

SSSS Sailboat Racing Program

New Racer Information

Welcome to the SSSS racing program!

Questions and Answers about SSSS racing:

Can I be a casual racer?

Yes, SSSS racing is a casual program in which you can be as relaxed or as serious as you wish.

Do I need racing sails?

No, Many racers in all fleets sail with regular cruising sails, and

No, You do not need to have a spinnaker.

Do I need to know all the racing rules?

No, The basics are all that is required starting out. Simply, remember boats on a starboard tack, leeward boats, and any inside boats with which you are overlapped within three boat lengths of a racing mark have the right of way, but the # 1 rule is you are to avoid hitting another boat! As you race more you will pick-up on the more detailed rules.

Are there dues for SSSS racing?

Your first race is free, as are the Jack & Jill and Single-handed Races.

Yes, except as above, to be scored in SSSS races the annual racing dues are \$35.00 covering all races, or \$15.00 for any of the series races.

Do I need a rating for my boat?

Yes, for non-flying sails Fleet D (no spinnakers) you can get a rating for your boat from:

Richard Bigley at dclass@ssssclub.com

Yes, for Fleets S, A, or B with spinnakers you need a PHRF rating from:

Rafe Beswick at 360-250-5252 or rafebeswick@hotmail.com

****You will also need to join the PHRF NW at phrf-nw.org, annual dues \$60**

What are the ratings for and how do they apply?

Ratings are a means of equalizing boats for racing purposes. For a rating each boat provides information about their boat and particularly their sail dimensions to the SSSS or PHRF rater. With this information the rater determines the rating for that particular boat. This serves to equalize boats for racing purposes.

Once a rating is provided, the rating is used to determine finishing times. For example, boat A has a rating of 171, boat B has a rating of 150. Boat B has to give Boat A a handicap of 21 seconds per mile for a race (171-150=21). This allows boats of different types to race on an equal footing.

How are racing starts organized?

Though the starts seem the most intimidating a few basis apply. Each fleet is assigned a starting time. D fleet boats normally start 30 minutes before the other fleets. The D fleets is followed by the B fleet and five minutes later the S and A fleets. Each fleet is given a 5 minute horn with fleet flags, a 4 minute preparatory flag and horn a one minute horn and preparatory flag down, and a start horn.

Is it really that simply?

Yes, it really is! SSSS racing is about having a good time and getting out on your boat on a regular basis. Come join us!