

Handicap Fleet Ratings Rules for 2007



The Handicap fleet is unique and attractive to new and experience racers, in part, because of these unique and distinguishing characteristics:

- a) Ratings are adjusted based upon experience of the skipper and condition of the boat's sails.
- b) Use of a symmetrical and/or asymmetrical spinnaker is allowed in all races, including the spring and fall series, while racing the same course as the Cruising fleet. Use of a spinnaker is declared for optional use for a complete series (spring, specials and/or fall). Declaration of use of a spinnaker for a series must be done at least 10 days before the start of the series by notifying the Handicap Fleet Captain. Intentions for spinnaker declaration can be made for each series on the Handicap Fleet registration form.

Setting of Fleet Ratings is determined using the steps described below for each boat racing in the Handicap Fleet. Ratings can be adjusted before the spring, specials and fall series.

1. Base PHRF Rating. All boats are request to maintain a current PHRF certificate from Lake Huron PHRF. This rating includes adjustments for roller furling, fixed bladed propeller and oversize genoa. The Base PHRF Rating is used to determine corrected times in overall Club awards that span fleets.
2. Handicap Fleet Adjustments. Since PHRF ratings assume the boat and sails to be in racing condition, an experience skipper and use of a spinnaker, adjustments may be made to the PHRF Rating to determine the Handicap Fleet Rating. The Handicap Fleet Rating is used to determine corrected times within the Handicap fleet.
 - a. Spinnaker: Boats declaring that a spinnaker will not be used for a series will have +10 seconds added to their PHRF Rating.
 - b. Sail condition: Non-racing condition sails may have up to +50 seconds added to their PHRF Rating, at the discretion of the Handicap Fleet Captain. A boat must complete at least 1 spring or fall series before a sail condition adjustment will be made. Special series results will not be used as a basis to adjust for sail condition. This is intended to attempt to equalize the fleet beyond the PHRF rating.
 - c. Skipper racing experience: For skippers with 5 or less years of racing experience, +3 seconds per mile for each year will be added to the boat's rating. This is intended to encourage new racers to enter the Handicap fleet and allow for fair competition with more experience racers who choose to remain in the fleet.

1st year: +15

2nd year: +12

3rd year: +9

4th year: +6

5th year: +3