

The Sportboat Handicap Application is available on the [race week web site](#).

## **I INTRODUCTION**

It is important that the boat owner read and comply with these Sportboat Rules and Regulations for the 2010 regatta. **Boats are to sail in their one design configuration** and entrants must complete the Sportboat Handicap Application confirming this compliance.

## **II BACKGROUND**

### **Sportboat Handicapping**

For Key West 2010, the name of the organization shall be the Key West Sportboat Fleet (Herein designated as KW-SB). It shall be an objective of this organization to establish and maintain an equitable system of performance-based handicaps for those models participating in this event.

KW-SB handicaps are boat performance handicaps. They are based on the speed potential of the model, based on a combination of an empirical formula using sailing length, sail area, displacement and other boat parameters and on observations of previous racing experience. It is the intent of KW-SB handicapping that any well-equipped, well-maintained, and well-sailed boat has a reasonable chance to win; and that any boat that wins a Key West race is indeed well-equipped, well-maintained, and well-sailed. In subsequent years, handicaps may be adjusted as needed on the basis of the boat's performance during the previous Race Week and/or other regattas in their area, so that each well-sailed boat will have an equal opportunity to win.

KW-SB handicaps are not intended to reflect the skipper and crew capability, but rather that of the boat; hence KW-SB racing is primarily a test of skipper and crew skill. Doing well in a regatta, therefore, requires the exercise of skill and ability. If a skipper and crew sail the boat well and consistently place high, this will not, by itself, lead to a handicap that is less favorable than that of the actual performance potential of the boat.

### **Courses**

KW-SB handicaps are intended to be applied to closed course, windward-leeward races with a mix of upwind and downwind finishes (some races with an equal number of downwind and upwind legs and some with an extra upwind leg) in a range of 12-16 knots (average wind velocity in Key West during the third week of January). Recent 9-10 race series have averaged 5-6 downwind finishes and 3-4 upwind finishes. This will be taken into account during the handicapping process.

### **Conclusion**

We hope that you will enjoy Sportboat racing in Key West. The Sportboat handicapping and appeal procedures will be reviewed and refined based on feedback from boat owners, class representatives and Sportboat Consortium members. The boat owner has the opportunity to play an important role in shaping the future of Sportboat racing in Key West, not only by sailing competitively, but also by taking the time to provide Premiere Racing with feedback on Sportboat procedures.

## **III HANDICAPPING PROCEDURES**

- A. Premiere Racing will appoint a Key West Sportboat Consortium to assign Sportboat handicaps for this event. The Sportboat Consortium will be comprised of three members from different regions across the country. The Chief Handicapper and consortium shall communicate primarily through email concerning the handicapping process.
- B. Premiere Racing shall administer the handicapping process and maintain the Key West records. The Chief Handicapper shall recommend to the Consortium handicaps for invited one design models and conduct or oversee any independent investigations of measurement questions.
- C. Any questions pertaining to Sportboat issues shall be referred to Premiere Racing and not to the individual members of the Sportboat Consortium.
- D. Sportboat entrants must submit a completed Sportboat Handicap Application (available on the web site or by calling Premiere Racing), and any other handicap certificates (PHRF, IRC sportboat, etc.) issued prior to the entry deadline. Assigned handicaps may differ from handicaps assigned in other regattas or regions due to Key West race course configuration, conditions and other pertinent factors.

E. One design models will be assigned a handicap using systematic procedures applied by the Chief Handicapper and the Sportboat Consortium, based on use of a numerical formula based on the Watts and Schell formulas converted to time on time and by observed performance through actual race data where available.

F. Race Week Sportboat handicaps will be posted on the event web site after the Sportboat Consortium has assigned one for a specific model.

G. The Sportboat Consortium reserves the right to change a handicap that has been issued if new data emerges that significantly affects the assigned handicap to ensure fair racing.

#### **IV HANDICAP APPEALS**

A. Premiere Racing will appoint a Special Sportboat Handicapping Appeals Committee. Those owners or class representatives who wish to appeal the assigned handicap for their model or the handicap of a different model must pay an administrative fee (donated to Shake-A-Leg Miami) and submit their appeal in writing to Premiere Racing no later than December 18, 2009. Appeals should be filed only if there is new and relevant information that the Consortium was unaware of at the time the handicap was assigned. Any questions pertaining to Sportboat issues should be referred to Premiere Racing and not to the individual members of the Sportboat Special Appeals Committee.

B. Appeals will not be accepted on-site except those dealing with administrative errors unless approved by the Race Chairman. On-site appeals must be submitted at Race Headquarters by 0900 on the Sunday prior to racing. No appeals will be accepted after 0900. The appellant must be available for hearings that morning and is responsible for notifying the owners or class representative of the model whose rating is being appealed (if applicable). Appeal forms are available by calling Premiere Racing.

#### **V DEFINITIONS AND MEASUREMENTS**

The Key West Sportboat Consortium will use published data on the eligible Sportboats participating in Key West 2010.

#### **VI RULES & REGULATIONS**

A. Premiere Racing shall provide criteria for the eligibility of one design models for handicaps in the regatta's Official Notice & Conditions of Race and in these Rules and Regulations. In applying such criteria, the Sportboat Consortium or event organizer may reject the application of any boat they consider not eligible, subject to appeal to the Special Appeal Committee.

B. Sportboat entries must be at least 18 feet LOA and not greater than 22 feet LOA between hull perpendiculars and have a TCC of 0.950 or greater. Boats shall be self righting. A list of one design Sportboat models eligible for Key West 2010 can be found on the event web site.

C. Only single hulled boats will be handicapped.

D. Crew Weight / Crew Number Limitations: For all Sportboat entries, boats shall be rated assuming the Crew Weight and/or Crew Number Limitations from their respective class rules, if there are such limitations. In all cases there shall be a minimum of 3 crew members. Boats shall sail with the same crew in all races unless the change is approved by the Race Chairman. Any request for changes in crew or crew numbers must be submitted to the Race Office in writing prior to the race in which the change is to take place.

E. Sportboat Classes will be scored using the handicaps provided by the Key West Sportboat Consortium using time-on-time with actual elapsed times used. The corrected time will be the elapsed time multiplied by the time correction factor (TCF).

F. If possible deviations to a boat become apparent, other contestants may protest the boat directly in accordance with Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) –2009-2012 (note that the procedure for this type of protest is different than for the usual rule).

G. Textured surfaces on the hull and/or appendages that are, or could be, intended to reduce drag are not allowed.

H. Adherence to the 2010 Key West 20' Sportboat Safety Requirements is a requirement (posted on the event web site).

(end)