

# 2024 Magothy River Wednesday Night Races SI's Amendment #1: MRSA Unifying Rating Formula (MURF) aka "Fun Scoring"

Ver. 041724

## The Challenge

Racers find that the ratings offered by the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (PHRF) or similar systems do not always create effective and balanced handicapped racing due to race conditions, type of boat, or myriad other causes. Furthermore, the PHRF system assumes that a rated boat is in "Bristol condition" with a clean bottom, new sails, and an experienced crew. The reality is that some sailors are new to racing, their boats are sometimes in the process of being restored, and many are not using the newest sails. These circumstances often result in racing that skews toward the same boats winning week after week which can reduce the "fun factor" for Wednesday Night racing

## Objective

We want to encourage racing on the Magothy because more boats racing means more fun. This goal was resoundingly echoed in feedback by the MRSA racing community. The Wednesday Nights Series is about getting local sailors together for an enjoyable racing experience.

A rating system used by boats in the area needs to have an objective starting point but can flex to consider the condition of the boat, the condition of the sails, the skill-level of the racers, and how the design performs in our typical conditions and race format.

## Solution

The "Fun Scoring" or MURF system is a time-on-time handicap system that modifies each boat's rating based on her performance. A boat's rating is adjusted up or down after each series based on her performance in the previous series. This will allow in season adjustments that should increase overall fleet competitiveness, mix up podium finishers, and enhance our racing's fun factor.

## What this does NOT do...

The "Fun Scoring" will be a shadow system on top of our normal PHRF / CMA scoring as described in the *2024 Magothy River Wednesday Night Races General Sailing Instructions* and will not apply toward the Magothy Cup and normal fleet trophies. Further, it does not translate into a better PHRF / CMA rating, or into a PHRF / CMA rating that could be used in other fleets outside of the MRSA Wednesday Night Series.

## How does it work?

Each boat starts Wednesday Night Racing Series 1 with an initial “Fun Scoring” or MURF rating equal to its PHRF or CMA rating. Adjustments will be made directly to PHRF ratings, which are based on the Time over Distance (ToD), then converting to Time over Time (ToT) for scoring. For CMA, which are based on ToT, we will convert the ratings to ToD for adjustment, then back to ToT. The rating can come from an official PHRF certificate or CMA issued rating (the preferred method) or can come from a proposed starting rating offered by PHRF or CMA rating for boats in the class.

Adjustments to that rating are then made for the subsequent series based on following these guidelines:

- If a boat wins the series, their MURF rating will drop by 6 seconds / mile for the next series.
- If a boat comes in second for the series, their MURF rating will drop by 3 seconds / mile for the next series.
- If a boat comes in second to last for the series, their MURF rating goes up by 3 seconds / mile for the next series.
- If a boat comes in last for the series, their MURF rating goes up by 6 seconds / mile for the next series.
- Boats that don’t race at minimum of three (or some number) of races in a series won’t qualify for a MURF adjustment.

Additionally, each series must have at least one boat that is not adjusted. That is, there must be one boat in the middle whose rating did not change after the series. If there are only 3 or 4 qualifying boats, the maximum ratings change will only be 3 seconds / mile. If there are only less than 3 qualifying boats, there will be no ratings changes. These tables show the scenarios for a small number of qualifying boats.

Boat’s Series Place	MURF Adjustment
1st	-6
2nd	-3
3rd	0
4th	0
5th	+3
6th	+6

The Rear Commodore and RC Chair reserves the right to modify the MURF rating adjustments between series if necessary.

## Awards

Fun awards will be given in addition to the standard trophies for the standard PHRF / CMA awards and Magothy Cup (see section 16 of the 2024 Magothy River Wednesday Night Races). The number and type of awards are at the discretion of the Rear Commodore and RC Chair.