

PHRF OF E.L.I.
THE PERFORMANCE HANDICAP RACING FLEET OF EASTERN LONG ISLAND
POST OFFICE BOX 82, NEW SUFFOLK, NEW YORK 11956
www.PHRFELI.org

April 2019

Dear Fellow Sailor,

Once again this year, the annual PHRF rating renewal process will be largely conducted online through our website, www.PHRFELI.org. The website contains all of the relevant information regarding the rating process, the rules and regulations upon which our ratings are based. The website also contains a 2018 Fleet Roster but please remember the Roster contains ratings from last season that will automatically expire on April 30, 2019. If you plan to race in local waters this coming season, you must renew your rating or, if your boat has not been previously rated, apply for a new rating. The 2019 Application Form is also posted on our website. Since this material is readily available online, we will again this year not be mailing out individual packets containing hard copies of this information. Anyone desiring a hard copy can easily download and print it from the website.

Owners wishing to either apply for or renew their Handicap Certificates have three options, they can download the form from the website, fill it in by hand and mail it to the above address, or fill out the form online, printing the completed form and mailing that, or fill out the form online, pay electronically via PayPal and e-mail the completed form to the Chief Handicapper. Depending on the specific method you chose, your completed Rating Certificate will either be mailed or e-mailed back to you.

When working with the online Application Form, there are two general items you should be aware of. First, it is possible not all computers will be able to type directly into the Application Form. This will likely be true especially when working from a mobile device. In case your device will not permit you to fill it out online, simply download the PDF form from the link on the site and proceed from there. Secondly, if you wish to e-mail your completed Application Form, please send it to the Chief Handicapper at bunnywold@aol.com. When doing so, please be sure to include your e-mail address in the appropriate block on the Application Form in order for the completed form to be returned via e-mail.

E-mailing of the completed application only works if you pay online. If you prefer not to pay online, you may send a check (payable to ELIYA) along with a copy of your Application Form in the mail. Please do not e-mail your completed form with a note that the "check is in the mail". It won't save you any time as the completed form will not be returned until the check is received.

If you prefer to use the more traditional method, simply mail your completed form and payment to one of the Handicappers listed on the website. Once received, your application will be processed and a copy returned to you by regular postal service mail. In either case, the completed Rating Form you receive should be retained for your records because it verifies your rating and provides proof the rating is current and valid. Once a Rating Form has been completed by a Handicapper, the boat's information will be posted on the Fleet Roster section of the website. The Roster is controlled by the Handicap Council and all information contained therein is official. It is our intention to keep the Roster updated on a regular basis throughout the sailing season.

Please remember that rating certificates are valid for limited periods. Regular certificates are valid for a year and automatically expire on April 30 of the following year. Day ratings are issued for a single race or regatta and are not valid either before or after that event.

COMPOSITION OF PHRF/ELI

PHRF of ELI is administered by a Handicap Council composed of local sailors whose names are listed on the back of the Rating Application Form. The Council meets bi-monthly at 7:30 pm at the Shelter Island Yacht Club. Meetings are typically scheduled for the second Monday of a month and afford a public forum to hear appeals and review general regulations and individual ratings. All meetings are open to the public and we encourage your attendance and active participation.

The Council is firmly committed to establishing handicap ratings that are as fair and objective as possible. Ratings are based on a yacht's demonstrated performance or, in the absence of local or regional race data, the projected performance of a well sailed boat, properly equipped for racing, sailing a circular random course (i.e. all points of sail) in eight (8) knots of true wind speed. Multiple base ratings or adjustments based on the use of other wind strengths or course types are not developed.

It must be noted, however, that any handicap system has inherent limits of applicability and, when the system is applied outside those limits, it will begin to yield race results of questionable fairness. By itself, no single rating system can ever adequately compensate for inadequate course selections or division assignments.

PHRF/ELI RATING BASIS

To qualify for a handicap rating from PHRF/ELI, a boat must be a self-righting monohull sailed without the use of a trapeze, hiking boards or any other equipment specifically intended to support a body outboard of the sheerline. Wings that are a permanent and standard component of a boat's design are permitted.

Our base boat ratings assume a boat is fully prepared and equipped for competitive racing (i.e. good sail inventory, clean bottom, etc.). A list of all established Base Boat Ratings is published on the website. Rating credits are not given for inadequate boat preparation nor are credits extended for the carrying of excessive or oversized cruising equipment or gear. Furthermore a boat's rating does not include a factor to account for the experience level of either skipper or crew. We handicap only the boat, assuming it will be sailed competitively.

The Handicap Council classifies all boats into three broad categories:

A **Standard Boat** must be equipped to the degree intended by the manufacturer, including those appointments and equipment supplied or intended by the manufacturer, such as joiner work, cushions, galley equipment, standing rigging, etc.

A **One Design Rating** can be assigned to a “standard boat” that is part of a recognized national or international one-design class for which standard class rules have been established. A one design rating assumes the boat is rigged and sailed in full compliance with the class rules. Any rating adjustments derived from that rule compliance are factored into the base rating. Such adjustments include, but are not limited to, type of auxiliary power, mandated equipment, etc. The sole exception to this is any class restriction on crew weight or number. For the purposes of PHRF handicap racing, those limitations may be disregarded. A one-design boat not conforming to class rules is treated as a modified boat and rated accordingly.

A **Custom or Modified Boat** is reviewed as initially presented on a case by case basis, and normally handicapped “As Sailed” (i.e. without any rating adjustments). A custom boat is normally built as a one-off. A Modified Boat is a standard boat that has been changed in some way(s) that might affect its performance from the original design. A list of the type of modifications that are typically of relevance is provided in our General Regulations posted on the web site.

It is the obligation of the owner or master of any standard boat that has been modified (either by the present owner, a previous owner, or a third party) to provide details of all changes made to the boat on the Rating Application. Examples of the type of modification that must be reported are as follows:

1. Hull and Appendage Changes: (keel, rudder or other underwater surfaces. Hull fairing is exempted)
2. Displacement Changes: (keel weight, relocation or elimination of bulkheads or other structural components, elimination of any interior amenities).
3. Rig Changes: (changes to spar shape, section, material, support structure, changes to sail plan)
4. Mechanical Propulsion: (changes from the original that affect location, weight or underwater drag).

PHRF ratings are based on the information supplied to the Handicap Council by the boat owner. In signing an application for a rating, or for the renewal of a rating, the owner attests to the completeness and accuracy of the information supplied.

Tables of Rating Adjustments have been developed to accommodate most common modifications. The intent of these tables is simply to adjust a boat’s base rating to reflect a specific, individual modification. They were never developed to account for the cumulative performance effect of multiple modifications. Consequently, our Council rules limit the total rating adjustments due to modifications (both penalties and credits) to an absolute value of 12 seconds per mile. In the event the total modification adjustments exceed that limit, the boat will be considered as a “custom” boat and a separate base rating established.

NON-SPINNAKER RATINGS

These adjustments adjust a boat's base rating to compensate for the expected loss of performance when not flying a spinnaker. Each PHRF/ELI certificate contains a non-spinnaker rating. These ratings are only intended for use in races against other boats racing without spinnakers. They are not intended to be used in classes or races that mix both spinnaker and non-spinnaker boats.

The intent of non-spinnaker ratings is that boats sail off the wind with the same sails they use when sailing upwind. Therefore, staysails may not be flown off the wind unless such sails are flown upwind.

APPEALS

The PHRF Ratings of all local boats currently active are reviewed annually by the Handicap Council and adjusted where appropriate in light of any new performance data, additional observation and any collective experience.

Additionally any PHRF member can appeal the current rating of any boat (including his own) to have it raised or lowered. Appeals must be submitted in writing and are heard by the Council as soon as possible at one of their regularly scheduled meetings. Appeal decisions are voted upon at the meeting in which they were heard and become effective the following Saturday. Once appealed, a boat's rating cannot be re-appealed (even by a different party) for a period of one year. Please contact the Handicapper serving your local area to guide you through the appeal process.

Best wishes for a successful and enjoyable season.

THE HANDICAP COUNCIL of PHRF/ELI