

Dear Harbor 20 Fleet 1 Member:

Perhaps no subject has been thrashed about in Fleet 1 meetings over the past year or two as the split and characteristics of our A and B racing fleets. Historically, skippers self-assigned themselves into one group or the other based on their own assessment of their skills as well as a desire to participate in one fleet or the other.

Over time, the result is that we have a robust A fleet, and often a very small B fleet.

Using basically the A versus B fleet rules of the Lido 14 class as a guideline, Fleet 1 is changing the characteristics of how these fleets are determined to a rules-based system. The new rules are based on the idea of a small A fleet of sailors who have demonstrated in actual races, their skills at that level by ***actually receiving a trophy in "High Point Regattas" (defined later) over the past year.*** These are our consistent high-performance sailors who actually demonstrated skills in A regattas in 2007, using the new we will be implementing.

As of January 1, there will be a small "red ribbon" A class of the following racing members:

All past and future A Fleet Champions will be Perpetual A skippers; and for now, A class will include:

Chris Allen	Tom Corkett	Tucker Cheadle	John Fuller
Terry Gloege	Jim Kerrigan	Tom Schock	Steve Schupak
Lee Sutherland	Bob Yates		

Because these individuals have won trophies in A class High Point Regattas in 2007.

All other fleet member, including A class skippers who raced in A class in 2007 shall start in the B fleet in 2008 (except for the BYC Sunkist Series and the NHYC Winter Series, under way). We studied the Lido 14 A vs B system and modified it.

Our new system will advance any B skipper to the A class, if they win ***two*** B High Point Regattas in any twelve month period going forward, and they earn a red "A" ribbon. Then they ***immediately*** become an A for the next twelve months (A class skippers above have their A status until January 1, 2009 after which time they will sail in the B class until they move up by winning two B High Point Regattas).

Once in the A class, an A skipper stays qualified for the A class for twelve months automatically after each time they win a trophy in the A High Point Regattas. Well-sailing B skippers get to earn their way to A class, and go back if they can't win a trophy in a High Point Regatta in the As in the next twelve months. Simple...

Moving to the A class for twelve months requires winning two B High Point Regattas in a twelve month period. ***Staying in the A class*** is automatic when one wins a ***trophy*** in any A High Point

Regatta; any qualified skipper in the A class has to win a ***trophy*** within twelve months after trophying in the As to stay an A for the following twelve month period. ("Win a trophy" is determined by the size of the class. The Fleet 1 Championship shall award five places each to A and B classes. Other High Point Regattas will earn prizes/trophies whether or not distributed by the host yacht club according to the number of entries: 0-4, none; 5-6, one; 7-8, two; 9-10, three; 11-14, four, 15 or more, five.)

What's the idea? The idea is a robust, fun fleet of Bs who race actively. A larger B fleet means generally more trophies in regattas. Remember, with 15 entries, normally five trophies should be awarded. This is fun competition. The As, on the other hand, will be a smaller fleet of proven winners who compete at a higher level, with fewer chances to trophy and stay in the top group. The Lido 14 class has used this type of system over 50 years; many Harbor 20 sailors today do and have competed in the Lido 14 class and can attest to the success and fun in this system.

The new series of "High Point Regattas" have been selected to reduce the number of High Point trophy events to one or two day regattas during the year, to distinguish the High Point trophy from the Rain or Shine trophy. Our Calendar currently has about 25 race/regattas each year, a terrific but onerous schedule. The idea is that these High Point Regattas are the ones that will get greater participation and will also be used in determination of the High Point award for the year.

Lots of time has gone into discussing and considering different systems. Lots of data was considered.

To the As identified above, congratulations! To the new robust B fleet, we say let's have fun, and go out there and compete! Let's build our class and fleet by inviting others who have Harbor 20s to join us on the water in 2007/2008! There's lots of sailing ahead.

One final point is important... This is a proven nice system that's enjoyed by many. The concept is "Try it, you'll like it!" But we can make this a trial for 2008 and 2009. At the end of the 2009 season, if there is a *general* consensus to change, we can put the matter of reverting to the old or another system to a vote of all fleet members.

Let's have more fun in 2008!

Andy Binkerd
Fleet Captain, Harbor 20 Fleet 1

P.S. There are more “technical” aspects of the rules. For those, please check the soon-to-be updated By-laws for details, that will be available at our web site, www.harbor20.org.

Details and Administration

Moving to A class: A B class skipper wins two High Point Regattas in twelve months. *Immediately* thereafter, for twelve months, the new A skipper will enter and race only in A class regattas. Skipper earns a red ribbon provided by the Fleet Measurer and should fly ribbon from end of the boom or on backstay.

Staying in A class: A skipper retains red ribbon by winning any trophy in A class High Point Regattas, and every trophy win extends the skipper's term in A class by another twelve months. "Perpetual A" Fleet Champion skippers retain red ribbon A status *permanently* and no requalification is necessary.

Back to Bs: Any A skipper who does not trophy in A class in a High Point Regatta reverts to B class after twelve months in A class.

Fleet rules: Rules Committee will revise the Fleet 1 By-laws to conform to the new system. Note that Class and Fleet By-laws are automatically part of the Sailing Instructions. This precludes substitute helmspersons except as provided already in the By-laws.

Yacht Clubs' Support: Fleet send letter to all High Point yacht clubs asking for support.

- Honor our class break rules by supporting our Fleet Rules as to class splits, alternative helmspersons, and for the Designated High Point Regattas, the limitation that entries be Owner Members of Fleet 1 (or Owner Members of the Class for out-of-town boats), etc.
- Anticipate a much larger B class with appropriate trophies or recognition according to standard numbers. We would appreciate more trophies if there is a truly larger fleet of 15-20 boats, for example. This will further participation and competition.
- Cooperation, if possible, in providing a Harbor 20 venue in the Anchorage area of the Bay, to CHOC and Leukemia Cup Regattas. (If requested, the Fleet may assist in arranging/providing a Race Committee alternative in that venue.)

High Point Trophy Award Scoring: Temporarily modify the current scoring to count only results from High Point Regattas as defined. To compensate for the fact A and B classes will be different size; a decimal system shall be used, derived by the number of boats beaten in each event. For example, a B who is 2 of 14 boats would have beaten 12/14ths, or .857, whereas an A who has beaten 7 of 9 would be scored .777. The same throw-out percentages would apply. The highest aggregate average after throw-outs would win the trophy.

The split between A and B class trophies would be determined by the greatest number of races sailed (not scored).

Rain or Shine Award Scoring: Still rewards skippers with highest race participation. Beginning immediately, if an A class skipper volunteers and sails with a B skipper as a coach, they will received credit for those races sailed in the High Point Trophy scoring. Volunteers notify Ross Watanabe of availability, if desired, on the web site, and of races sailed as a B coach for scoring purposes. A or B skippers will receive credit for participation for races served on the Race Committee for Harbor 20 races. Again, let Ross Watanabe know, for tally purposes.