

27 February 2004

Dear PHRF Member:

**New for 2004:**

- We have modified our cost structure for this year as follows – the cost of renewing a certificate has been increased from \$25 to \$30. We have also instituted a \$10 charge to change a rating. This means that once you receive a rating, you will have to pay a \$10 fee for any change in that rating (larger/smaller sails, reportable boat modification, etc.). We have instituted these changes due to the fact that we have been running a deficit for the past 2 years. For those interested, our annual financial report is available from the office.
- PHRF-NB had discussed at its annual meeting a limit on the number of significant changes a boat-owner could make in a year. We decided to hold off on that for this year, and gather more information before deciding to put rules to that effect in place.
- We have added some new fields to the form for this year. These include the yacht designer and builder (this will make it easier to determine which version of a boat we're looking at) and the wetted surface of the yacht – if it is known (which for many older smaller yachts is unlikely). We are hoping that over the next few years we will be able to add a significant amount of information on wetted surface to our database, which will help us fine-tune our ratings.

**Not new for 2003, but some other comments:**

- PHRF-NB is not a policing body. If there are questions whether or not a boat is racing in its rated configuration, the appropriate method of calling this to the attention of the race committee is to file a valid protest against that boat. If requested by the protest committee, PHRF-NB will provide information as to our expectations and assumptions when the rating was determined.
- Sport boats – We provide ratings for sport boats; however, with a single rating system such as we employ, sport boats will do extremely well in certain conditions (e.g. reaching) and not well in others. Therefore we urge race committees to separate sport boats into their own class whenever feasible. We also urge races to discuss this with their race committees. PHRF-NB will be happy to provide guidance to race committees as to what we consider sport boats.
- PHRF-NB does not make any judgments, nor do we exclude any type of boat due to safety or its design. It is up to your race committee to limit your regattas to certain types of boats, for example requiring boats to be 20 feet or longer, imposing lifeline requirements, etc.
- PHRF-NB does not impose a specific rule on crew weight limits – it is up to your race committee to impose a weight limit rule if it is desired for a particular regatta. If it is desired we will recommend or provide to your race committee a suggested crew weight rule.

**Renewals:** As in previous years, your 2004 certificate is pre-filled in. Please review for corrections or any changes. Remember, it is your responsibility to ensure that the application is correct.

**New Certificates:** Please read the application instructions carefully when filling out your application. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call the office.

**Application Fees:** \$30 for renewal, \$35 for new certificates. To ease/reduce the cost for sailor who also race in NE or Long Island Sound, a new application that is accompanied by a valid NE or LI PHRF certificate will be charged at the renewal rate.

**PHRF-NB as related to other organizations:** We often encounter confusion with the relations of PHRF-NB to other organizations. PHRF-NB, with approximately 700 boats rated per year, is one of the larger PHRF fleets in the United States. We are independent of NBYA, and of the NE and Long Island PHRF organizations. This independence is typical throughout the country, and we believe has led to a rating organization and approach that, while far from perfect, has lasted and allowed all types of sailing innovation and creativity.

**Other Documentation:** Minutes of the meetings, updated Principles of PHRF of Narragansett Bay, bylaws, rating procedures, notes to appellants, standard adjustment guidelines, and ratings and associated adjustments for rated yachts are available on the web site. If you do not have access to the Internet, please contact the office for copies of these documents.

**Web Site:** PHRF-NB's web presence is at [www.phrf-nb.org](http://www.phrf-nb.org).

If you have any questions, please contact Pat Beausoleil, our administrator, at 401 253 0207, fax at 401 254 1495 or by email at [phrfadmin@phrf-nb.org](mailto:phrfadmin@phrf-nb.org).