



The Classic Yacht Association
of New Zealand

Alpha – Numeric Sail Number Policy

1. Background

In 1922 the Auckland Provincial Yacht & Motor Boat Association issued permanent sail numbers to yachts competing in racing in Auckland province. These were issued using an alpha numeric system. Auckland was followed much later by other provincial yachting authorities who applied differing criteria and classifications for the letters used. Many well known historical yachts have since become closely identified with their issued alpha numeric sail number to the extent that a yacht's sail number has become an integral part of the yacht and history.

The Yachting Federation of New Zealand (as Yachting New Zealand was then called) adopted in 1970 a national yacht registration system. The regionally based alpha numeric sail number systems were abandoned, although some yachts elected to continue with their existing sail number despite lack of official recognition of such numbers.

2. Purpose and Intent

This policy is intended to encourage the continued use by New Zealand's historical yachts of their past alpha numeric sail numbers with which the yacht was historically associated, widely recognised under, recorded using in photographs and film, without disturbing any existing rights that may have arisen.

It is the purpose of this policy to issue alpha numeric sail numbers to yachts that would qualify for such a sail number and to, as far as possible, issue a sail number on a supporting historical basis without disturbing the rights of other yachts in the respective port.

Yachting New Zealand has agreed to recognise alpha numeric sail numbers issued by the CYA, and CYA will always recognise any sail number issued by Yachting New Zealand and will not issue a sail number in conflict with those issued by Yachting New Zealand. Yachting New Zealand issues numeric sail numbers prefixed with the letter "K" for keel yachts, although owners invariably drop the letter "K" from their sails.

3. CYA Register

The CYA shall maintain a register of members' yachts' sail numbers. The sail number registered will be the number allocated to that yacht by Yachting New Zealand, unless an alpha numeric sail number has been issued by the CYA under this policy.

The register will be publicly displayed on the CYA website.

4. Sail Number Subcommittee

The CYA shall establish, appoint, and maintain a Sail Number Subcommittee of not less than 3 members having a sound historical knowledge of New Zealand yachting history to administer this policy. No member of such Subcommittee shall adjudicate on any issue in which they have a direct interest.

5. Port Based Registration

Applications and registrations shall always be on a home port basis. Ports are yachting centres in which a recognized yachting authority issued local sail numbers prior to 1970 and they are:

Auckland
Wellington
Lyttelton
Nelson
Otago

6. Alpha Numeric Sail Number Applications

Any member of the CYA whose yacht was in existence prior to 1970, may apply to the CYA on such form as may be required by the CYA from time to time, to have their yacht registered with the alpha numeric sail in respect to that yacht's current home port.

The CYA shall following a request from an owner of a vessel qualified to apply for an alpha numeric sail number, refer the application to the Subcommittee who may issue that yacht with an alpha numeric sail number subject to the terms of this policy as follows:

- (a) The Subcommittee may take into account, the alpha numeric sail number(s) issued in the past to the yacht, in particular the position as at 1 January 1970, and alpha numeric sail numbers issued to other yachts.

(b) Alpha numeric sail numbers will not be issued to non-members or non current members of the CYA.

(c) Alpha numeric sail numbers will not be issued in respect of a vessel that was not constructed and launched prior to 1 January 1970.

(d) The Subcommittee may at its discretion issue to a vessel constructed prior to 1 January 1970, a new alpha numeric sail number not previously issued, consistent with the criteria and classifications of the respective home port.

(e) Alpha numeric sail numbers shall be issued on the condition that entitlement to use the issued number may be lost if the yacht changes its permanent home port.

(g) The owner shall be solely responsible for any costs of changing a sail number of a vessel.

(h) The subcommittee may recognise and take into account when making determinations any written agreements made between owners (including former owners) of yachts as to sail numbers.

7. Not to issue same sail number for the same port

The CYA shall not register any two yachts with the same sail number in respect of the same port.

For the purposes of this policy the geographical coverage of a “Port” shall be defined as they were by The New Zealand Yachting Federation in 1970, with such changes as the CYA may make from time to time.

8. Home Port Changes

To avoid duplication of sail numbers within a port, any change in the home port of a yacht which carries an alpha numeric sail number may require a change of sail number to avoid duplication. Such yacht shall either seek a new sail number from Yachting New Zealand or a new alpha numeric sail number from the CYA for the new port. The owner shall immediately change the sail number on its sails. The register maintained by the CYA shall be amended to record the new sail number. Notice from an owner of a new home port, or presence of a yacht afloat in a port for more than one calendar year shall constitute a new permanent home port for that yacht.

9. No Legal Right or Title Granted

Registration by the CYA confers no legal rights in or entitlements to any sail number. No exclusive rights are guaranteed or assured by the CYA in relation to any sail number of any vessel. The CYA may alter any registration as it deems reasonable and appropriate in accordance with the purpose and intent of the policy.

In the event of any dispute, the owners of the yachts in question shall immediately, if ordered by the CYA, register their yachts with Yachting New Zealand and the sail number issued by Yachting New Zealand shall prevail and the sail number register of the CYA shall be amended accordingly.

Nothing in this policy restricts Yachting New Zealand from issuing any form of sail number or other identification device and the CYA will recognise any sail number or device issued.

10. Voluntary

Nothing in this document shall require an owner of a vessel who is a member of the CYA to seek an alpha numeric sail number for that vessel, nor shall such an owner's failure to apply be grounds for a third party CYA member to be issued an alpha numeric sail number.

11. Amendments

The CYA may from time to time by majority vote of its Executive amend the terms of this policy with the approval of Yachting New Zealand.