false start will lead to disqualification under the normal rules of racing.

While the recommendation is that competition using the handicaps be limited to adjacent age categories, in Scotland a wider spread of categories in the same race is sometimes used.

At multilane events where a number of age categories are involved in the same race the following is an example of the procedure to be used:

'Attention - Go - 10 - 9 - 8 - 7 - 6 - Go - 4 - 3 - 2 - 1 - Go'.

The Starter will previously have explained to the crews that crew Z in the oldest age category will start on the first 'Go', crews Y and Z in the next oldest category on the second 'Go' and crew W in the youngest band on the third 'Go'.

The Starter should not attempt another role call while the countdown is underway neither should they count down to zero and then say 'Attention.' 'Go'.

Head Races

The handicaps to be applied in head races are shown in Annex B to this note.

Handicaps in head races are applied once the raw times over the course have been calculated.

Identifying handicaps to be applied

This is the responsibility of the Regatta Organising Committee.

Handicaps are set using a standard time for a Masters A crew.

If there is no Masters A crew in the race or division, then a suitable open category may be chosen to provide the standard time. If the Junior entry is of a high standard then a Junior crew could be used to provide the standard time.

The Regatta Organising Committee must make it clear how the standard time has been chosen.

Results

Results of head races should show the Masters crews in the overall ranking using their unadjusted times.

Times adjusted for Masters handicaps should be identified separately, and should only be used to alter the ranking with respect to other Masters crews.

The application of Masters handicaps should not, for example, be used to determine that a Masters crew is the overall winner as a result of its adjusted time being faster than the unadjusted time of a Senior crew.

Annex A – Masters handicapping tables – Regatta distances

Proposed revision to regatta distance Masters handicapping curves for men									
Category	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
Std time m:ss	Time differential - sec								
1:00	0	0	1	2	4	5	7	9	12
1:10	0	0	1	3	4	6	8	11	14
1:20	0	0	1	3	5	7	10	12	16
1:30	0	1	2	3	5	8	11	14	18
1:40	0	1	2	4	6	9	12	15	20
1:50	0	1	2	4	7	10	13	17	22
2:00	0	1	2	4	7	11	14	18	24
2:10	0	1	2	5	8	12	16	20	26
2:20	0	1	3	5	8	13	17	21	28
2:30	0	1	3	5	9	14	18	23	30
2:40	0	1	3	6	10	14	19	24	32
2:50	0	1	3	6	10	15	20	26	34
3:00	0	1	3	6	11	16	22	27	36
3:10	0	1	3	7	11	17	23	28	38
3:20	0	1	4	7	12	18	24	30	40
3:30	0	1	4	8	13	19	25	31	42
3:40	0	1	4	8	13	20	26	33	44
3:50	0	1	4	8	14	21	28	34	46
4:00	0	1	4	9	14	22	29	36	48
4:10	0	2	4	9	15	23	30	37	50
4:20	0	2	5	9	16	23	31	39	52
4:30	0	2	5	10	16	24	32	40	54
4:40	0	2	5	10	17	25	34	42	56
4:50	0	2	5	10	17	26	35	44	58
5:00	0	2	5	11	18	27	36	45	60

Annex B - Masters handicapping tables – Head Race distances

Standard Time mins:secs	Time differentials relative to Veteran A - mins:secs - by age category							
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
10:00	0:00	0:11	0:22	0:32	0:43	0:54	1:16	1:48
11:00	0:00	0:12	0:24	0:36	0:48	0:59	1:23	1:59
12:00	0:00	0:13	0:26	0:39	0:52	1:05	1:31	2:10
13:00	0:00	0:14	0:28	0:42	0:56	1:10	1:38	2:20
14:00	0:00	0:15	0:30	0:45	1:00	1:16	1:46	2:31
15:00	0:00	0:16	0:32	0:49	1:05	1:21	1:53	2:42
16:00	0:00	0:17	0:35	0:52	1:09	1:26	2:01	2:53
17:00	0:00	0:18	0:37	0:55	1:13	1:32	2:09	3:04
18:00	0:00	0:19	0:39	0:58	1:18	1:37	2:16	3:14
19:00	0:00	0:21	0:41	1:02	1:22	1:43	2:24	3:25
20:00	0:00	0:22	0:43	1:05	1:26	1:48	2:31	3:36
21:00	0:00	0:23	0:45	1:08	1:31	1:53	2:39	3:47
22:00	0:00	0:24	0:48	1:11	1:35	1:59	2:46	3:58