



LEO WARDRUP MEMORIAL CAPE CHARLES CUP



Racing Class Selection Guide

During registration for the Leo Wardrup Memorial Cape Charles Cup (LWMCCC), you will be asked to select a Racing Class. If you are a seasoned racer or have a racing sailboat, you probably know what class you want and you can just skip to the next page.

If you are new to racing or are a cruiser who wants to participate in LWMCCC, your options are explained below.

Racing Class Decision Tree

1. **If you do not want to race** and just want to sail or motor over to Cape Charles and enjoy the event, you can register in the [Non-Racing Class](#).

This year we are experimenting with this non-racing class (just a registration type). You will not be included the race results, but you will be assigned a slip like the racing boats. You will be given the same benefits as racing skippers except for winning an award. We hope you will also volunteer at Cape Charles with docking, event setup, hosting a volunteer on your boat, or other event support.

NOTE: This is an experiment, so we are limiting the initial number of slots available for this registration type. We may open more toward the end of registration.

2. **If you are a cruiser and do not have a racing handicap or rating**, you can sign up for the [Cruising Class](#).

This is an LWMCCC-specific racing class for cruisers who are inexperienced or non-racers. The race organizers will assign you a “courtesy rating”. See details below.

3. **If you have a PHRF rating, but believe you belong in the *Cruising Class***, you can talk with the race organizers at racing@broadbaysailing.org
4. **If you have a cruising boat and a PHRF rating but do not want to race in the standard PHRF racing classes**, you might consider the new [PHRF Cruising Class](#). For 2024 this rating is free from PHRF of Chesapeake, but your boat must meet specific cruiser requirements. See [PHRF Cruising Class](#) below. Both spinnaker and non-spinnaker will be offered. No courtesy ratings provided.
5. **If you have a sailboat that was designed as racer/cruiser and you are serious about racing**, you can acquire an ORC rating and race in the [ORC Performance Cruiser Class](#). See description below.
6. **If you are a cruiser, who is also an experienced racer**, you can also race in the regular PHRF classes and most likely the [PHRF N Class](#) (Single headsail or double headsail). See discussion below.
7. **Otherwise**, you fall into [PHRF A, B, or C](#). See discussion below.



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Technical Discussion of Racing Classes and Certificates

Cruising Class

A handicap rating that is developed and assigned by an LWMCCC racing official. The biggest difference between classes Cruising and PHRF Cruising is the latter requires a formal rating from PHRF of the Chesapeake. The Cruising Class is meant for skippers just starting out racing or the cruiser who only races once or twice a season.

Consider registering for the Cruising class if you are:

- A casual racer or an inexperienced racer, and
- Registering a boat that does not have a handicap rating from PHRF or ORC

This cruising rating is:

- A free rating assigned by the race organizers,
- Considered the least accurate rating, and
- A good way to try sailboat racing or if you race once, maybe twice, per season.

PHRF Cruising Class (Spin or Non-spin)

Handicaps are assigned by PHRF of the Chesapeake. Handicaps are assigned to a given sailboat model considering predominant local conditions and the handicapper's experience with similar boats. These ratings are based on observed performance with adjustments for boat modifications and equipment.

Consider registering for PHRF Cruising your boat:

- Is a cruising boat. No racers or performance boats allowed. Boat has all standard cruising gear installed.
- Has no high-end sails. Only Polyester (Dacron) or UHMWPE/Dacron blends allowed. (UHMWPE known by brand names Spectra & Dyneema)
- Has an upwind Sail Area to Displacement ratio (SA/D) under 22.
Rough estimate of most boat's SA/D ratio at www.sailboatdata.com

Other details:

- Created so cruising boats are not forced to race against racing and performance boats.
- Crew number is limited to the number of berths onboard. A 44" wide berth counts toward 2 crew.
- Typically, distance races and not windward leeward races.
- Class rules documented at: <http://www.phrfchesbay.org/page/rules/cruising>
- Apply for free certificate at:
<https://secure.headwaytechnology.com/www.phrfchesbay.org/page/certificates>



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ORC Performance Cruiser Class

ORC relies on a computer-based Velocity Prediction Program (VPP), which is considered a more accurate rating for a specific wind speed. ORC ratings are based on standard measurements defined by the International Measurement System (IMS). The rating calculator outputs different ratings for various wind speeds and wind ranges. A valid ORC certificate is required to race in the ORC Performance Cruiser Class.

Considerations for the ORC Performance Cruiser Class:

- Only boats designated by ORC as IMS Cruiser/Racers will be allowed in this class for LWMCCC.
- All sail materials are allowed, and sails must be professionally measured.
- A maximum of 1 professional sailor is permitted onboard.
- One luffed headsail with an area greater than 90% of the foretriangle may be flown each race.
- One spinnaker may be flown each race and a second spinnaker, Code 0, or headsail set flying can be used.
- The owner specifies the crew limit when submitting their rating request.
- US Sailing charges are based on boat length:
 - 00-29.99 ft = \$3.30 per ft / example: 25ft boat = \$82.50
 - 30-39.99 ft = \$4.40 per ft / example: 35ft boat = \$154.00
 - 40-49.99 ft = \$5.50 per ft / example: 45ft boat = \$247.50
- ORC Class Rules: <https://orc.org/uploads/files/Rules-Regulations/2024/ORC-Rating-Systems-2024.pdf>
- Apply for certificate at: <https://ussailing.jotform.com/230034997541155>
Select "ORC Club" in drop down menu.

PHRF A, B, C, or N Class

Handicaps are assigned by PHRF of the Chesapeake. Handicaps are assigned to a given sailboat model considering predominant local conditions and the handicapper's experience with similar boats. These ratings are based on observed performance with adjustments for boat modifications and special equipment.

PHRF A, B, C, or N available:

- To all boat types - racing, performance, and cruising boats.
- From experienced to unexperienced competitive racers. Everyone is welcome.
- With no limits on SA/D. No limits on sail materials.
- For the highest-level competition under PHRF.

Other details:

- Classes A, B, C are for spinnaker boats. Class N is for non-spin boats.
- PHRF Chesapeake charges \$30 for a 1-year or \$40 for 2-year certification.
- Class Rules and Equipment requirements at: <http://www.phrfchesbay.org/page/rules>
- Apply for certificate at: <https://secure.headwaytechnology.com/www.phrfchesbay.org/page/certificates>