

A Brief History of PHRF BC

January 2022

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. A smooth transition was made although a group of racers from Vancouver Island chose to remain with PHRF NW as a sub regional fleet.

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 database 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 T-Rating 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.

A "how to" outline was created for protesting a competitor at a specific event for sailing with measurements different than those shown on their current PHRF BC certificate.

In 2018, spinnaker measurement rules were changed to be compatible with PHRF NW.

Commencing 2019 all base ratings were reviewed to bring them closer to North American averages and to bring sports boat ratings more into line with cruiser-racer ratings. Also in 2019, the Royal Victoria Yacht Club changed their alliance from PHRF NW to PHRF BC making all BC clubs now affiliated with PHRF BC.