

**Criteria for
Listed Empirical Handicapping Systems (LEHS)
Decided at the EHSC annual meeting in 2004**

Part 1. Requirements for Empirical Handicapping Systems

Definition

In these criteria "Empirical Handicapping Systems" means systems where the handicapping numbers are based upon experience from races, distinguished from "Measurement Rule Systems" where handicapping numbers are determined by calculations based on boat parameters.

1 Documented management system

There shall be a documentation describing the entire system, including:

- 1.1 Responsible organisation and responsibilities for decisions regarding rules and handicapping numbers
- 1.2 Methods for description of boat types
- 1.3 Methods for establishing and updating handicapping numbers
- 1.4 Methods for publishing handicapping numbers
- 1.5 Methods for use of handicapping numbers to establish corrected times.

Updated versions of this documentation should be made available to sailors and race management.

2 Description of boat types

The boat types (classes or one off designs) shall be described in sufficient detail.

3 Methods for establishing and updating handicapping numbers

The methods used for establishing and updating handicapping numbers shall be documented in sufficient detail to enable the EHSC to fully understand the methods. Statistical methods should be described in detail.

4 Methods for publishing handicapping numbers

Handicapping numbers shall be published in such a way that they are readily available to both sailors and race organisers in connection with races.

5 Methods for use of handicapping numbers

The methods such as "time-on-time" or "time on distance" shall be described in detail. The degree of precision of corrected times shall be defined.

6 Number of handicapped boats

The number of handicapped boats shall be sufficient to enable the responsible body to establish reliable and valid handicap numbers.

7 Number of years of operation of handicapping system

The number of years of operation of the handicapping system should be sufficient to enable the responsible body to establish reliable and valid handicap numbers.

8 Providing annual documentation

The responsible EHS body shall update the EHSC annually before April 1st with full documentation of the system.

Part 2. Management of registering of LEHS

1 Responsible body for these criteria

It is the responsibility of the EHSC to develop Criteria for Listing Empirical Handicapping Systems.

2 Amendments of the LEHS Criteria

EHSC members, LEHS administrations and Member National Authorities may propose amendments to these LEHS Criteria. Such amendments shall be submitted not later than August 1st each year.

3 Complaints

Written complaints are to be sent to the EHSC, which shall decide upon the complaint within six months from receiving it.

4 Appeals

The EHSC shall refer appeals regarding EHSCs decisions on complaints to appropriate ISAF bodies, together with relevant documentation and recommendations from the EHSC.

5 Responsible body for operating the system for LEHS

The EHSC is responsible for managing the registration.

6 Administration

6.1 Improvements of these LEHS Criteria

6.2 Receiving applications and making a decision within six months of the receipt of the application

6.3 Notifying the applicant in writing regarding the decision. Reasons for denied recognition shall be stated with reference to these LEHS Criteria

6.4 Issuing notice of registration

6.5 Publish updated lists of registered LEHSs

6.6 Sending annual report to the appropriate ISAF body not later than August 1st each year

6.7 Managing records of all correspondence, documentation of decisions and annual reports.

7 Period of recognition

After a successful recognition, the LEHS is registered for 5 years. Applications for continued recognition are to be lodged at least 6 months before the date of expiry.

9 Discontinuing of recognition

If serious breaks of these requirements are discovered, the EHSC may discontinue recognition at any time.