

VPRS ... velocity prediction rating system

Yacht ratings from a VPP

VPRS uses a velocity prediction program (VPP) and a manageable set of measurements to predict sailing performance; this is calculated for a range of wind speeds over several points of sail. A weighted average of the performance is then taken - and expressed as a Time Correction Coefficient (TCC).

Measurements and other data are carefully chosen to capture the equipment and design variations which have the greatest impact on yacht performance. In addition, the measurement definitions are written to minimise the opportunities for rating optimisation.

The aim is to provide a fair, affordable and easy to use rating system.

At a glance ...

- ◆ Annual rating certificates are only £20 – for any size boat.
- ◆ Ratings are direct predictions of boat performance; they are **not** a means of handicapping.
- ◆ Measurements and other data for all rated yachts can be viewed by anyone – free on the website.
- ◆ Two trial re-ratings are available every year, with free certificate re-issue if required.
- ◆ Local adjustments are not needed; the ratings are therefore universally applicable.
- ◆ Departures from one-design class rules are taken into account.
- ◆ Every boat has an independent data file to allow individual assessment and rating. As a result, type evolutions such as those affecting keels and rudders can also be captured.
- ◆ VPRS is strictly measurement-based and can rate modern hulls, classic designs and sports boats.
- ◆ A straightforward set of familiar measurements is used.
- ◆ The VPP gives a scientific assessment of sailing performance.
- ◆ Performance gains from laminated and low cut sails, as well as losses from more cruising orientated sails and furling gear, are reflected in the ratings – and any combination of these is possible.
- ◆ Age allowances are not given as major refits, modern boats of classic design, and the lack of any practical means of individual assessment all discredit this concession.
- ◆ Moveable ballast is taken into account.
- ◆ Ratings suitable for mixed-classes (spinnaker & no-spinnaker) can be provided.
- ◆ For racing in strict no-spinnaker classes: no-spinnaker TCCs are given which reflect the true loss in averaged sailing performance expected on the water.
- ◆ The system is designed and run by engineers with racing experience – and backgrounds in naval architecture, scientific research and software design.