



# 2024 Sunset Series CRUISING DIVISION FAQ

## IMPORTANT NOTES

**PHRF** - Boats competing in the Cruising Division must have a valid **2024 PHRF SoCal Rating**, Apply for your rating at PHRF SoCal's website ([phrfsocal.org](http://phrfsocal.org)).

**Spinnaker** - The Sunset Series allows spinnakers in both Cruising A and Cruising B. 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.

## OVERVIEW

### 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 (“**Cruising Boats**”).

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

Cruising Boats with a valid 2024 PHRF SoCal Rating with a “Performance Factor” (PF) less than or equal to 2 may be eligible to compete in the Cruising Division. Keelboats with a valid 2024 PHRF SoCal rating with a PF greater than 2 may petition the Sunset Series Co-Chairs at [cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com](mailto:cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com) for inclusion in the Cruising Division. The Sunset Series Co-Chairs and the RC have the discretion to decide that a particular boat or crew is not appropriate for the Cruising Division.

### How does handicap scoring 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 (as a courtesy to competitors, the RC may also broadcast the course over VHF radio).

- **Finish time** – the RC records the time of day when you cross the finish line as your *finish time*.
- **Elapsed time** - the time of day of the starting signal is subtracted from your *finish time* to come up with your *elapsed time*.
- **Corrected time** - the handicap rating for your boat and the length of the course is used to calculate your handicap adjustment, which is then subtracted from your *elapsed time* to come up with your *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 rules can be downloaded from World Sailing, ([sailing.org](http://sailing.org)). In the United States, you can download the RRS through US Sailing's iOS and Android app. You can also order a printed copy of the RRS from US Sailing or West Marine, including the US prescriptions (changes to the RRS that apply only in the US).

## GETTING STARTED IN THE CRUISING CLASS

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

**Yes.** RRS 75 requires that a boat be entered by an individual who is a member of US Sailing or a member of a club or other organization affiliated with US Sailing or any other World Sailing member national authority. Information about joining US Sailing is available at ([ussailing.org](http://ussailing.org)). Scoring in the Cruising Division will be done using PHRF SoCal Area B Ratings as outlined below and in the 2024 Notice of Race (2024 NoR).

### **How do I get a PHRF SoCal Rating?**

Fill out the application for a 2024 PHRF SoCal Rating on the PHRF website: [phrfsocal.org](http://phrfsocal.org) and submit it electronically.

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

**No**, but you must be a member of US Sailing or a member of a club or other organization affiliated to US Sailing or any other World Sailing member national authority.

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

**Yes.** The RC uses sail numbers to record starts and finish times. Each boat is required to have sail numbers on its mainsail and on its headsail if it overlaps 130% or more. The sail numbers *must be clearly visible*—so if your boat has white sails, use black or a dark color for your sail numbers, and if your boat has dark sails, use white or a light color for your sail numbers. If the RC can't see your number, they will not be able to score you. Violations of this rule may result in a scoring penalty or disqualification from the race or series (2024 NoR §1.5(b)).

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

If you belong to a yacht club that is a member of SCYA ([scya.org](http://scya.org)) you can purchase sail numbers from the SCYA Service Center in Long Beach, 562-433-7426. You can also obtain a sail number from US Sailing ([ussailing.org](http://ussailing.org)), 401-683- 0800.

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

Local sailmakers can provide you with the sail numbers and assist with putting them on your sails. See RRS Appendix G for size and position requirements. They need to be the kind provided by sailmakers or other commercial sources—please do not use numbers made from tape.

## RATINGS USED IN THE CRUISING DIVISION

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

All boats in the Sunset Series, including Cruising Boats, will be scored using 2024 PHRF SoCal W/L Ratings.

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

Your handicap rating is assigned in seconds per mile. Your handicap rating is multiplied by course distance to calculate your handicap adjustment, which is then subtracted from your *elapsed time* to come up with your *corrected time*. The lowest *corrected time* wins. This is known as the Time on Distance method.

### **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 Co-Chairs and the RC at [cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com](mailto:cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com).

## **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 Sunset Series Co-Chairs and the RC and are primarily based on a boat’s rating, but other factors may also be considered including its size, sailing characteristics, past racing performance, 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 Sunset Series Co-Chairs and the RC at [cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com](mailto:cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com) for assignment to a class.

### **Do I need to fly a class flag while competing in the Sunset Series?**

**Yes.** The numeral pennant flag for your assigned class must be displayed on the backstay above the boom during racing so the RC and other racers can easily see it. Individual class flags may be purchased at a marine supply store.

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

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

### **What do I need to do if I race non-spinnaker?**

If a boat elects to race *without* a spinnaker it must designate itself “non-spin” *before* racing, by notifying the Sunset Series Co-Chairs and the RC at [cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com](mailto:cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com). Your rating will be adjusted by +9 seconds per mile in Cruising A and +7 seconds per mile in Cruising B. A boat may change the designation *one time only* during the series (from spinnaker to non-spin or from non-spin to spinnaker) by notifying the Sunset Series Co-Chairs and RC at [cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com](mailto:cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com) *before* racing with the changed configuration. *Note: if your sail configuration includes a spinnaker, you are not required to use it when there are unsafe wind conditions.*

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

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

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

Register and pay for online at the Sunset Series webpage ([calyachtclub.com/regattas](http://calyachtclub.com/regattas)). You can register individual races or the entire season of races for a discount. The rules and conditions of the 2024 Sunset

Series are set forth in the 2024 NoR and 2024 Sailing Instructions (SIs). Both documents are also available for download at the Sunset Series webpage ([calyachtclub.com/regattas](http://calyachtclub.com/regattas)).

## OTHER QUESTIONS

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

Please contact the scorer as soon as possible using the scoring inquiry form on the Sunset Series webpage ([calyachtclub.com/regattas](http://calyachtclub.com/regattas)). If you do not believe they have satisfactorily resolved the issue, then you can file a “Request for Redress” (see RRS 62). You can check for errors after each race, when preliminary results are posted on the Sunset Series webpage ([calyachtclub.com/regattas](http://calyachtclub.com/regattas)), at least 15 minutes before trophies are awarded.

### **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 file a “Request for Redress” (see RRS 62).

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

If you think another boat is not complying with the rules, you may be able to protest them (read the SIs and the RRS for all of the requirements to file a protest), but be sure to notify the RC. The deadline for filing a protest is one hour after you finish the race . 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 2024 Sunset Series Co-Chair Drew Baldwin at [cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com](mailto:cyc-sunset-series@cycfleet.com) or 310-880-6140.

## IMPORTANT LINKS

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

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

CYC Sunset Series: [calyachtclub.com/regattas](http://calyachtclub.com/regattas)

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

World Sailing: [sailing.org](http://sailing.org)

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

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