

PHRF of Narragansett Bay Guide for Yacht clubs and Race Committees

- **Purpose:** To provide basic information to assist Yacht clubs and Race committees organize and run regattas using PHRF-NB
- **Background:** PHRF-NB, which rates approx. 700 boats, is one of the larger PHRF fleets in the United States. We rate boats, in and around Narragansett Bay, and are independent of NBYA, and the NE and Long Island Sound PHRF organizations. This independence is typical throughout the country, and while far from perfect, has led to a rating approach that adapts and rates far, far more boats for far longer than any other rating approach.
- **PHRF Rating Committee Make-up:** The PHRF-NB rating committee makes all decisions regarding boat ratings, appeals, etc. It is led by the Rating Chairman, however, each member on the committee has an equal vote. We attempt to have a broad based committee from different geographical areas on the Bay and from different yacht clubs. If you feel your Yacht club or area is not properly represented, please contact the PHRF office to discuss possible committee additions.
- **Rules/Procedures/Rating List:** “Principles of Narragansett Bay”, our Rating Procedures, By Laws, Notes to Appellants, Standard Adjustment Guidelines, latest Boat Ratings List, others comments, and results of appeals are all posted on our Web site. For those who do not have access to the Internet, please call our office for hard copies.
- **Internet Site/Phone and Fax:** Our web site is: www.phrf-nb.org ; Our email is phrf-nbadmin@phrf-nb.org; our phone is 401-253-0207 and our fax is 401 254-1495.
- **How to Handle Ratings:** We mail renewal ratings to all members by early March and applications and instructions are available from our office. For your lowest mailing costs and hassles, we recommend the following:
 - 1) Your regatta/race notice state that “Valid 2006 Narragansett Bay PHRF” ratings are required. Applications forms will be mailed to 2006 PHRF-NB members in March of 2006, or can be obtained by calling the PHRF-NB office at 401 253-0207. Blank 2006 application can be downloaded from our web site.
 - 2) PHRF-NB can send you blank current PHRF application forms to keep at your club for new racers. Please call the office for a supply of application forms.
 - 3) Don’t get in the middle, keep the responsibility of filling in the PHRF

application and obtaining the PHRF-NB rating on the sailor. PHRF-NB does provide quick turn around, is very flexible and will provide FAX service for those special cases.

If you prefer a different method of handling the applications, please call us, we'll be happy to accommodate you.

- **Spinnaker and Non-spinnaker ratings:** PHRF issues both a spinnaker and a non spinnaker rating for each boat. Your race instructions need to specify which one is to be used. Theoretically, the ratings reflect the speed difference between a spinnaker and a non-spinnaker, however, we strongly recommend that you do not mix spinnaker and non spinnaker, within the same class.
- **Time on Distance vs Time on Time Scoring:** Most races within the US are based on Time on Distance, i.e. rating corrections are based on the distance sailed, while most races in Europe are based on Time on Time. The race committee can use the PHRF rating to score either way: (Your instructions need to state whether "Time on distance scoring will be utilized" or "Time on Time scoring will be utilized). In general, we recommend Time on Distance as the sailors in the US understand it better. However.... If your classes contain large rating spreads, i.e. greater than 30 sec/mile, and your courses can vary between "all reaching" and and/or "all beating" then Time on Time would offer fairer scoring and should be considered. Attachment B provides more information on Time on Time scoring.
- **Safety/Boat size issues:** PHRF does not set safety criteria, e.g. lifelines, fire extinguishers, etc. PHRF does not restrict our ratings to any particular boat size or style. If you wish to limit your regatta to particular size of boats, e.g. "between LOA of 25 to 45 feet", you must state such a restriction in your race instructions. Likewise for safety: our ratings are used in races to Bermuda, and for local club racing. Your race instructions must specify any safety or ORC safety requirements.
- **Crew Weight Limitations:** PHRF does not restrict the number of crew on any particular boat. (For major area regattas, we do recommend that crew be limited by suitable clauses in your race instructions). If, however, you wish to restrict the amount of crew, we have provided our recommended crew limitation approach. It is essentially the same as used by PHRF in NE.
- **Class splits/Sport Boats:** Classes with rating spreads of 30 sec/mile or less are best. In addition, boat types should also be considered. There is a major problem with "sport Boats" e.g. Melges 24, 30, Viper 840, Henderson 30, etc racing in the same class as normal boats as their speed on reaches are significantly different than the norm. All attempts should be made to segregate sport boats into their own separate class

- **Major Regatta and General support:** For a major regatta, the race notice should specifically state that PHRF-NB ratings are required, and that applications must be submitted by a certain date prior to the regatta. PHRF would be pleased to work with you on any race notices, and offers to provided any last minute ratings just prior to the regatta, but these should be limited to special cases. Please feel free to ask for any advice from PHRF on class splits, regatta notices or race instructions, crew limitations, etc.