



PHRF PERSPECTIVE
January 2004

A New Year and New Racing Developments

New Rule allows both Symmetrical and Asymmetrical Spinnakers!

The New Year welcomes a major development in Southern California PHRF racing. We have contemporized the Symmetrical/Asymmetrical Rule (finally!). Last year we were close but it didn't pass. There seemed to be issues with "grand fathering" old chutes and, apparently, size mattered. Two of your Regional Board members comment and describe this new rule:

Rick von Heydenreich, Data Systems Officer: "At our annual meeting, a new rule (5.5.1) was added to Appendix A of the So Cal PHRF Rules and By-laws that allows boats the option to fly both symmetrical and asymmetrical spinnakers without penalty. While the rule allows owners to fly both kinds of spinnakers during a race, there are certain restrictions you must be aware of.

First of all, the formula for determining the maximum size for the asymmetrical spinnaker has changed to produce a smaller sail. This shouldn't make much difference because we polled the major sail makers and most 'chutes already comply with the new rule. Consensus was that a larger spinnaker made to the old rule would not fly very well.

Secondly, before October 25th, 2003, sails built to the old rule's larger size could be used as long as they carry the penalty or restriction they received when first reported.

Third, any rating adjustment that was made because of the addition of an asymmetrical will continue in effect unless the asymmetrical spinnaker complies with the new measurement formula.

Fourth, any asymmetrical built after October 25th, 2003 that does not comply with this rule should be reported and be subject to an individual rating adjustment. Finally, if a boat sails with both kinds of sails and the performance of the boat noticeably improves, the boat may be subject to review even though they comply with the new rule.

The text of this rule will be included in the upcoming new Rulebook mailing and can also be viewed at www.phrfsocal.org/2003_Amendments on the PHRF website."

Drew Friedes, Chief Handicapper: "The new PHRF Symmetrical/Asymmetrical spinnaker rule enables yachts *initially designed to fly symmetrical spinnakers* to now fly both types of spinnakers. The purpose is to equalize the effect of using both kinds. Provided that the dimensions fit within the new size limitations, there's no longer any automatic rating penalty for doing so as the old rule specified. Racers may either carry a mixed inventory or transition their inventories from symmetrical to asymmetrical.

Most of the existing asymmetrical spinnakers that have already been built comply with this new rule. Even though the now replaced 2003 rule allowed asymmetrical spinnakers with a luff length (SLU) of 115% (of the square root of I2+ J2), IMS and most other Assos have nearly all been built with a luff length of approximately 103% simply because the larger sails cannot be flown off spinnakers poles. Check with your sailmaker to see if your asso(s) complies."

One other thing I'd like to point out: This rule does NOT permit boats that were designed specifically to fly asymmetrical to add a pole and symmetrical 'chute.

As President for 2004, I look forward to continuing the effective functioning of Southern California PHRF. This will be a year of Inclusion and even better racing!

By inclusion, I mean getting more racers out and participating. Let's get the One Designs and the Cruiser Handicap racers into PHRF events. Let's encourage new and first time racers with warmth and support. And let's work to get our fellow club members out. More racers entered in an event can mean more classes with narrower rating bands for closer racing. If each of us encourages just one more boat to participate in an event this year, we will have gone a long way towards achieving the goals of better and closer racing.

You have working for you some of the best and brightest on the Regional and Local PHRF Boards. Please show your appreciation by getting out and racing more often!

PHRF is staying on top of new developments and continuing to efficiently serve its members. As the New Year dawns, I would like to thank all PHRF members and local and regional representatives for their confidence in having me serve as President. I would like to specifically thank 2003 President Scott Taylor for his considerable service to PHRF. I wish you all a healthy, prosperous and victorious 2004.

For information or comments contact PHRF at 562-438-6712 or by e-mail: fleetoffice@phrfsocal.org.

Jerry Kaye

President

So Cal PHRF