

## Conditions for the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship

### 1. ORGANIZING AUTHORITY

1.1 US Sailing is the Organizing Authority (OA) for all levels of the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship (hereafter referred to as the USWMRC or Championship). This includes the Qualifier events and the Championship Finals.

1.2 The U.S. Match Racing Championships Committee (hereafter referred to as the USMRCC) is delegated the responsibility and authority to organize all levels of the Championship.

1.3 The USMRCC Invitation Committee shall be appointed by the USMRCC Chair to fill all slots of the Championship.

### 2. CHAMPIONSHIP DOCUMENTS

2.1 The Championship is governed by the US Sailing Championship Conditions: [Championship Conditions](#)

2.2 The US Sailing Championship Conditions are amended by these Conditions for the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship (hereafter referred to as the USWMRC Conditions). The USWMRC Conditions shall apply at all levels of the Championship.

2.3 There shall be no departure from the USWMRC Conditions without the approval of the USMRCC Chair.

2.4 A Notice of Race and Sailing Instructions based on the current World Sailing templates shall be used at all levels of the Championship.

2.5 The Conditions, Notice of Race, and Entry procedure for the Championship will be posted on the US Sailing web page for this Championship:

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/championships/u-s-womens-match-racing-championship/>

### 3. US SAILING REGULATIONS

3.1 The US Sailing Regulations must be followed at all levels of the Championship. Regulations 2, 4.02, 10, 13 and 14 as amended 6/22/15 are specific to the Championship. US Sailing Regulations

4. ELIGIBILITY There is no citizenship requirement for this event (see US Sailing Regulation 10.02(A)).

### 5. QUALIFYING EVENTS

5.1 A Notice of Series will be issued for the Qualifying events on or before February 1.

5.2 To be a Qualifying event, an event shall a. have a minimum of six (6) entrants, and b. comply with the Race Management Standards.

5.3 The entry criteria for the Qualifying events will be indicated in the Notice of Series.

### 6. INVITATIONS TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

6.1 Participation in the Championship Finals is only by invitation issued by the USMRCC Invitation Committee as follows: a. Past year's Winner: The winning skipper from the previous year's Championship Finals will receive an automatic invitation to the Championship Finals. b. Qualifying Events: The top placing skipper not already qualified for the Championship will be invited to the Championship Finals. c. Committee Choice: The USMRCC Invitation Committee will create an ordered list of skippers to fill any open slot in the Championship Finals. Skippers included on that list will be selected, and placed in an order, in the sole discretion of the Invitation Committee, based upon criteria of its

choice (including, but not limited to, match racing experience, placement in a Qualifying event or other event, ranking, or sailing experience). Invitations will be issued to skippers on this list in order as needed to fill open spots Conditions for the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship in the Championship Finals. Skippers wishing to be included on this list may submit their name and any requested information to [usmatchracechamps@gmail.com](mailto:usmatchracechamps@gmail.com) for consideration by the USMRCC Invitation Committee.

6.2 Invited skippers shall confirm acceptance of their invitation within the time period stated in the invitation by complying with the instructions in the letter of invitation.

## 7. ALTERNATES AND SUBSTITUTES

When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event or a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event, substitutions will follow the procedure under the [Championship Conditions](#) (section 6).

## 8. INSURANCE, LIABILITY AND DAMAGE

8.1 Host clubs shall have insurance coverage for the events hosted to include insurance coverage for the club, for the boats used and for the race officials participating in the event. The USMRCC recommends the insurance programs available from Gowrie Barden & Brett. For more information:

[www.ussailing.org/membership/benefits/insurance/](http://www.ussailing.org/membership/benefits/insurance/)

8.2 Competitors (and their parents/guardians where minors are involved) are encouraged to consult their insurance advisors regarding personal liability coverage for themselves.

8.3 Damage, no matter how slight, or loss of any equipment must be reported to the host club at the completion of the race in which it occurs. Failure to do so may result in disqualification from the race or the event (at the discretion of the protest committee). Only the Race Committee or Umpires may protest for a failure to report damage or loss of equipment.

8.4 Responsibility for damage to boats or other property will be determined by the protest committee or umpires and all entrants will be bound by its decision.

8.5 Damage deposits from each entrant shall be required. Usually, an amount equal to the insurance deductible is used. That amount is to be noted in the Notice of Race as is the manner of payment: check, cash and/or credit card. Each skipper is responsible for the damage or loss to his/her boat unless responsibility is otherwise assigned by the umpires or PC. When damage occurs, the cost will be paid from the deposit of the entrant responsible for the damage and the entrant shall restore the damage deposit before being permitted to continue in the event. Damage not attributable to a single team will be deducted proportionally from all of the entrants' damage deposits before returning the balances. A detailed accounting of charges to an entrant's damage deposit will be supplied to each entrant that did not receive the full amount of its deposit back. Sailing Instructions will also mention damage deposit requirements.

8.6 US Sailing does not require the use of liability waiver forms and prescribes against the use of 'hold harmless' and 'indemnification' agreements (RRS 82). US Sailing strongly recommends that host clubs seek local legal advice on the question and carry adequate insurance coverage.

## 9. CONDUCT OF SERIES

9.1 Each event shall use one or more of the following systems:

- a. Round-Robins: In cases where complete round-robins cannot be completed, the series will be scored in accordance with RRS Appendix C.
- b. Knock-out Series: After a single or double round-robin, the OA may provide for a knock-out quarter finals and/or a semifinals and finals. For a quarter finals and semifinals, it is recommended that the winner of each pair be the first to win at least three points. For finals, it is recommended that the winner of each pair be the first to win at least three points. Conditions for the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship
- c. Groups: Competitors may be divided into groups. In such case, the OA representative responsible for the event will determine the number of rounds and the system to be used to complete the regatta within the time available for the event.

9.2 Should wind, weather or other conditions make it unlikely to complete the scheduled number of races within the time schedule, the event format may be terminated, shortened or altered in order to declare a Champion. The Organizing Authority in conjunction with the Race Committee shall determine actions and decisions to be taken regarding results when not resolved by RRS Appendix C.

9.3 Courses at all levels of the Championship will be windward / leeward courses with starboard roundings, unless impractical. Leeward gates are preferred. Two laps are preferred, but the course may be shortened as needed. Courses will be diagrammed in the Sailing Instructions.

9.4 The OA in conjunction with the RC shall have the right to abandon a race in progress when the conditions of the race are not considered by them to be suitable for the Championship Finals irrespective of World Sailing guidelines: minimum, average wind strength of four (4) knots is a guideline. This decision shall not be grounds for redress.

## 10. BOATS & EQUIPMENT

10.1 Boats used in Qualifying events should, when possible, be similar to those to be used in the Championship. However, it must be understood that the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship is a test of teamwork and tactical racing skills regardless of the type of boat sailed.

10.2 Unless the USMRCC representative responsible for an event otherwise prescribes, equalization of boats shall be carried out as follows:

- a. Host club will take all reasonable steps to equalize the boats to be used in the regatta.
- b. Competitors will draw boats for the boats to be sailed in the first race.

10.3 RRS 62 will be modified in the event documents to provide that variations between boats will not be grounds for redress.

10.4 The host club shall familiarize all competitors with the waters in which the races are to be held with emphasis on obstructions, if any, tidal conditions and probable location of marks.

10.5 The host club shall supply each entrant with a Code flag "Y", a red protest flag, a breakdown flag, a yellow flag and a blue flag.

## 11. ENTRY FORMS AND FEES

11.1 The entry fee for the Qualifying events will be indicated in the Notice of Series for the Qualifying events

11.2 Teams/skippers receiving invitations to participate in the Championship will be asked to complete entry forms online through the US Sailing Regatta Network web site.

11.3 The entry fee for the Championship will be stated in the Notice of Race and paid to US Sailing online through the Regatta Network web site. Additional fees may be assessed to cover the damage

deposit, insurance, meals and other expenses and may be required to be paid through the Regatta Network web site.

## 12. PRIZES

12.1 Prizes for Qualifying events may be selected by the host club and shall be stated in the respective NORs.

12.2 For the Championship Finals, US Sailing medals will be presented to the competitors placing first through third and a prize for fourth place may be given. Perpetual Trophies will be awarded to the first and second placing competitors: the Allegra Knapp Mertz Trophy, emblematic of winning the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship; and the Mrs. Charles Francis Adams Memorial Trophy, emblematic of the Runner-up position. Perpetual trophies are to be held at US Sailing. Conditions for the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship

12.3 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. 12.4 Only a team that is 100% US citizens or resident aliens throughout the Championship Finals may be declared U.S. National Champion. 12.5 A "US citizen" is a person who has, or is eligible to have, a US passport. A "resident alien" is a person who does not have a US passport but who has a Permanent Resident Card ("Green Card"). Date of Issue: March 11, 2016, USMRCC