

Background

MicroCODE Regatta RC™ (RRC) supports racing handicaps from various systems simultaneously. Allowing a race to be single-scored, dual-scored, or even triple-scored.

Example: The Detroit Regional Yacht-racing Association (DRYA) dual-scores every race using:
 1) the Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (**PHRF**) certificates from Mid-West PHRF, and
 2) the Ocean Racing Congress (**ORC**) certificates.

For a Season **Series** RRC supports one continuous configuration of the boat, her sails, and crew through the year, even though the boat may be reconfigured temporarily for other events. We call this configuration a **Sailing Vessel (SV)**.

The Regatta RC Sailing Vessel (SV)

Our application introduces the idea of a sailboat's complete configuration as a unique entity that exists in the real world.

What's included in this configuration?

- The **Boat** (Measured or Known Design)
- The **Sails** Aboard (Types/Sizes)
- The **Crew** Aboard (Weight and **Contact info.**)
- Valid Handicap **Certificate(s)** for the Season

How long is this SV Valid?

A Sailing Vessel (SV) is valid for one Racing **Series**. It is locked into Race Results and cannot be changed after the scoring of any **Race** in the Series is finalized. A new SV can be created for future Races within the Series if permitted by the O.A..

How many SVs can I have in a Season?

This is only limited by your Organizing Authority's (**OA's**) Notice of Race (**NOR**) and Sailing Instructions (**SIs**).

Regatta RC supports creating as many SVs (configurations) of your boat as needed throughout the Season.

Example of Typical Use

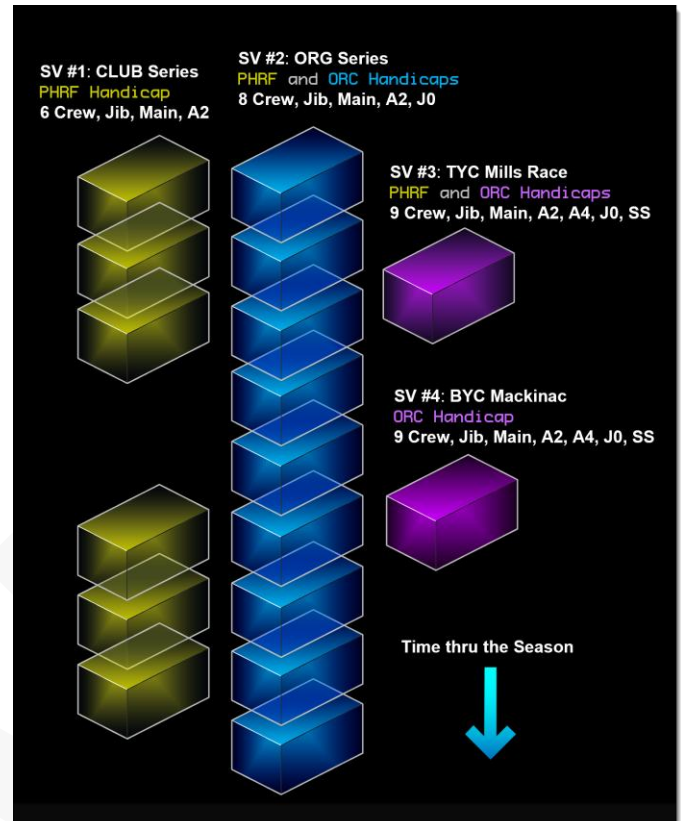
The Skipper enters their boat in four (4) events for the year:

- CLUB Weeknight Series (e.g. LSSC Sunset)
- ORG Weekend Series (e.g. DRYA Saturdays)
- CLUB Major Race (e.g. TYC Mills Race)
- CLUB Major Race (e.g. BYC Mackinac Race)

The illustration below best explains the use of our SVs in a normal racing season.

Continuous use of SV #1 and SV #2

This example shows how two different SVs, one CLUB and one ORG live on thru the entire Season, even though two more Race specific SVs are created for offshore events with more crew and a larger sail inventory.



A crucial point from the **ORC** perspective – in this example there are only two (2) ORC Certificates pulled for the entire Season...

- 1) The ORG (DRYA) Saturday Certificate for the **Inshore** configuration: 8 Crew, Jib, Main, A2, J0.
- 2) The TYC Mills Race and BYC Mackinac Certificate for the **Offshore** configuration: 9 Crew, Jib, Main, A2, A4, J0, SS.

Pulling a new ORC Certificate for the TYC Mills Race does not invalidate your DRYA Season Series ORC Certificate for Saturdays in the Regatta RC scoring system. This feature is explained on the following pages per ORC Rules and Regulations.



ORC Compliance: Certificate Usage

This explains how the Regatta RC Sailing Vessel (SV) supports the ORC Rules and Regulations for handling ORC Certificates.

Is this permitted by ORC Race Management?

Yes — and this is explicitly allowed by ORC rules and guidance as document below.

Authority of the OA to define certificate usage.

From **ORC Rating Systems 2026**, Section **Application of Ratings**:

✓ ORC Rating Systems 2026 – Section 401.1 (Scoring – General)

"Selection of the scoring methods depends on the size, type and level of the fleet, type of the race, and local racing conditions and its use is at the discretion of National Authorities or local **event organizers**... Scoring method, type of course and custom course model, when used, shall be defined in the Notice of Race and/or Sailing Instructions."

This is the key authority:

The **OA** decides which certificate is valid — including fixing one certificate for a **Series**.

✓ ORC Rating Systems 2026 – Section 303.4 (Certificate Validity)

"The certificate shall be valid until the date printed on the certificate, which shall normally be the 31st of December of the current year. All boats of the same event shall use certificates with the same VPP year version."

⚠ ORC Rating Systems 2026 – Section 303.5

"A boat shall have only one valid certificate at any one time. The valid certificate shall be only the one issued last."

⚠ This is the latest Certificate available **at the deadline for the event**. If you change your Boat's configuration and pull a new Certificate after the deadline for a particular event... it will be rejected by that O.A., doing otherwise would allow for adjusting a boat's configuration (and handicap) based on weather predictions right up to the starting signal. So, the handicap used **does not have to be latest one**, it will be the latest valid Certificate when the event deadline it reached. After that date you need O.A. approval to change your configuration (with a matching ORC Certificate).

Use of a single certificate for a series

From **ORC Race Management Guide 2026**, Section 2.3 (Notice of Race), subsection (d) – Registration process:

✓ ORC Race Management Guide 2026 – Section 2.3(d)(i) (Series Scoring / Certificates)

"There should be a **deadline** until when a valid ORC certificate should be issued... This deadline may vary but should not be later than up to one week before the start of the event."

✓ ORC Race Management Guide 2026 – Section 2.3(d)(ii) (Series Scoring / Certificates)

"**No changes** shall be made on an ORC certificate after this deadline except with the permission and approval of the Technical Committee or the Race Committee either as a result of a pre-race measurement check or if an error is discovered."

This directly supports the RRC approach:

- A **submission deadline**.
- A fixed certificate/rating for the entire **Series**.
- Changing the Boat's configuration for a new Event that occurs in the middle of a preexisting Series does not invalidate the Handicap for the configuration used in the original Series.

Certificates do not have to be the "latest issued."

✓ ORC Race Management Guide 2026 – Section 2.3(d)

The rule establishes that the OA sets a certificate submission **deadline**. After that deadline, **no changes** shall be made. This means:

This means:

- You are **not required** to use updated certificates issued after the deadline
- You can **ignore later re-issues** for the purpose of series scoring

Compliance obligation still applies

From **IMS 2026 (International Measurement System)**:

✓ [ORC Rating Systems 304.1\(c\) \(Responsibility\)](#)

"Ensuring compliance of any measurement data to those **printed** on the certificate."

✓ [ORC Rating Systems 304.1\(d\) \(Responsibility\)](#)

"Using the boat and equipment as prescribed by the RRS, IMS Rule and ORC Rating Systems."

This is critical and expected of all Competitors:

- Even with a locked Series certificate, **the boat must match that configuration while racing**

Measurement and protest rights remain

From **ORC Rating Systems 2026 – Section 305 (Measurement Protests)**:

✓ [ORC Rating Systems 2026 – Section 305.1:](#)

"When, as a result of any pre-race inspection or measurement, it is determined that a boat does not comply with her certificate..." [corrective or disqualification procedures apply]

✓ [ORC Rating Systems 2026 – Section 303.3:](#)

The rating office may "require a re-measurement of the boat before issuing a new certificate whenever there is reasonable doubt in any measurement data."

Non-compliance remains subject to protest under the RRS.

So... Locking the certificate **does NOT remove enforcement**

What must be added to the Notice of Race (NOR)?

Below are the seven (7) required elements, each tied to ORC references.

1) Define the "Series Certificate" (MANDATORY)

Supported by:

- [ORC Rating Systems 2026 – ✓ 401.1, ✓ 303.4, ✓ 303.5](#)
- [ORC Race Management Guide 2026 – ✓ 2.3\(d\)\(i\)](#)

NOR Clause:

"Each boat shall submit an ORC certificate valid for the current year. For scoring of the [Series Name], the certificate submitted by [date] shall be designated as the **Series Certificate**. This certificate shall be used for all races in the series."

2) Lock the certificate (MANDATORY)

Supported by:

- [ORC Race Management Guide 2026 – ✓ 2.3\(d\)\(ii\)](#)
- [ORC Rating Systems 2026 – ✓ 303.5](#)

NOR Clause:

"Certificates issued after the submission deadline shall not be used for scoring in this **Series**."

3) Lock the configuration (CRITICAL – based on ORC Rating Systems)

Supported by:

- [ORC Rating Systems 2026 – ✓ 304.1\(c\), ✓ 304.1\(d\)](#)

NOR Clause:

"The **Series Certificate** represents the configuration in which the boat shall race. Boats shall not alter their configuration in a manner that would change the rating."

4) Compliance and enforcement (ESSENTIAL)

Supported by:

- [ORC Rating Systems 2026 – ✓ 304.1\(c\), ✓ 304.1\(d\)](#)
- [ORC Rating Systems 2026 – ✓ 305.1, ✓ 305.2](#)

NOR Clause:

"Boats shall comply with the data declared on their Series Certificate. The Organizing Authority may conduct inspections at any time. Non-compliance may result in protest or scoring penalties."



5) Handling **changes** or exceptions (RECOMMENDED)

Supported by:

- [ORC Race Management Guide 2026](#) – ✓ 2.3(d)(ii)
(discretion of OA/Technical Committee)

NOR Clause:

"Changes requiring a new certificate may only be made with prior approval of the OA. The OA may assign an adjusted rating or scoring penalty."

6) **Late entries** (RECOMMENDED)

Supported by:

- [ORC Race Management Guide 2026](#) – ✓ 2.3(d)(i)
(administrative practice)

NOR Clause:

"Boats entering after the initial deadline shall submit a certificate prior to their first race, which shall become their Series Certificate."

7) Scoring reference (GOOD PRACTICE)

Supported by:

- [ORC Rating Systems 2026](#) – ✓ 401.1, ✓ 403
(Scoring options)

NOR Clause:

"Scoring shall be based on the [Time-on-Time / Triple Number / 5-Band] values from the Series Certificate."

Key Takeaways (with Rule basis)

✓ Fully permitted

→ [ORC Rating Systems 401.1, 303.4, 303.5](#)

✓ Specifically recommended for series

→ [Race Management Guide 2.3\(d\)\(i-ii\)](#)

✓ You can lock certificates by date

→ [Race Management Guide 2.3\(d\)\(ii\)](#)

⚠ But boats must match the certificate

→ [ORC Rating Systems 304.1\(c\), 304.1\(d\)](#)

⚠ And are still subject to measurement/protest

→ [ORC Rating Systems 305.1, 305.2](#)

RegattaRC

For More Information

See the Regatta RC System documentation on the software distribution **MicroCODE** Site:

<https://www.regatta-rc.com>

This **application** was designed, developed, and is owned by:

MICROCODE INC

Software Development / Controls Engineering – since 1987