

CSA Classics Rule 2023

January 2023

The CSA Classics Rule (the 'Rule') belongs to the Caribbean Sailing Association (CSA). This Rule shall not be used or copied or otherwise distributed without the permission of the owner.

1 General Items

- 1.1 Administration of the Rule** - The CSA will appoint a Chief Measurer (CM), a Chief Technical Officer (CTO), a Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), Senior Measurers, Measurers and Trainee Measurers to administer this rule. In order to obtain a Rating under this Rule a yacht's owner or captain can contact one of the Measurers listed on the Caribbean Sailing Association Website WWW.CARIBBEAN-SAILING.COM and arrange to have the yacht measured. All queries from Measurers are referred to the CTO who then transmits to the relevant committees and to the CM who will have the final say.
In addition to measuring yachts, Measurers provide the services outlined below.
- 1.2 Intent** - The intent of this Rule is to handicap fairly the broad variety of monohull yachts which race within the Caribbean region. The Rule will compute a Rating (rated length) for each yacht which is intended to be representative of its true speed potential.
- 1.3 Time on Time Handicapping** - This Rule is a "Time on Time" rule – each yacht's RATING will be converted to a TIME CORRECTION FACTOR (TCF) which will be used to convert her Elapsed Time (ET) for the race to a Corrected Time (CT). ($CT = ET \times TCF$). Hereinafter the terms "Rating" and "TCF" shall mean one and the same thing.
- 1.4 Ownership of the Rule** - The measurements used, formulae and calculations are the property of the CSA. The CSA may change these at any time.
- 1.5 Declared Rule** - The Rule – although principally based on actual measurements, declared by the Captain – may contain some subjective elements if the Rule makers feel this is necessary. However, these subjective elements will be applied 'across the board' and not to an individual yacht in isolation.
- 1.6 Not a Development Rule** - The Rule is not a development rule and it is not anticipated that owners or designers will deliberately seek to exploit the Rule to artificially reduce the yacht's rating relative to her true speed potential. Where this appears to have been done, the CM will take appropriate action to negate any unfair advantage.
- 1.7 Safety Guidelines** - The CSA has in the past issued a set of safety guidelines which formed an adjunct to but not a part of the Rule. However, these have now been withdrawn and the CSA no longer offers safety guidelines.
- 1.8 Paperless Rule** - This Rule is a 'paperless rule' and a yacht's only official TCF can be found on the latest computer database, www.main.csarule.com. Any paper issued to the yacht is purely a measurement record.

2 Regatta Rules

- 2.1 Official Regatta Measurers** - Any regatta using the CSA Rule may, in consultation with the CSA CM, appoint and bear the cost of a CSA Measurer as Regatta Measurer (RM) whose duties shall include:
- Advise the Organising Authority and Race Committee on class assignment.
 - Review ratings of all entered boats and notify the owner, organisers and the Protest Committee of any errors found.
 - Be the "authority responsible" referred to in RRS 64.3 and perform any services required under that RRS from such an authority, provided that the CM has issued the necessary permission for the Regatta Measurer to perform this role.
 - Correct errors found as permitted under the CSA Rule and as agreed by the Protest Committee.
 - Prepare and submit a detailed Measurer's Report on the regatta.
 - Any other duties requested by the Organisers that are appropriate to be done by a Regatta Measurer.

When the CTO and RM are the same person, he will refer to a committee comprised of Senior Measurers and the CM.

2.2 Correcting Ratings during Regatta – Technical Errors

When the Regatta Measurer is satisfied that there is a *technical* error (i.e. typographical, calculation, measuring error, incorrect TCF /sail combination, etc.) in a boat's current Rating at any time during the regatta, the RM shall notify the relevant authorities including the Protest Committee. If the Protest Committee is satisfied that the Rating is in error, the RM shall make the necessary corrections and the scoring shall be adjusted to the new TCF for all races in the regatta including those already sailed.

2.3 Rating Protest

When a Rating protest is submitted to the Protest Committee, that committee will be responsible to ensure that both the protesting and the protested yachts deposit measurement fees as described under CSA Rule 3.1 (see below). RRS 64.3(e) shall be used to determine which party will pay any measurement fees incurred and which party shall have the measurement fee refunded.

If, as result of a protest on rating, or as a requirement from the Race Committee a yacht is re-measured to confirm her rating handicap, the following tolerances to confirm her TCF shall apply –

- If the protest is solely in relation to the use of incorrect sails, then only the sails need to be measured. If, as a result of this measurement, the TCF of the yacht changes by 'more' than +/- 0.001 then the protest is considered to be upheld and the yacht's TCF will be adjusted accordingly.
- If the protest is of a more general nature and the entire yacht requires re-measurement then the protest shall be considered to be upheld if the yacht's TCF differs by 'more' than +/- 0.003 from the current TCF and the database will record the new Rating.

2.4 The Chief Measurer is the final authority for interpretation of this Rule.

In resolving disputes the CM will be guided by the intention of the Rule (to provide a fair TCF as stated in Rule A1.2 above) rather than by the precise wording of any clause or statement. This authority can be delegated to a Regatta Measurer or other Senior Measurer if necessary.

2.5 Standard Hull Dimensions

Some common classes (e.g. Dragon) may be given standardised hull and rig dimensions which are recorded in the database as an average of many measurements for that particular type of yacht. In this case, only the sails, factors, and miscellaneous information need to be recorded uniquely in the database, the hull and rig dimensions being the standards. If the Measurer suspects that the boat may not be a substantially standard production version (for example if it has been modified, or stripped out, etc.), he shall measure the boat in the normal way and it will race with the TCF for that specific yacht rather than the TCF assigned to the class.

The CM shall determine which designs may have standard measurements. The CM's approval is required for all boats with standard dimensions. From time to time the standard measurements may be modified as more information is collected.

2.6 One Design Class Rating

Certain classes may be designated as “one-design” and each yacht in the class can be given the same CSA Rating after it is determined that the yacht is ‘Class Legal’ by a Measurer who is qualified to determine this for that class of yacht. The CM shall determine which Measurers can issue one-design certificates and the TCF for each one-design class.

2.7 Minimum Dimensions

Regatta Organisers have the right to stipulate minimum sizes of yacht which will be accepted into the class and regatta as a whole. Establishment and control of these minimums is outside the scope of this Rule.

3 Yacht Owners Rules

A CSA Measurer shall advise on preparing the yacht to be measured, advise on how to obtain an optimal rating, measure the yacht and enter the data into the rating program. This program will compute the Rating of the yacht and compute several TCFs for varying sail combinations. The Measurer shall charge a fee for this service.

3.1 Fees

The measurement fee is made up of two parts: (a) a fee for the administration of the Rule and, (b) a fee to reimburse the Measurer for the service provided. These fees are charged based on the overall length of the yacht. Fees will be collected as specified by the CSA from time to time and may be collected by the individual Measurer who measures the yacht and who will pass on the administrative portion of the fee to the CSA.

Fees, for year 2023

Classic Certificate (a) US \$1.00 per foot plus (b) US \$1.00 per foot.

If required, measurers may be asked to visit and carry out measurements for this rule. Each Measurer’s hourly rate may differ according to which island he/she is based in. Typically, a charge of US \$1.00 per foot is charged for a small deck or sail measurement if a specific meas.

3.2 Ratings

The measurements taken for the yacht shall be entered in the CSA Rating Programme. The TCF shown by this software is the current Rating for the yacht. A yacht may only have one current Rating. This Database is accessible to all Measurers, Regatta Organisers and authorized third parties through an access portal, www.main.csarule.com. The rating in the online data base is the rating to be used regardless of any paper certificate produced.

3.3 Rating and Measurement Validation

3.3.1 Ratings are valid for one complete calendar year 01 Nov– 31 Oct. (Note – Yachts which carry out a first measurement or a change/update after 01 Nov of any year will be considered to have been measured/certified in the next full calendar year, unless this Rating becomes invalid as indicated below).

3.3.2 Measurements are valid for five calendar years from first measurement – including the year of measurement - unless they become invalid as detailed in Rule 3.3.3 below. Invalid measurements result in an invalid Rating. Note Club ratings are valid 10 years but not valid for international regattas.

3.3.3 Measurements become invalid when –

The boat is sold to a new owner.

Five calendar years elapse, including the year of first measurement.

The boat is significantly modified since last measured.

The boat acquires new sails.

If the CM or CTO determines that a Rating is invalid.

If the Rating Rule is changed to require different measurements or different ways of measuring.

3.3.4 Re-validation - When a Rating becomes invalid the owner or agent shall request a re-measurement of the yacht. When requested to do this a Measurer shall carry out such checks or re-measurement as necessary and shall update the database as appropriate.

3.4 Updating Ratings

When asked to update a Rating a Measurer shall carry out whatever checks – up to and including a full re-measurement – that he/she thinks are appropriate to comply with Rule 1.2. There is an obligation on the yacht's Owner/Representative to point out any modifications made or other reason why the boat's Rating should not be automatically updated. Deliberate failure to do so may result in the yacht's Rating being invalidated by the CM.

A yacht's certificate may be updated at any time to accommodate changes made to the yacht and its Rating may be updated twice after the issuance of the original certificate in a calendar year without approval from the CM. Past three certifications, the owner may request a new certificate and if accepted by the CM a new CSA certificate fee will apply (1US\$ a foot plus measurer's fee if required).

3.5 Rating Changes Prior to an Event

There are several alternate TCFs (for different sail combinations) for each Rated yacht. A yacht may elect to race with any one of these TCFs, but must declare which TCF/sail combination it intends to use by the deadline set by the Regatta Organisers. The TCF elected to be used cannot then be changed during that specific regatta and no headsail bigger than that elected may be used for the duration of that regatta.

Any request to alter a Rating immediately prior to a regatta, after that yacht's initial registration but before close of registration, shall be put to the RM/ CTO who shall adjudicate on this matter. Late measurement changes are to be discouraged.

3.6 Sail configurations

All sails to be used should be declared to the measurer.

Certificates may provide up to 3 sail configuration ratings:

The TCF will show as

1. Non Spinnaker – All the declared sails are allowed to be used, no spinnakers downwind (Nylon material) sails allowed
2. Half spinnaker – Some event may decide to allow spinnakers but on account for half of the spinnakers penalty.
3. Spinnaker – All sails declared allowed and rated for, including Nylon spinnakers.

3.7 Re-measurement

A full re-measurement of a yacht shall be undertaken every ten years or if the current measurements become invalid for any reason (See Rule 3.3.1, 3.3.2 and 3.3.3 above).

This may also be done at the request of the CTO or CM if he/she suspects that the Rating may be incorrect. It may also be done at the request of a Protest Committee as a result of a valid protest.

The owner of the yacht may not request re-measurement by a different Measurer in a different territory within the existing Rating's measurements validity period (5 years) without specific reason being given and the specific approval of the CM obtained (i.e. 'shopping around' for best measurement is not allowed).

3.8 Changes to Valid Ratings – involving subjective factors HF, IAF (Hull Factor, Internal Accommodation Factor)

A Measurer shall review any request from a yacht for a reassessment of the subjective factors and forward this to the CTO with his recommendations. The CTO will set up a review committee of other Senior Measurers and the Measurer of record and shall consider all the relevant facts including the race results of the boat in question and any sister ships. The CTO will refer the conclusion reached by the committee and refer it to the CM. Decisions made by the CM are final

3.9 Temporary Ratings

Temporary ratings may be issued only for a single regatta and only as a last resort. The Measurer must be confident that the Rating so issued will stand up to a measurement protest. The rating must be clearly

marked as "TEMPORARY" in the database and should include the circumstances requiring its issue in the notes. A temporary Rating cannot be updated without a full measurement of the yacht.

3.10 Power Assisted Operations

Yachts racing under the CSA Rule may use power assisted winches and may have power assistance for canting ballast, and may use power activated auto steering systems, if they wish. This changes RRS 52.

3.11 Owner – Measurer Responsibilities

3.11.1 Owner Information Required – The form supplied by the OA must be filled by the owner and provided to the measurer.

3.11.2 Measurer – The measurer must ensure the measurements supplied on the form by the owner are consistent with expected measurements. The measurer must enter the provided information and additional factors not provided by the owners.