

## **UNDERSTANDING LAKE MICHIGAN PHRF HANDICAPS**

Lake Michigan Performance Handicap Racing Fleet (LMPHRF) Certificates of Handicaps display four different handicaps: BHCP, HCP, NSHCP and DHCP.

The Base Handicap (BHCP) is an estimate of the speed potential of a production or standard sailboat equipped for racing in a wind range of 8-12 knots. The BHCP is determined for a boat in "as-built" or designed configuration. Unless specified otherwise by design, it is assumed that the boat is equipped with a genoa with an overlap (LP) of 155% of J, a symmetrical spinnaker with a maximum width (SMW) equal to 1.8 times the spinnaker pole length (SPL) and a luff length (SL) equal to 0.95 times the square root of the sum of the spinnaker hoist (ISP) squared plus the SPL squared where SPL is equal to J and ISP is equal to I, and either a folding or feathering propeller on an exposed shaft or sail drive strut, a two bladed solid propeller in an aperture, or a lifting outboard motor. The standard boat definition for boats designed with bow sprits or prods is defined by the manufacturer or class rules and may differ from the above.

The Handicap (HCP) is used for scoring a race. It is unique for each boat and reflects modifications made to hull, rig and sail plan. Removing tables, doors, or stoves are considered interior modifications and are subject to adjustments. It is assumed that modifications to a production sailboat are made so that it sails faster through the racecourse. The HCP is therefore adjusted to reflect the increased speed potential of the modified boat when compared to the standard version.

The Non-Spinnaker Handicap (NSHCP) is an auxiliary handicap. This handicap reflects the change in relative speed potential of a boat that races without deploying a spinnaker. The handicap is commonly referred to as the Jib and Main (JAM) handicap. The NSHCP should only be used when racing boats racing without spinnakers; it is not developed for use in racing against boats deploying spinnakers.

The Distance Handicap (DHCP) is an auxiliary handicap. This handicap reflects the speed potential of a boat when racing where the course exceeds 25 nautical miles. The handicap may be appropriate for random leg courses less than 25 nautical miles. DHCP values are always equal to or less than the HCP.