



TopYacht: ~ Changing Rigs (Class)

Background

Some sailors occasionally choose to race with different rigs, depending on the weather.

- Is this fair?
- Is it practical?
- Does it make (scoring) sense?

This can have unexpected consequences, and can trap the unwary.

An Explanation

For example, Joe has a laser. He also has two rigs for it. He chooses to use the radial rig in heavier weather, and the full rig in lighter weather.

How is this handled in TopYacht?

Before proceeding further, reference should be made to the Notice of Race and / or Sailing Instructions to determine the trophies at stake.

Scenario One

‘Trophies will be awarded to the best performer based on Yard-Stick Results’

Scenario Two

‘Trophies will be awarded to the best performer in the Laser Full Rig class, and Laser Radial class.’

The implications of rig changing immediately become obvious from a fairness perspective.

It follows that from a TopYacht perspective, the set-up of the series will be radically different.

Scenario One

All the Lasers will be allocated into the one division (number), and yardsticks will be applied on a per boat basis. If a competitor changes rigs, the TopYacht operator must change the *class* from full rig to radial (or whatever is applicable) possibly on a race-by-race basis using TopYacht Step 6, choosing the “for this race only” option.. This will invoke the correct yardstick value in corrected time calculations, and produce a legitimate result.

Scenario Two

The boats are divided up according to the rig size, and scores allocated accordingly. It makes little sense for a competitor to change rigs and legitimately sail in two (separate) series. Technically, the competitor will receive a DNC score for the race in the full rig series, when sailing with a radial rig. Equally, he will receive a DNC score in the radial series when sailing with a full rig.

The end result is that even though the competitor may be a top performer, he has little chance of winning either series because of the number of DNC scores scattered throughout both.

The ONLY way TopYacht can handle this situation is the competitor insists, is to create two (separate) entries, with two different sail numbers. The race officer would need to know up-

front which rig the competitor is using on race day, and remember to substitute the correct sail in the calling of the finish.

This gets difficult in the heat of battle, especially if the full rig and radial sails have the same sail number.

It is **not** possible in TopYacht to change the class using step 6 as per Scenario 1) and achieve any meaningful outcome. Further, such actions will mess up the TopYacht database, and cause unpredictable outcomes.

The minimum is for hash characters (#) to be printed on the series score display beside the offending boat.

These hash characters indicate an error, and should be addressed as soon as they appear.

TES Users

If a club does a 6a for each race day

AND

the competitor has created TWO DIFFERENT boats WITH DIFFERENT Sail Numbers, the competitor can swap the entry in TES to the class they intend to sail on week by week basis. I.e. they do an "Update Entry" before each week's racing.

However

If the entrant sails a Laser where the full ring and radial rig having the **same** sail number, the RO needs to be aware of the actual class for this race. This is a pain for the RO.

It is far better for the club to insist entrants add an R after the Radial sail number for this form of swapping between races. Such requirements can be spelt out in the Notice of Race as a condition of entry.

Recommendation:

Convince the competitor not to change rigs.

Further Reading

[Series Scores with Hash \(#\) Characters](#)

Document Revision

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