



Restricted Sail - Race Officer Guidance

At the FYCA 2015 AGM, member clubs agreed to continue with a **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.

Restricted Sail Rules:

1. For FYCA FIG races, a yacht may request to use a Restricted set of Sails (RS - defined as no spinnaker or cruising chute, and no additional headsails than used to windward to be set at any time). This provision is intended for yachts not equipped with a spinnaker, and for crews considered by the Race Committee to be 'less experienced', 'less capable' or 'short handed', the latter defined as less than 60% of the yacht's full crew. The RS provision will not be granted if, due to the course or weather conditions, no yachts are able to fly spinnakers.
2. To request the RS provision, a yacht must contact the Race Committee on VHF channel XX, justifying the request, on the race day at least 15 minutes before its class warning signal is displayed. To be valid, the Race Committee must have confirmed their agreement before its class warning signal. It is at the absolute discretion of the Race Committee whether to accept an RS request or not on any particular day.
3. A yacht permitted to use the RS provision shall display a white pennant or flag on the backstay or other prominent position, from its class warning signal until it finishes.
4. A yacht permitted to use the RS provision shall receive a +4% handicap adjustment. All results, both in full and RS configuration, shall be considered in calculating overall FIG series positions.

Race Officer Guidance:

- Any RS request must be made on the specified VHF channel 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 specified VHF channel. 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 - FYCA Fixtures Secretary