



**U.S. WOMEN'S  
MATCH RACING  
CHAMPIONSHIP**

2016 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship  
For the Allegra Knapp Mertz Trophy and the Mrs. C.F. Adams  
Memorial Trophy

September 9-11, 2016

Organizing Authority: US Sailing  
Sponsored by Gill North America  
Event Host: Annapolis Yacht Club

**NOTICE OF RACE**

Posted March 30, 2016



**1 ORGANIZING AUTHORITY**

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

**2 VENUE**

The venue will be Annapolis, Maryland, USA.

**3 EVENT GRADING**

The event has applied for a World Sailing Grade 3.

This grading is subject to review by World Sailing. The event may be re-graded when there is clear reason to do so.

**4 PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME**

**4.1 Schedule**

- (a) Race office open from 0900 to 1800 on September 8, 2016.
- (b) Registration from 0900 to 1800 on September 8, 2016 and 0800 to 0900 on September 9, 2016.
- (c) Crew weighing from 0900 to 1800 on September 8, 2016 and 0800 to 0900 on September 9, 2016.
- (d) Practice from 1100 to 1600 on September 8, 2016. Teams may practice only after they have completed registration and provided the damage deposit.
- (e) First briefing at 0900 on September 9, 2016.
- (f) Daily competitors' briefing will be at 0900 on subsequent days.
- (g) First meeting with umpires will immediately follow the first briefing.
- (h) Racing days from September 9, 2016 to September 11, 2016
- (i) The scheduled time for the first attention on September 9, 2016, will be 1015.
- (j) The scheduled time for the first attention signal on the succeeding race days will be 1000.
- (k) The latest time for an attention signal on the last day of racing will be approximately 1500.
- (l) The debrief on September 9, 2016 will be as soon as practicable after the last race of the day at the AYC Annex (Junior Building).
- (m) The debrief on September 10, 2016 will be at approximately 1830 at the AYC (Dock Street) Club House prior to regatta dinner.
- (n) There will be no debrief on September 11, 2016.
- (o) Prize giving will be on September 11, 2016, approximately one hour after the last boat docks after racing is finished.

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

- (a) First briefing for skippers.
- (b) Daily briefing, for skippers.
- (c) Daily debriefing for skippers.
- (d) Regatta dinner, for skippers and crews.
- (e) Prize giving for the Finals skippers and crews.



## 5 SKIPPERS ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 At the time of registration and during the event, all competitors shall be members of US Sailing if they are US Citizens. International competitors must be members of US Sailing or be members of their World Sailing recognized MNA.
- 5.2 Only skippers invited by the OA will be eligible to enter this event. Invitations will be issued pursuant to the USWMRC Conditions. A maximum of ten (10) skippers will be invited to this event. Automatic Invitations will be issued to:
- (a) The 2015 U.S. Women's Match Racing Champion.
  - (b) The highest placing eligible female skipper (per the current US Sailing Women's Match Racing Championship Conditions) not already qualified at each of the below listed qualifiers.
    - (1) Qualifier at Fort Worth Boat Club for USMRC & USWMRC (March 19-20, 2016)
    - (2) Qualifier at Oakcliff Sailing for USMRC & USWMRC (April 16-17, 2016)
    - (3) Qualifier at St. Francis Yacht Club for USMRC & USWMRC (May 21-22, 2016)
    - (4) Qualifier at Annapolis Yacht Club for USMRC & USWMRC (May 21-22, 2016)
    - (5) Qualifier at Bayview Yacht Club for USMRC & USWMRC (May 21-22, 2016)
    - (6) Qualifier at San Diego Yacht Club for USMRC & USWMRC (June 11-12, 2016)
    - (7) Qualifier at Rochester Yacht Club for USMRC & USWMRC (June 11-12, 2016)
    - (8) Qualifier at Chicago Match Race Center/CYC for USMRC & USWMRC (June 25-26, 2016)
- 5.3 Invitations to the qualifiers will be issued in accordance with the Notice of 2016 Qualifying Series and the current USWMRC Conditions.
- 5.4 To remain eligible, a skipper shall confirm acceptance of the invitation in writing and by paying a **non-refundable entry bond of \$325.00 USD** in the manner set forth in the invitation no later than 14 calendar days after issuance of the invitation unless otherwise specified in the invitation.
- 5.5 Should there be any open slots to the USWMRC not filled through the process set forth in NOR 5.2 thru 5.4 above, the Invitation Committee of the USMRC will fill such open slots as they become available via invitation pursuant to paragraph 6 "Invitations to the Championship Finals" of the current USWMRC Conditions. Requests for such invitations may be submitted online on the event website.
- 5.6 The registered skipper shall helm the boat at all times while racing, except in an emergency.
- 5.7 All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of World Sailing Regulation 19.2.
- 5.8 All competitors shall obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID by registering online at [www.sailing.org/isafsailor](http://www.sailing.org/isafsailor).
- 5.9 Skippers shall inform the OA of their World Sailing Sailor ID at registration.

## 6 ENTRIES

### 6.1 Entering

The skipper shall be entered on completion of registration, crew weighing and the payment of all fees and deposits. All payments except the damage deposit shall be made through the event website:

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

The damage deposit shall be paid to the host club at registration.

### 6.2 Entry Fee

The total entry fee is **\$650.00 USD** per skipper (including the \$325.00 entry bond). The remaining \$325.00 is due by August 25, 2016, or the bond is forfeited and the OA may invite another skipper.

### 6.3 Withdrawal

When a skipper accepts an invitation and later withdraws within two months of the event or leaves the event before the end without written approval from the OA, a zero score may be applied to their Ranking points for that event by the World Sailing. (World Sailing Regulation 27.2)

### 6.4 Damage deposit

- (a) An initial damage deposit of **\$1,500.00 USD** shall be paid at registration, unless extended by the OA. 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, it 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 30 days after the event.
- 6.5 The entire Entry Fee and Damage Deposit must be paid before a team can sail in the practice session.

## **7 RULES**

- 7.1 (a) The event will be governed by the rules as defined in the RRS, including Appendix C, and
- (1) The US Sailing Regulations which govern all US Sailing Championships and Qualifying Events. In particular, Regulations 2, 4.02, 10, 13, and 14.04 apply, although other Regulations may be applicable as well. The US Sailing Regulations can be found at:  
<http://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/DARoot/Bylaws/RegsAmended2015-06-22.pdf>
  - (2) US Sailing's current "Championship Conditions" will apply to all the events in the series, and can be found at:  
<http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/championship-conditions/>
  - (3) The current U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship Conditions which can be found at:  
<http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/adult/womensmatchracing/>
- (b) The rules for the handling of boats will apply, and will also apply to any practice sailing or sponsor races. Class rules will not apply.
  - (c) The US Sailing prescriptions will apply except for the prescriptions to rules 60, 63.2 and 63.4.
  - (d) Conflicts between the Conditions for this regatta and this Notice of Race (NOR) will be resolved in favor of the Conditions. If there is a conflict between the NOR and the Sailing Instructions (SIs), it will be resolved in favor of the Sis. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 7.2 Major Alterations to the RRS  
Under RRS 86.3, this event will test a package of test rules proposed for match racing. See detailed wording for these rule changes in Addendum A to this Notice of Race.
- (a) RRS 40 and the preamble to Part 4 will be modified in accordance with US Sailing Regulation 10.04(A)(1), so that each competitor shall be required to wear a USCG approved PFD at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while adding or removing clothing.
  - (b) 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.
  - (c) RRS C3.1, C6.3, C7.4, C8.6, 28.1, 31, 60.1(b), 62.1(a), 63.1, and A5 will be changed in the sailing instructions for each event.

**Note** that WORLD SAILING has approved a change to Appendix C from January 1, 2015, as follows: Delete current rule C2.9 and replace with: **C2.9** Rule 22.3 is deleted.

## **8 BOATS AND SAILS**

- 8.1 The event will be sailed in J/22 type boats.
- 8.2 Ten (10) boats will be provided, plus one (1) spare.
- 8.3 The following sails will be provided for each boat: Mainsail, Jib, and Spinnaker.
- 8.4 Boats will be allocated by draw, 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 (3), four (4), or five (5). All registered crew shall sail all races.
- 9.2 All crew must be female.
- 9.3 **Crew Weighing:** The maximum total weight of the crew, including the skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed 272 kg (599 lbs) determined at the time of registration. No further weigh-in is required except in the event of substitution of crew.
- 9.4 When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event the OA (USMRCC representative responsible for the event) may authorize an original crew member to substitute.

- 9.5 When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event the OA (USMRCC representative responsible for the event) may authorize a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment. The substituted sailor must be eligible to compete and must be of a very close approximate weight to the substituted sailor.

## **10 EVENT FORMAT**

- 10.1 The event will consist of the following stages:  
Stage 1 - Preliminary round robin racing  
Stage 2 - Quarter Finals  
Stage 3 – Semi Final/Final Knock-out Series
- 10.2 The OA may change the format, terminate any stage or the event when, in its opinion, it is impractical to attempt to hold the remainder of matches under the existing conditions or in the remaining time scheduled. Early stages may be terminated in favor of later stages.

## **11 COURSE**

- 11.1 The course will be windward/leeward with starboard roundings, finishing downwind.  
11.2 A leeward gate may be used.  
11.3 The intended course area is near the mouth of the Severn River on Chesapeake Bay.

## **12 ADVERTISING**

- 12.1 As boats and equipment will be supplied by the Organizing Authority, World Sailing Regulation 20.4 applies. Each boat may be required to display advertising as supplied by the OA.  
12.2 Competitors may be permitted to display advertising ashore at the venue, but this is subject to individual negotiation with the OA.  
12.3 Boats shall not be permitted the right to protest for breaches of any rules regarding advertising (this changes RRS 60.1).

## **13 PRIZES**

- 13.1 Only a team that consists of 100% U.S. citizens or resident aliens throughout the Championship Finals may be declared U.S. 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 or association.  
13.3 US Sailing Gold, Silver and Bronze medals will be awarded to the skippers and crews placing first through fourth, respectively.  
13.4 The highest placing eligible skipper will be awarded an invitation to the 2017 Buddy Melges Challenge at Sail Sheboygan. Acceptance of this invitation must be made within the time parameters set forth in the invitation.  
13.5 The OA may reduce a prize in the case of misconduct or refusal to comply with any reasonable request, including attendance at official functions.

## **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 while racing.
- 14.2 Competitors shall not interfere with the normal working of the OA supplied media equipment.
- 14.3 The OA has 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 3 event for coaching purposes. No private/team coaching nor US Sailing-supplied coaches are permitted. 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. Private/team spectator boats are allowed only if permitted in the NOR. The OA may arrange for spectator boats. The US Sailing's Coaching and Support Boat Policy is available online at:

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

## **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, 2016.
- 16.2 A list of local accommodations can be found at [visitAnnapolis.org](http://visitAnnapolis.org)
- 16.3 US Sailing members receive a discount through the Hilton Honors Portfolio.  
<http://www.ussailing.org/membership/benefits/>
- 16.4 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 located at <http://www.ussailing.org/membership/benefits/>

## **17 OTHER REQUIREMENTS**

- 17.1 Regulation 10.04(A)(1): For US Sailing Adult qualifying and championship events in keelboats, each competitor shall wear a USCG approved PFD at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while adding or removing clothing.
- 17.2 Competitors will need to bring their own PFD's.

## **18 DISCLAIMER**

All those taking any part in the event do so at their own risk. The OA, its associates and appointees accept no responsibility for any loss, damage, injury or inconvenience incurred, howsoever caused.

## **19 DISCIPLINE**

PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES (US Sailing Regulation 10.03)

- A. For adult US Sailing championship events, no competitor shall use or possess, either on or off the water: marijuana or any other substance if possession is illegal under state or federal law.
- B. For Junior and Youth events or for junior or youth competitors in any US Sailing championship, no participant or competitor shall use or possess, either on or off the water:
  - 1. marijuana or any other substance if possession is illegal under state or federal law; or
  - 2. any alcoholic beverages.
- C. An alleged breach of one of these regulations shall not be grounds for a protest. This changes rules 60.1(a), 60.2(a), and 60.3(a). However, when the protest committee believes that a competitor may have breached one of these regulations, it shall follow the process described in the Championships Code of Conduct. If a competitor is found to have breached one of the elements within the Code of Conduct, he or she shall be excluded from the remaining races of the series and, where practicable, removed from the regatta venue and sent home. The competitor's boat shall be disqualified from all races of the series.



## 20 CONTACT

U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship Representative: Karen Butler, [karenbutler@san.rr.com](mailto:karenbutler@san.rr.com)  
Annapolis Yacht Club, Linda Ambrose, Regatta Manager, [lambrose@annapolisyc.org](mailto:lambrose@annapolisyc.org)  
Regatta website: <http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/adult/womensmatchracing/>  
US Sailing Championships Director: Liz Walker, [LizWalker@ussailing.org](mailto:LizWalker@ussailing.org)

## ADDENDUM A - 2016 World Sailing Match Racing Test Rules

The rules below in red represent changes to the 2015 test rules.

### A. Add new RRS 7 to Part 1:

#### 7 LAST POINT OF CERTAINTY

The umpires will assume that the state of a boat, or her relationship to another boat, has not changed, until they are certain that it has changed.

### B. Delete RRS 18, C2.6 and C2.7 and replace with:

#### 18 MARK ROOM

##### 18.1 When Rule 18 Applies

Rule 18 applies between boats when they are required to leave a *mark* on the same side and at least one of them is in the *zone*. However, it does not apply between a boat approaching a *mark* and one leaving it.

##### 18.2 Giving Mark-Room

(a) When the first boat reaches the *zone*,

(1) if boats are *overlapped*, the outside boat at that moment shall thereafter give the inside boat *mark-room*.

(2) if boats are not *overlapped*, the boat that has not reached the *zone* shall thereafter give *mark-room*.

(b) If the boat entitled to *mark-room* leaves the *zone*, the entitlement to *mark-room* ceases and rule 18.2(a) is applied again if required based on the relationship of the boats considered at the time rule 18.2(a) is re-applied.

(c) If a boat obtained an inside *overlap* and, from the time the *overlap* began, the outside boat is unable to give *mark-room*, she is not required to give it.

##### 18.3 Tacking or Gybing

When an inside *overlapped* right-of-way boat must *change tack* at a *mark* to sail her *proper course*, until she *changes tack* she shall sail no farther from the *mark* than needed to sail that course. Rule 18.3 does not apply at a gate *mark* or a finishing *mark* and a boat shall not be penalized for breaking this rule unless the course of another boat was affected by the breach of this rule.

### C. Change definition of Mark-Room to:

**Mark-Room** Room for a boat to sail her *proper course* to round or pass the *mark* on the required side. If *room* includes a change of *tack*, such *tack* or *gybe* shall be done no quicker than a *tack* or *gybe* to sail her *proper course*.

### D. Add the following new rule:

C2.14 Rule 17 is deleted.