



# 2019 Sunset Series CRUISING DIVISION FAQ

## Important

Boats competing in the Cruising Division must have a valid **2019 PHRF SoCal W/L Rating with an “Active” Boat Configuration Adjustment Status**, which are available on PHRF SoCal’s website: [www.phrfsocal.org](http://www.phrfsocal.org).

Sunset Series will allow spinnakers in *both* Cruising A and Cruising B in 2019. Using a spinnaker is optional and if skippers choose to race non-spin they will receive the Sunset Series non-spin adjustments as outlined in the Notice of Race and below in this FAQ.

## I – OVERVIEW

### **How does handicap sailboat racing work?**

You sail the course identified by the Race Committee (RC) which will be displayed by the corresponding flag on the RC boat during the five minutes before the starting signal for your class. The RC records your *finish time* when you cross the finish line. The time of the starting signal is subtracted from your *finish time* to come up with an *elapsed time*. The handicap rating for your boat is then applied to your *elapsed time* to come up with a *corrected time*. All the boats in your class are then ranked from lowest to highest *corrected times*. The boat with the lowest *corrected time* wins.

### **What are the rules for sailboat racing?**

All races are run using the **Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)**. A copy of the basic rules can be downloaded from the International Sailing Federation, [www.sailing.org](http://www.sailing.org). In the United States, you can get a printed copy of the RRS from US Sailing, [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org), or West Marine that includes the US prescriptions (changes to the RRS that apply only in the US).

### **What is the Cruising Division?**

The Cruising Division of the Sunset Series provides a form of handicap racing that allows for boats that were *primarily* designed for cruising (a “**Cruising Boat**”). The class is intended for new sailors/racers but also for racers that do not want to advance to the racing division.

### **Which boats are eligible to race in the Cruising Division?**

Cruising Boats with valid 2019 PHRF SoCal W/L Rating with an “Active” Boat Configuration Adjustment Status (a “**Cruising Rating**”) may be eligible to compete in the Cruising Division. Keelboats with a valid 2019 PHRF SoCal W/L rating *without* an “Active” Boat Configuration Adjustment may petition the Cruising Coordinator for inclusion in the Cruising Division. The Cruising Division Coordinator, has the discretion to decide that a particular boat or crew is not appropriate for the Cruising Division.

## II – GETTING STARTED IN THE CRUISING CLASS

### **Do I need to join a special organization in order to race in the Cruising Division?**

Yes. Each boat must be entered by an individual who is a member of US Sailing or a yacht club or other organization affiliated to US Sailing (or their own National Authority). Information about joining US Sailing is available at [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org). Scoring in the Cruising Division will be done using Cruising Ratings (ie. 2019 PHRF SoCal W/L Rating with an “Active” Boat Configuration Adjustment Status) together with any non-spin adjustments, if applicable, as outlined below and in the Notice of Race.

### **How do I get a Cruising Rating?**

Fill out the Application for a 2019 PHRF SoCal W/L Rating with an “Active” Boat Configuration Adjustment Status on the PHRF website: [www.phrfsocal.org](http://www.phrfsocal.org), and submit it electronically.

### **Do I need to be a member of a yacht club to race?**

**No.** However, you must be a member of US Sailing or an organization that is affiliated with US Sailing.

### **Do I need sail numbers on my sails?**

**Yes.** The RC uses sail numbers to record starters and finish times. Boats are required to have sail numbers on her mainsail *and* its overlapping headsails. The sail numbers *must be clearly visible* so if you have white sails, use black or a dark color for your sail numbers. If you have dark sails use white or a light color for your sail numbers. If the Race Committee can't see your number – they can't score you!

### **Where can I get a sail number assigned to my boat?**

There are **two** sources. **If** you belong to a yacht club that is a member of SCYA, [www.scya.org](http://www.scya.org), you can purchase sail numbers from the SCYA Service Center in Long Beach, (562) 433-7426 (approximately \$75, at last report). **Or** you may obtain a sail number from US Sailing, (401) 683-0800 (\$100 for US Sailing members and \$125 for non-members, at last report).

### **How do I get the sail numbers made up and put on my sails?**

You need sail numbers on both sides of your mainsail and any over-lapping headsails (see RRS Appendix G for size and position requirements). They need to be the kind provided by sailmakers or other commercial sources (i.e., no numbers made from tape!). Any local sailmaker can provide you with the sail numbers and assist with putting them on your sails.

## III – RATINGS USED IN THE CRUISING DIVISION

### **What ratings are used for scoring races?**

Boats in the Cruising Division will be scored using 2019 PHRF SoCal W/L Rating with an “Active” Boat Configuration Adjustment Status (a “Cruising Rating”).

### **How are my handicap ratings used to calculate race results?**

A rating is in the format xxx seconds/mile. The course distance for the race is multiplied by your handicap rating and the resulting number of seconds is subtracted from your *elapsed time* to come up with your *corrected time*. Lowest *corrected time* wins.

### **Does my rating change?**

**No.** Your PHRF rating is fixed unless you report to PHRF that you have changed the configuration of your boat and PHRF changes your rating. If PHRF changes your rating after the commencement of the series it is your responsibility to immediately inform the Sunset Series Cruising Coordinator at [chris@gorog.net](mailto:chris@gorog.net) and the Sunset Series RC at [cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com](mailto:cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com)

## **IV – OTHER THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT SUNSET SERIES RACING**

### **What are the classes in the Cruising Division and how do I know which one I am in?**

There are “A” and “B” classes in the Cruising Division. Class assignments are made by the Cruising Division Coordinator and the RC and are primarily based on a boat’s Cruising Rating but other factors may also be considered including; her size, sailing characteristics past racing performance (if any) and the make-up of the skipper and crew. A class assignment list for the Cruising Division will be posted on CYC’s website prior to the first race. If your boat is not on the list, you are responsible for contacting the Cruising Division Coordinator and the RC for assignment to a class.

### **Do I need to fly a class flag while racing on Wednesday nights?**

**Yes.** You must fly the flag that has been assigned to your class on the backstay above the boom while racing so the RC (and other racers) can readily tell what class you are racing in. Individual class flags may be purchased at the front desk at CYC.

### **Can I use a spinnaker in the Cruising Division?**

**Yes.** Spinnakers are permitted in *both* Cruising A and Cruising B classes.

### **Can I race non-spinnaker?**

**Yes.** If a boat elects to race without a spinnaker *it must declare* “non-spinnaker”, *before* racing, by notifying the Cruising Coordinator and the RC in writing (email acceptable) and its Cruising Rating will be adjusted by +9 sec/mi. in Cruising A and +7 sec/mi in Cruising B. A boat may change the declaration *once* during the series (spinnaker to non-spinnaker or *vice versa*) by notifying the Cruising Coordinator and RC in writing (email acceptable) *before* racing with the changed configuration. Of course, if your configuration includes a spinnaker you certainly don’t have to use it on windy days.

### **Can I use electric winches?**

**No.** Powered winches are prohibited by RRS 52.

**What else do I need to do in order to race?**

You must register for the series online at; <http://www.calyachtclub.com/regattas>; where you can register for the entire series or sign up for individual races. The rules and conditions of the 2019 Sunset Series are set forth in the Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions. Both documents are available for download from the CYC website.

## V. OTHER QUESTIONS

**What if I believe the Race Committee did not score me correctly?**

Please contact the scorer and/or RC as soon as possible at the patio door to the Gallery Room. If you don't think they have satisfactorily resolved the issue, then you can file a "Request for Redress." See RRS 62. At CYC after each race, preliminary results are posted at least 15 minutes before trophies are handed out so that is always a good time to check for errors.

**What if I think the RC did something wrong or unfair during my start or during the race?**

If you think the RC did something inappropriate or unfair that impacted your finishing position in the race or your series score, then you can request redress. See the RRS, especially RRS 62, for the requirements to file a Request for Redress.

**What if I think another boat is not following the rules?**

If you think another boat is not complying with the rules you can protest them but be sure to notify the RC. The deadline for filing a protest is one hour after you finish the race (but read the Sailing Instructions and the RRS for all of the requirements to file a protest). You can also talk to the other competitor and discuss the issue informally.

## CONTACT INFO

**How can I get more information about sailing in the Cruising Division?**

For more information, contact the 2019 Cruising Division Coordinator: Chris Gorog via email at [chris@gorog.net](mailto:chris@gorog.net) or via phone at (310) 367-2510

## IMPORTANT LINKS

**Here are some links that you can use to get more information:**

California Yacht Club: [www.calyachtclub.com](http://www.calyachtclub.com)

CYC, Sunset Series: [Link to CYC, Sunset Series](#)

US Sailing: [www.ussailing.org](http://www.ussailing.org)

International Sailing Federation (ISAF): [www.sailing.org](http://www.sailing.org)

PHRF SoCal: [www.phrfsocal.org](http://www.phrfsocal.org).

SCYA: [www.scya.org](http://www.scya.org)