

CRCA Introduces a Performance Class

By David Dodson

The Chesapeake Racer Cruiser Association (CRCA) is pleased to welcome higher performance boats to compete in a new racing class for CBYRA weekend races starting in 2025.

The new CRCA Performance Class was designed for boats with a higher performance potential than boats in the CRCA Cruiser and Racer Classes. CRCA has separate starts and scoring for dozens of CBYRA weekend races on the Bay and uses the "EZ" handicap system which factors in wind conditions and course design to provide fair scoring for all boats.

Fewer restrictions are placed on boats in the Performance Class, making it a more open class. Boats will use the EZ handicap system. Any boat meeting the Performance Class requirements may race in the class. The table below lists the five rules for the Performance Class.

CRCA Performance Class Rules:

1. There are no requirements for the interior accommodations of a boat.
2. The downwind sail-area-to-displacement ratio of a boat may not be higher than 75.
3. Power winches and power winch handles are not allowed.
4. Autopilots may not be used.
5. A boat may be wet-sailed or dry-sailed.

The first rule, which requires no interior accommodations, contrasts with our requirement of full cruising accommodations for our Cruiser and Racer Classes. The idea is to open CRCA up to boats that have a higher performance ability partly because they have little to no interior accommodations, making them weigh less. While CRCA took this step to expand CRCA, they didn't want a completely open class, hence the restriction placed on the Downwind



■ The Farr 40 is one of several Bay boats that could race in the Performance Class; others include the Class 40, Columbia 32, Farr 30, and Melges 24. Photo by Will Keyworth

Sail Area to Displacement Ratio (DW SA/D ratio).

The upper limit is to keep out sport boats with greater planing ability that are harder to handicap. Although there is an upper limit to the DW SA/D ratio, there is no lower limit to its value.

Several Bay boats that could race in the Performance Class are the Farr 40, Class 40, Columbia 32, Farr 30, and Melges 24. Boats that previously raced in the Cruiser or Racer Class may now race in the Performance Class if they wish, because the EZ handicap system should compare them fairly.

In addition to the Performance Class rules, Performance boats must obey the

rules of CRCA that apply to all three classes. Find these rules and other information at sailcrca.org.

CRCA is excited to announce that the Eastport Yacht Club has given the Performance Class starts in five of their races: the Annapolis to Miles River Race (May 24), Maryland Cures Cancer Regatta (W/I. course, June 24), Boomerang Race (June 27-28), CRAB Cup (August 16), and the Annapolis to Cambridge Race (August 23). CRCA hopes to get into more weekend races and that clubs using EZ for their week-night races will use the Performance Class as well. Join CRCA for a fun season at sailcrca.org.