



# Restricted Sail - Race Officer Guidance

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At the FYCA 2015 AGM, member clubs agreed to continue the **Restricted Sail (RS)** option for the Forth Inshore Group (FIG) races in 2016. This option provides a handicap adjustment for yachts competing without using a spinnaker, gennaker or cruising chute. It is intended to encourage less capable, less experienced or short handed crews to participate. PEYC has adopted the same approach for all club races. The specific rules covering this are in Para **1.4 Restricted Sail Option for Yachts** in the PEYC Sailing Instructions.

## Race Officer Guidance:

- Any RS request must be made on VHF channel 77 on the race day but no later than 15 mins before the class warning signal, even if the competitor has applied well in advance. This ensures that other yachts are aware of the request and the stated reasons.
- Acknowledge any RS request, record details of the yacht, skipper and the justification, and confirm that you will call back with a decision. The following reasons should be considered:
  - **Not equipped with a spinnaker:** All yachts in the FYCA Handicap Lists are rated on the basis of a full set of sails. Those without a spinnaker may be marked as such in the lists. If in doubt, agree to the RS request since it is easy to verify it later.
  - **Less experienced crew:** This, inevitably, is a judgement call by the Race Officer. If a fully crewed regular racing yacht requests RS on this basis, then you should be sceptical and generally refuse it. If a newcomer or relatively infrequent participant does so, then err on the generous side and agree to RS status.
  - **Less capable crew:** This is also a judgement call by the Race Officer but it should be easier to decide if the request is reasonable. If there are children crewing the yacht or a group of retired 'old salts', then err on the generous side and agree to RS status.
  - **Short handed crew:** The RS rules define this as less than 60% of the yacht's full crew. Agree to an RS request if the reported crew number is at or below the following compared to the rated crew: 2/4, 2/5, 3/6, 4/7, 4/8, 5/9, 5/10, 6/11, 7/12, 7/13, 8/14.
- It is entirely at your discretion whether or not to grant RS status. Make your decision and call back on the VHF channel 77. Remind RS yachts to fly a white pennant or flag. In the race results, identify any yacht granted RS status with **(RS)** after its name & use the 'No Spinnaker' handicap value from the FYCA lists.
- If no yachts are able to fly spinnakers during the race, due to the wind strength or direction, the RS provision should not be applied.

*Jim Scott - PYC Sailing Secretary*