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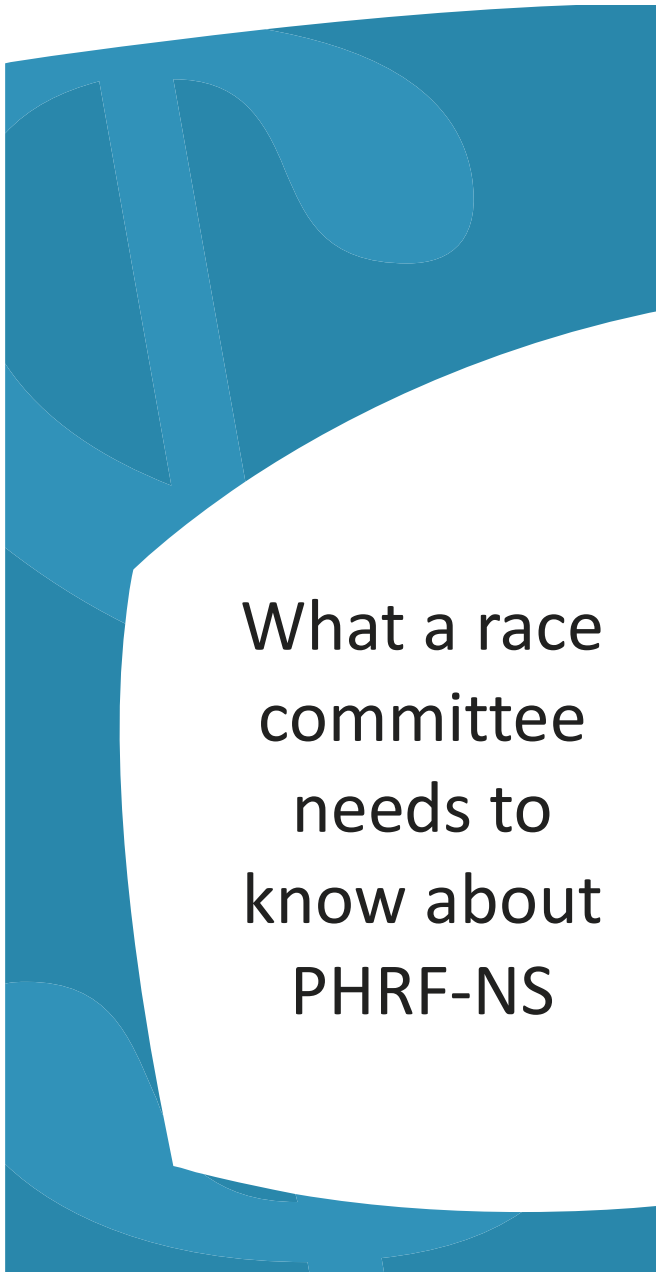

What a race committee needs to know about PHRF-NS

What is PHRF Nova Scotia?

PHRF Nova Scotia is Performance based handicapping system that is designed to allow displacement yachts of different designs to race each other. The handicaps are set by the Sail NS Handicap Committee which is made up of the club handicappers from Nova Scotia yacht clubs.

The handicaps are based on a boat with a standard configuration. Then corrections are applied based on the configuration of the individual boat. The performances of boats in the fleet are monitored by the Sail NS Handicap Committee and adjusted as required.
The Committee meets once a month.

Setting a Course with PHRF

When a race committee is using PHRF there are several things to consider setting a course.

1. The Handicap is based on a course that is balance of windward, leeward and off wind legs so it is good to try and set courses as close to this model as possible.

2. With the many different characteristics of yachts across the handicap range it is better to have as small a handicap range as possible in each class.

3. It is better to separate spinnaker and non-spinnaker yachts into different classes.

4. If possible, to promote fairer racing for all, sport boats should have their own class. Sport boats will be identified with the identifier SB on the Sail NS website for the 2012 racing season.

5. Yacht design should be considered when setting off shore courses. For example, a J24 and a Hughes 38 are close in handicap but their ability to handle bad weather are very different.

Things to consider when setting up a race

1. Each race committee should assign someone to assist with handicap issues,

2. Use updated handicaps from the Sail NS web site

3. Be aware that sail inventory should not be changed within 7 days of a race start

After racing has completed it *is* important that the race results get sent to Sail NS so the handicap committee can use then to keep handicaps up to date.