ALTERNATIVE SCORING SYSTEMS FOR LONG SERIES

A "regatta" is generally a series of races held in the same place on contiguous days. It is rarely more than a week long. When an "event," such as a season championship, is a series longer than a regatta, one of the usual regatta scoring systems may not be the best choice.

The US SAILING Racing Rules Committee has provided information about two relatively complex scoring systems, the High-Point Percentage and Low-Point Average, in a document on its web page.

Appendix A of *The Racing Rules of Sailing* contains two scoring systems, the Low Point Scoring System and the Bonus Point Scoring System, that are appropriate for regattas. The systems in Appendix A can also be used for scoring a series of races held over a longer period of time. When one of the Appendix A systems is used for scoring a long series, rule A9 (Race Scores in a Series Longer than a Regatta) applies and changes parts of rule A4.

Rule A9 introduces the concept of boats "coming to the starting area" for a race. Under rule A9, boats that came to the starting area for a race but are DNS, DNF, RAF or DSQ, are scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats that came to the starting area. Boats that did not come to the starting area are scored points for the finishing place one more than the number of boats entered in the series (frequently a much larger number). Unless the sailing instructions change the series scoring, a boat's worst score is excluded from her series score.

Using rule A9 heavily penalizes a boat that does not come to the starting area, since the number of boats entered in the series may be much larger than the number of boats that come to the starting area for any one race. The simplest way to fix this problem is to include in a boat's series score only a specific number of races. This number is usually about 75% of the number of races scheduled in the series. In order to implement this approach, include something like the following in the notice of race and the sailing instructions (Z is a predetermined number):

> Rule A2 is replaced with: Each boat's series score shall be the total of her best Z race scores. The boat with the lowest series score wins, and others shall be ranked accordingly.

One benefit of this approach is that a boat can never make her series score worse by sailing in another race, so participation is encouraged.

Another way to implement this is to increase the number of races that are excluded from a boat's series score.

> A boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst X races.

If the number of races actually run may differ significantly from the number scheduled, you can change "her best Z race scores" to "her best Z race scores, where Z is 75% (truncated to an integer) of the races actually run in the series." If you are increasing the number of races excluded to accomplish the same purpose, use "A boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores, excluding one race for each Y races completed." [Using a table to explain this is a good idea.]

Series "qualification" is another way to encourage boats to participate in a long series by requiring participation in a minimum number or percentage of the races in order to be included in the final series results. Language such as the following will do this:

> Series Qualification: To qualify for inclusion in the series results, a boat shall come to the starting area for at least Z races [or X% of the races].

Using either the Low Point or Bonus Point scoring systems of Appendix A for scoring a long series can be perceived as inequitable because a boat's race score is based on how many boats finished ahead of her. Thus first place in a race with only a few boats is equivalent to a first place when there are many boats competing. Solutions to this problem include high-point scoring and the Cox-Sprague scoring system. Both are described in the US SAILING *Race Management Handbook*.

Sailing Instructions to Implement Each System
Sailing Instructions to implement these systems are given below. If a system is modified as provided in one of the numbered Notes, include the modification.

APPENDIX A SCORING SYSTEMS (with a default of one race excluded)
1. X races are scheduled. Y races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
2. The Low Point [or Bonus Point] Scoring System in Appendix A of the racing rules will be used. Rule A9 will apply.

APPENDIX A SCORING SYSTEMS (including only a fixed number of races)
1. X races are scheduled. Y races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
2. The Low Point [or Bonus Point] Scoring System in Appendix A of the racing rules will be used, as changed below. Rule A9 will apply.
3. Rule A2 is replaced with: Each boat's series score shall be the total of her best N race scores. The boat with the lowest series score wins, and others shall be ranked accordingly.

APPENDIX A SCORING SYSTEMS (with additional races excluded)
1.	X races are scheduled. Y races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
2.	The Low Point [or Bonus Point] Scoring System in Appendix A of the racing rules will be used. Rule A9 will apply.
3.	Each boat's series score shall be the total of her race scores, excluding her Z worst scores.

APPENDIX A SCORING SYSTEMS (with a minimum number of races required to qualify for the series)
1.	X races are scheduled. Y races are required to be completed to constitute a series.
2.	The Low Point [or Bonus Point] Scoring System in Appendix A of the racing rules will be used. Rule A9 will apply.
3.	To qualify for inclusion in the series results, a boat shall come to the starting area for at least N races [or M% of the races].

Revised 01/11/09 thf
Long Series Scoring