

THE PERFORMANCE INCREASE PENALTY SCHEME

OVERVIEW

HKPNs are derived from elapsed times in races already sailed and are adjusted regularly over a series of races. In a single race or regatta, changes that enhance a boat's performance can give an unfair advantage. Such changes are covered by the Performance Increase Penalty Scheme (PIPS).

DEFINITIONS

- Significant outperformance is a corrected time 7% faster than the average corrected time of the top two-thirds of a boat's HKPN division or class.
- Significant increase in crew capability is defined by the use of any sailor belonging to Group 3 of the ISAF Sailor Classification Code, an increase in crew numbers of 50% or more or the addition of two or more sailors of a calibre that is not normally present on a boat, such that their presence significantly increases the chance of winning a race.

PRINCIPLE OF PIPS

All boats racing under HKPN should achieve similar corrected times. Significant outperformance, where corrected times vary widely, should be explicable. It is not considered in the spirit of HKPN or good sportsmanship to deliberately create a situation where a boat's handicap does not reflect its true potential performance. Nevertheless, it does happen. Therefore, a competitor racing in a division or class governed by PIPS, who expects a significant improvement of performance, shall declare this expected improvement to the Organising Authority before racing. A PIPS declaration form should be submitted by all competitors as so specified in the Notice of Race (NoR) or Sailing Instructions (SIs) whether or not changes have been made to their boat.

SCOPE

PIPS is applicable to an HKPN class or division and will only apply when a NoR or SIs declare that the scheme will be in force. Should PIPS be applied to the first race of a regatta, penalties will be applied to all races in that regatta. Organising Authorities need only include a statement in their NoR or SIs such as “PIPS shall apply to the HKPN division” to declare its use. Organising Authorities have the right to modify PIPS where appropriate. PIPS is a tool aimed primarily at preventing competitors deliberately massaging their performance to affect results.

THE RULES

Before racing, when PIPS is in use, the following changes must be declared on a PIPS declaration form unless onboard, and available for use, during a boat’s last 4 days of racing:

1. New or improved Mainsail.
2. New or improved Foresail.
3. New or improved Spinnaker.
4. Significant increase in capability of a crew.
5. Modifications.

A boat’s published HKPN will be amended for changes made to sails and crew in accordance with the PIPS Penalties table below. Modifications will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. A significant change to the condition of the hull, be it through anti-fouling or a race-wash, is deemed a modification. This scheme only applies to increases, not decreases, in potential performance. The penalty can be waived or modified by an Organising Authority should changes be deemed to make no difference to a boat’s performance. If changes have been made which do not, in the skippers view, affect performance, an argument should be provided to the Organising Authority.

UNDECLARED CHANGES

A failure to declare changes made to a boat may be subject to protest. A Protest Committee may judge whether a yacht has failed to declare an increase in performance. Undeclared changes, if proven, will result in a penalty of the appropriate PIPS adjustment multiplied by 1.25 for each race. This penalty will be administered at club level by amending the HKPN for the race and boat in question.

If a yacht significantly outperforms the fleet, and no declaration has been made, its HKPN may be reviewed at any time by the HKPN Committee. Most cases of a significant improvement in a yacht's performance are easily explained, for example, a dying breeze favouring a faster boat.

Should a boat be successfully protested more than twice for failing to declare performance-enhancing changes or be found by the HKPN Committee to have significantly outperformed in her division or class due to undeclared improvements she may be removed from the HKPN list.

THE PIPS PENALTIES

HKPN	MAIN	FORESAIL	SPINNAKER	CREW
	1.00%	1.00%	1.00%	3%
1200	-12	-12	-12	-36
1190	-12	-12	-12	-36
1180	-12	-12	-12	-35
1170	-12	-12	-12	-35
1160	-12	-12	-12	-35
1150	-12	-12	-12	-35
1140	-11	-11	-11	-34
1130	-11	-11	-11	-34
1120	-11	-11	-11	-34
1110	-11	-11	-11	-33
1100	-11	-11	-11	-33
1090	-11	-11	-11	-33

1080	-11	-11	-11	-32
1070	-11	-11	-11	-32
1060	-11	-11	-11	-32
1050	-11	-11	-11	-32
1040	-10	-10	-10	-31
1030	-10	-10	-10	-31
1020	-10	-10	-10	-31
1010	-10	-10	-10	-30
1000	-10	-10	-10	-30
990	-10	-10	-10	-30
980	-10	-10	-10	-29
970	-10	-10	-10	-29
960	-10	-10	-10	-29
950	-10	-10	-10	-29
940	-9	-9	-9	-28
930	-9	-9	-9	-28
920	-9	-9	-9	-28
910	-9	-9	-9	-27
900	-9	-9	-9	-27
890	-9	-9	-9	-27
880	-9	-9	-9	-26
870	-9	-9	-9	-26
860	-9	-9	-9	-26
850	-9	-9	-9	-26
840	-8	-8	-8	-25
830	-8	-8	-8	-25
820	-8	-8	-8	-25
810	-8	-8	-8	-24
800	-8	-8	-8	-24
790	-8	-8	-8	-24
780	-8	-8	-8	-23
770	-8	-8	-8	-23
760	-8	-8	-8	-23

Should a HKPN lie outside the above table, percentage penalties can be extrapolated.