



NOTICE OF RACE
2015 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship
for the Allegra Knapp Mertz Trophy
and the Mrs. C.F. Adams Memorial Trophy
August 14-16, 2015
Organizing Authority: US Sailing
Sponsored by Gill North America
Event Host: Newport Harbor Yacht Club
Request for invitation deadline: March 30, 2015
Posted March 12, 2015

1 ORGANIZING AUTHORITY

The Organizing Authority (OA) will be US Sailing. The U.S. Match Racing Championships Committee of US Sailing and Newport Harbor Yacht Club will administer the event.

2 VENUE

The venue will be in the Pacific Ocean offshore of the Balboa Peninsula in Orange County, CA.

3 EVENT GRADING

The event is an ISAF Grade 3 event. This grading is subject to review by the ISAF. The event may be re-graded when there is clear reason to do so.

4 PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

4.1 Schedule

- a) Race office opens Thursday, August 13, 2015, at 0830.
- b) Registration will be from 1100 to 1700 on Thursday, August 13, or from 0830 to 0915 on Friday, August 14, 2015.
- c) Weigh-in will be held during registration times.
- d) Practice and clinic will be from 1200 to 1700 on Thursday, August 13, 2015.
- e) First skippers' briefing will be held at 0930 on August 14, 2015.
- f) First meeting with umpires will immediately follow the first skippers' briefing.
- g) Racing days are August 14, 2015 through August 16, 2015.
- h) Daily briefings will be at 0930.
- i) The intended time of the first attention signal each day will be 1200.
- j) The latest time for an attention signal on August 16, 2015, is approximately 1600.
- k) Prize giving will occur as soon as possible after racing on August 16, 2015.

4.2 Unless excused by the OA, attendance at the following is mandatory:

- a) Initial briefing for skippers
- b) Daily briefing for skippers
- c) Prize giving

5 SKIPPERS ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 Only skippers invited by the OA will be eligible to enter this event. Invitations will be issued in accordance with the USWMRC Conditions.
- 5.2 A maximum of eight (8) entries will be invited to this event. Automatic Invitations will be issued to:
 - a) The 2014 U.S. Women's Match Racing champion.



- b) The highest placing eligible female skipper at the following qualifiers. Invitations to the qualifiers will be issued in accordance with the Notice of 2015 Qualifying Series. If the highest placing eligible female skipper at a qualifier declines the invitation, the next highest placing eligible female skipper will automatically receive the invitation, and so forth until the spot is filled. If a qualifier has no eligible female skippers, the Invitation Committee of the USMRCC will extend an invitation to fill the spot at the Finals.
 - 1) Qualifier at Oakcliff Sailing for USMRC & USWMRC (April 10-12, 2015)
 - 2) Mayor's Cup at Long Beach Yacht Club (April 18-19, 2015)
 - 3) May Qualifier at St. Francis Yacht Club for USMRC & USWMRC (May 23-24, 2015)
 - 4) Chicago Match Race Center Spring Invitational (May 30-31, 2015)
 - 5) Qualifier at San Diego Yacht Club for USMRC & USWMRC (June 13-14, 2015)
 - 6) Qualifier at Annapolis Yacht Club for USMRC & USWMRC (June 20-21, 2015)
 - c) The Invitation Committee of the USMRCC will extend one invitation before May 30th. This single invitation is intended for a team that cannot attend a qualifier. Request for Invitations must be submitted online on the event website.
 - d) In the event the USWMRC is not fully subscribed due to late cancellations or other unforeseen circumstances, and all skippers on the wait list have been offered the opportunity to sail, the USMRCC Invitation Committee shall reopen the RFI application period and convene to select additional teams to fill the event.
- 5.3 The registered skipper shall helm the boat at all times while racing, except in an emergency.
- 5.4 At the time of application and during competition all competitors shall:
- a) meet the eligibility requirements of ISAF regulation 19.2.
 - b) obtain an ISAF Sailor ID by registering online at <http://www.sailing.org/isafsailor>.
 - c) be a member of US Sailing if they are US Citizens, or members of their ISAF recognized national authority for sailing if they are international competitors.

6 ENTRIES

- 6.1 There is a non-refundable \$50 application fee due at the time the skipper submits a request for an invitation to a qualifier as set forth in the Notice of 2015 Qualifying Series or submits a request for an invitation to the Championship Finals directly.
- a) Requests for invitation for the Qualifying Series can be located on the event website at <http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/adult/womensmatchracing/>
 - b) Requests for invitation for the Championship Finals should be submitted here: <http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/adult/womensmatchracing/>
- 6.2 Once invited to the Championship Finals, skippers shall accept the invitation by posting a non-refundable \$250.00 entry deposit (bond) online by the date specified on the letter of invitation.
- a) Skippers shall complete online registration, enter crew names and pay the remaining entry fee by August 1, 2015. The entry fee is \$850 (including the non-refundable entry deposit/bond) and must be paid online through the event website: <http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/adult/womensmatchracing/>
 - b) When a skipper accepts an invitation but later withdraws within 2 months of the event or leaves the event before the end without written approval from the OA, a zero score may be applied to the Ranking points for that event by the ISAF. (ISAF Regulation 27.2)
- 6.3 Damage Deposit
- a) An Initial Damage Deposit of \$1,000.00 US shall be paid at registration. This deposit is the maximum payable by the skipper as a result of any one incident.
 - b) If a deduction from the damage deposit is decided by the OA, the OA may require that the deposit be restored to its original amount before the skipper will be permitted to continue in the event.

- c) Any remaining deposit after the event will be refunded within 10 days after the event.
- 6.4 The entire Entry Fee and Damage Deposit must be paid before a team can sail in the clinic or practice session.

7 RULES

- 7.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in the RRS, including Appendix C, all US Sailing Prescriptions and the USWMRC Conditions, available online at the US Sailing Championship website: <http://championships.ussailing.org/Adult/USWMRC.htm>
- 7.2 The rules for the handling of boats will apply, and will also apply to any practice sailing and the clinic. Class rules will not apply.
- 7.3 Major Alterations to the RRS
 - a) RRS 63.7 is replaced by: "If there is a conflict between the USWMRC Conditions and this Notice of Race, the Notice of Race shall govern. If there is a conflict between the USWMRC Conditions or the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions, the Sailing Instructions shall govern."
 - b) RRS 40 and the preamble to Part 4 of the RRS are modified in accordance with US Sailing Regulation 10.
 - c) Add to RRS: 41 (e) help to recover from the water and return on board a crew member, provided the return on board is at the approximate location of the recovery.
 - d) RRS C8.6 and C6.3 will be changed in the Sailing Instructions.
 - e) RRS 31 will be changed in the Sailing Instructions.

8 BOATS AND SAILS

- 8.1 The event will be sailed in Governor's Cup 21-type sailboats provided by Newport Harbor Yacht Club.
- 8.2 Up to eight (8) boats will be provided.
- 8.3 The following sails will be provided for each boat: Mainsail, Jib, and Spinnaker.
- 8.4 Boats will be allocated by draw per the USWMRC Championship Conditions, either daily or for each round as decided by the Race Committee.

9 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

- 9.1 The number of crew (including the skipper) shall be three or four. All registered crew shall sail all races.
- 9.2 All crew must be female.
- 9.3 The total weight of the crew, including skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed 272 kg, determined at the time of registration or such time as required by the RC.
- 9.4 When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorize an original crew member to substitute.
- 9.5 When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorize a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment.

10 EVENT FORMAT

- 10.1 The event format will be published in the Sailing Instructions and will include:
 - Stage 1 - Qualifying Round Robin(s)
 - Stage 2 - Semi Final knockout series
 - Stage 3 - Petit Final for places 3 and 4
 - Stage 4 - Final knockout series for places 1 and 2
- 10.2 The OA may change the format, or terminate or eliminate any round, when conditions are not expected to permit the completion of the intended format.

11 COURSE

- 11.1 The intended course will be a windward/leeward course with starboard roundings, finishing downwind.
- 11.2 Leeward gates may be used.
- 11.3 The intended course area will be in the Pacific Ocean offshore of the Balboa Peninsula in Newport Beach, California.

12 ADVERTISING

- 12.1 As boats and equipment will be supplied by the OA, ISAF regulation 20.4 applies. Each boat will be required to display advertising supplied by the OA.
- 12.2 Boats shall not be permitted the right to protest for breaches of any rules regarding advertising (amends RRS 60.1).

13 PRIZES

- 13.1 Only a US citizen or resident alien may be declared US National Champion.
- 13.2 Perpetual Trophies will be awarded for first and second place as follows: The Allegra Knapp Mertz Trophy, emblematic of the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship; and the Mrs. Charles Francis Adams Memorial Trophy, emblematic of the Runner-up position. Winners of a US Sailing perpetual trophy shall receive a framed photograph of the trophy, with a similar framed copy to go to the winner's club.
- 13.3 US Sailing Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded to the skippers and crews placing first through third, respectively.
- 13.4 The highest placing eligible skipper will be awarded automatic invitations to:
 - a) the 2015 Buddy Melges Challenge September 17-20, 2015 at Sail Sheboygan.
 - b) the US Match Racing Championship October 10-12, 2015 at Oakcliff Sailing.

Acceptance of these invitations must be made by August 31, 2015.

- 13.5 The skipper who accepts the invitation to the Buddy Melges and US Match Racing Championships will receive a travel grant to offset travel costs to the championships. The amount will be announced in the Sailing Instructions.

14 MEDIA, IMAGES AND SOUND

- 14.1 If required by the OA:
 - (a) Television personnel and equipment (or dummies) supplied by the OA shall be carried on board while racing.
 - (b) Competitors shall wear microphones supplied by the OA during racing and be available for interviews when advised by the OA or RC.
 - (c) Registered skippers shall wear communications equipment supplied by the OA that will allow commentators to communicate with them whilst racing.
- 14.2 Competitors shall not interfere with the normal working of the OA supplied media equipment.
- 14.3 The OA shall have the right to use any images and sound recorded during the event free of any charge.

15 COACH BOATS

This event is designated as a US Sailing Grade 1 Coached event. Information about coaching level certification requirements, registration, and coach boats is available online at:

<http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/coaching-and-support-boat-policy/>

- (a) Coach boats shall conspicuously display identification of the team being coached. A coach boat is any boat that is under the direction or control of a person gathering information or giving material support for the benefit of particular competitors either on the water or off.



- (b) The organizers will not provide berths for coach boats.
- (c) Any interference by a coach boat with the racing or event organization may result in a penalty applied at the discretion of the protest committee to the appropriate skipper or team.

16 HOUSING AND TRAVEL

- 16.1 Housing will be available for all competitors. Requests to be housed must be made at the time of registration and no later than August 1, 2015.
- 16.2 A list of local accommodations can be found at www.nhyc.org. US Sailing members receive a discount through the Hilton Honors Portfolio. <http://www.ussailing.org/membership/benefits/>
- 16.3 US Sailing members will receive a discount through United Airlines for travel to this event. This fare must be booked directly through US Sailing's website at <http://www.ussailing.org/membership/benefits/>

17 DISCLAIMER

All those taking part in the event do so at their own risk. The OA, their sponsors, their agents, employees, representatives, trustees, members, race committee, and officials accept no responsibility for any loss, damage, injury or inconvenience incurred, how so ever caused.

18 CONTACT

U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship Representative: Karen Butler, karenbutler@san.rr.com

Newport Harbor Yacht Club Event Chair: Jenn Lancaster, jenn.lancaster@nhycstaff.org

Regatta website: <http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/adult/womensmatchracing/>

US Sailing Championships Director: Liz Walker, LizWalker@ussailing.org