

Minutes YRALIS PHRF Committee 09NOV23
Meeting held via Zoom

Present: Chair Alistair Duke, Mike Colucci, Rick Sinclair, Paul Kueffner
Guests: George Harrington/ J112e #bigssandwich, Jeff Wilson/Sabre 42 CB Tacktile, Jonathan Litt/ Brenta 38 Camelot

New Chair Alistair Duke opened the meeting at 20h15, thanking previous chair Rick Sinclair for his efforts in guiding the Committee over the past several years.

J/112

Owner George Harrington was selected by J/112 owners in the YRALIS fleet to represent them before the Committee. Comparisons against the well sailed Farr 30, J/111, J/120 and j/109s were helpful informing the Committee views. The Committee also considered the clear performance potential of the design as has been demonstrated out of region and under other rating rules. The Committee determined that a reduction of 3 seconds per mile was warranted for the J/112e base rating, changing it to 51 w/l and 45 distance.

Sabre 42 CB Tacktile

Alistair Duke, Beneteau 36.7 owner, requested a rating review of Tacktile, a Sabre 42 CB owned by Jeff Wilson. Race tracking information and on-the-water photography provided unusually detailed performance insight for two long periods of side-by-side racing during the recent Vineyard Race. Jeff Wilson asked the Committee to consider the sea state, stronger than typical wind, limited point-of-sail and other crew variables as contributory performance factors. Alistair Duke recused himself from Committee discussion and decision. The Committee determined that no change was warranted.

Brenta 38 Camelot rating review

Owner John Litt requested a review of the Brenta 38. Over several seasons of racing the owner and crew have tried numerous ways to unlock performance in the boat but have not succeeded. Overpowered in as little as 10kts of wind, but lacking backstay for headstay control and limited traveller throw, depowering is ineffective and pointing suffers. While more competitive downwind, the narrow design does not plane, limiting potential for significant gains. The Committee determined a +6 seconds per mile change was warranted, making the Brenta 38 48/48/48/48.

Rule changes for 2024

The Committee discussed a number of rule changes for 2024. These included:

- 1/ Correcting errors in a certificate at any time.
- 2/Allowing Bloopers to be used on IOR-era yachts racing in Spinnaker divisions.
- 3/Confirming that yawls and ketches may use staysails when racing in Spinnaker divisions, and that they are not permitted in non-spinnaker divisions.
- 4/Clarifying that the sails declared on each season's original certificate can only be changed under exceptional circumstances, and, given that, only once in that season.

5/Changing adjustments for roller-furler mains subject to case-by-case Committee approval:

In-mast with no battens: +9

In-mast with vertical battens +3

In-boom with limited outhaul & Cunningham functionality +3

Questions from other PHRF Committees

The Eastern CT PHRF Committee have enquired about the “distance offset” between W/L and distance ratings on some, but not all designs. This offset was developed because the prevailing wind in many LIS distance races rewards reaching performance. In recent years this “offset” has been incorporated into the bowsprit adjustment, or base rating for factory equipped bowsprit designs. YRALIS will share this insight with ECSA and look for opportunities to collaborate and converge where possible.

Mid-Atlantic PHRF inquired about possibly coordinating some efforts and pooling some data since many boats are registered under both MA PHRF and YRALIS PHRF. The Chairman will explore this further with them over the winter.

Goals for 2024

Chair Alistair Duke outlined goals for the Committee in 2024 and solicited opinions. His preferred emphasis is:

Ensure the core membership sailing dual purpose cruiser/racers are not disadvantaged
Promote PHRF and educate the membership via regional winter presentations at member clubs.

Evolve the PHRF rules to boost the number of racing participants

Improve transparency and ensure the integrity of the Committee is not doubted

Shorten meetings.

Build depth in the Committee; sailmaker volunteers and new recruits.

The meeting was adjourned at 23h30.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Kueffner

Secretary

YRALIS PHRF Committee