

---

## INTRODUCTION TO PHRF BC

### What is PHRF?

PHRF IS A COMPETITOR DRIVEN, SELF REGULATING, RATING SYSTEM THAT PROVIDES THE BASIS FOR FAIR RACING BETWEEN DISSIMILAR YACHTS.

### What is PHRF BC?

**Current organization** PHRF BC is run through the PHRF BC Handicappers Committee. BC Sailing provides the administrative support to enact decisions made by the Committee.

The Committee is comprised of yachting industry professionals and experienced PHRF racers appointed to the Committee through their Yacht Clubs' Fleet Captains. The Handicappers Committee Chair is chosen by the Committee members. Technical and administrative support for the Committee is provided by the Chief Handicapper who also works with BC Sailing to manage the PHRF rating system provincially.

**History** The PHRF BC fleet was created as a stand-alone entity from its previous sub regional status within the PHRF NW fleet in the early 1990's. Economic, administrative and technical issues all played a part in the desire to establish a local provincial fleet. At the time the Executive Director of the non profit organization BC Sailing (who had been actively involved with PHRF NW on behalf of BC racers) arranged for the BC Sailing Association to act as an umbrella organization under which administration of a PHRF rating system could support a local provincial fleet. The initial Rules and administration system were created with the aim of keeping things simple, inexpensive and accessible while conforming to the standards of other PHRF organizations that operate throughout North America under the auspices of US Sailing. A smooth transition was made although a group of racers from Vancouver Island chose to remain with PHRF NW as a sub regional fleet.

Recently there have been many positive updates, clarifications and developments ...

**Changes since 2007** Since 2007 many changes have been initiated to focus PHRF BC to better serve the racing sailor in BC. It began with an updating of the Rules to accommodate asymmetric spinnakers, bow sprit retrofits, ODR's and code 0 sails among other things. From this a new application was developed to capture the full range of information necessary to fairly rate a boat. In order to increase transparency further a new certificate was developed with all owner supplied information shown. Also, current certificates can now be viewed on the website.

In 2010 the entire PHRF BC fleet was asked to complete the new application form prior to certificate renewal in order to provide full documented disclosure. This process was used to update the fleet data base with all modifications, sail measurements and details of each yacht in the fleet. At that time some yachts rating assignments were changed to reflect the Pacific NW racing environment and many yachts were updated to include modifications that had not been previously reported.

The Handicappers Watch List was formalized in order to monitor that any rating changes did not adversely affect the yachts involved or the fleet these yachts sailed in. The Watch List is also used to monitor modified yachts where the degree of modification is difficult to estimate immediately and to monitor new rating assignments for yachts that may be able to reconfigure to maximize speed potential but in doing so will negatively affect their fleets. Biannual review of the list by the Handicappers Committee, with relevant input from the yacht's designated Handicapper, determines whether a yacht remains on the Watch List and/or whether a yacht's handicap is further adjusted based on sailing results.

Educational developments include a sail area/code calculator based on the formulas outlined in the PHRF BC Rules which allows an owner to preview what rating adjustments will result from rig or sail changes they may be contemplating. Also, a "how to" outline has been created for protesting a competitor at a specific event for sailing with measurements different than what's shown on their current PHRF BC certificate.

**Continuing improvement** The Handicappers Committee is always interested in ideas that may help improve the PHRF rating system and its application. They actively seek input for continuing improvement.

Competitors are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the current PHRF BC Rules and then also actively participate in refining the PHRF system and PHRF BC ratings in three ways:

1. Competitors are responsible for keeping the fleet honest. This is done by protesting any competitor at a specific event for sailing with any measurements different than shown on their current PHRF BC certificate or racing with no PHRF BC certificate where that is required by the Notice of Race of a given event.
2. Competitors are encouraged to appeal either their own rating or a competitor's rating at the biannual Appeals if they feel there is a case to be made for an adjustment. With detailed current race results and fleet support an appeal will generally be granted.
3. All current certificate holders are encouraged to come forward with ideas to improve the PHRF BC Rules and their application. Ideas can be passed on to Club Handicappers or presentations can be made at the biannual Handicappers Meeting.

## **Summary**

LET'S GO SAILING AND HAVE SOME FUN!

March 2012