



2023 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship

for the Allegra Knapp Mertz Trophy and the Mrs. C.F. Adams Memorial Trophy

August 18-20, 2023

U.S. Sailing – Organizing Authority
Annapolis Yacht Club – Host Club
2 Compromise St.
Annapolis, MD 21401, USA

NOTICE OF RACE

The following abbreviations apply to this Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions:

PC:	Protest Committee or International Jury	RC:	Race Committee
NoR:	Notice of Race	SI:	Sailing Instruction
OA:	Organizing Authority	TD:	Technical Delegate
RRS:	Racing Rules of Sailing	[NP]:	A boat may not protest as per NoR 1.4
WS:	World Sailing		

1 RULES

- 1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing*, including Appendix C.
- 1.2 The rules for the handling of boats and the equipment list, detailed as part of the Sailing Instructions, will apply, and will also apply to any practice sailing and sponsor races. Class rules will not apply.
- 1.3 The following US Sailing documents apply:
 - (a) [The US Sailing Regulations which govern all US Sailing Championships and Qualifying Events](#). Attention is drawn to regulations 2.02, 4.02, 10, 13, and 14.04, although other regulations may be applicable as well.
 - (b) US Sailing's current [Championship Conditions](#)
 - (c) US Sailing's [Championships Code of Conduct](#).

(d) [USWMRC Current Championship Conditions](#)

- 1.4 The notation '[NP]' in a rule of the Notice of Race or Sailing Instructions means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).
- 1.5 The US Sailing prescriptions to Rules 63.1 and 63.2 do not apply except as provided in **NoR 16**.
- 1.6 The event has applied for World Sailing (WS) 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.
- 1.7 **Regulation 10.04 A.1 and D:** Per U.S. Regulations **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." (This modifies RRS 40 and the preamble to Part 4.) In addition, per US Sailing Regulations **10.04 D** "A violation of this Instruction may be protested by race officials or a competitor; however, an inadvertent and momentary breach of this instruction may receive a penalty less than disqualification at the discretion of the protest committee. This changes **rule 64.1**"
- 1.8 **[NP]** Competitors and support persons shall comply with any reasonable request from an event official. Failure to comply may be misconduct. Reasonable actions by event officials to implement COVID-19 guidance, protocols or legislation even if they later prove to have been unnecessary, are not improper actions or omissions.
- 1.9 When a boat in a match fails to *sail the course*, she will be disqualified without a hearing and scored zero points unless both of the boats in the match have sailed the same course in which case the boats will be scored as if they had sailed the course. This changes RRS 28, 35, 63.1, 90.3(a), A5, and C10.7
- 1.10 Errors or omissions by the RC will NOT be grounds for redress by a competitor. In the event of an error or omission, the Match or Chief Umpire may notify the RC of the incident and request postponement or abandonment. This changes RRS 62.1 (a).
- 1.11 A Protest Committee (PC) shall be appointed by the OA.
- 1.12 Any amendments to the NOR shall be posted on the official notice board online at: <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=15660>

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available no later than 1200 on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 on the official notice board online at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=15660>

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board notice board online at <https://yachtscoring.com/emenu.cfm?eid=15660>

- 3.2 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flagpole at the AYC Clubhouse.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Up to Ten (10) skippers will be invited to the 2023 US Women's Match Racing Championship. Only skippers invited by the Invitation Committee of the U.S. Match Racing Championships Committee (USMRCC) will be eligible to enter this event. Invitations will be issued pursuant to the USWMRC Conditions.
- 4.2 Automatic Invitations will be issued to:
 - (a) The 2022 U.S. Women's Match Racing Champion.
 - (b) The highest placing eligible skipper (per the current US Women's Match Racing Championship Conditions) from each qualifier of the 2023 USWMRC Qualifier Series who is not already qualified for the 2023 USWMRC.
- 4.3 Open positions will be available by resume and will be filled by the Invitation Committee of the USWMRC in accordance with the USWMRC Conditions. To request an Invitation please fill out this form - [2023 USWMRC Request for an Invitation Form](#)

- 4.4 The Invitation Committee will issue invitations to the highest placing eligible skipper of each 2023 USWMRC qualifier per NoR 4.2(b) above subsequent to each qualifier, and will commence issuing invitations to fill any open positions to the 2023 USWMRC on **June 1, 2023**, and will continue to issue invitations until the event is fully subscribed.
- 4.5 Skippers wishing to compete in Qualifiers [please fill out this form.](#)
- 4.6 Only skippers invited by the OA, and who confirm acceptance of the invitation will be eligible to enter this event. To remain eligible an invited skipper shall confirm acceptance of the invitation in writing via e-mail to be received by the date and time specified in the invitation. A **non-refundable entry bond** in the amount of **\$450.00 USD** shall accompany the acceptance of the invitation for this to be valid. In addition, the skipper shall complete all other reasonable requests of the OA.
- 4.7 All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of World Sailing regulation 19.4
- 4.8 All competitors shall obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID by registering online at [World Sailing - Categorization](#) Skippers shall inform the OA of their World Sailing Sailor ID at registration.
- 4.9 The entry fee is **\$1,000.00 USD** payable to Annapolis Yacht Club, including the **\$450.00 USD** entry bond in **NOR 4.5**.
- 4.10 The skipper shall complete registration, pay any entry fees and arrange for the damage deposit of **\$1,500.00 USD** and shall ensure that all crew complete crew weighing between 1000 and 1800 on Thursday, August 17, 2023, or 0900 and 0930 on Friday, August 18, 2023 unless extended by the OA. All payments except the damage deposit shall be made through **Yacht Scoring**. The damage deposit shall be paid to the host club at event registration by credit card.
- 4.11 Final competitor list will be noted in **SI Addendum A**.
- 4.12 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 WS. (World Sailing Regulation 27.2.2(d)).

5 DAMAGE / DAMAGE DEPOSIT

- 5.1 Each skipper is responsible for the damage or loss to their boat unless responsibility is otherwise assigned by the umpires or PC. The damage deposit is the limit of liability of each skipper for each incident. If a deduction is made from the deposit, the skipper will be required to restore the deposit to the original value to continue in the event.
- 5.2 The remaining damage deposit will be refunded within **thirty (30) days** after the event.

6 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

- 6.1 The number of crew (including the skipper) shall be 3 or 4, or 5 females. All registered crew shall sail all races.
- 6.2 After the warning signal for a match, the registered skipper shall not leave the helm, except in an emergency.
- 6.3 When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorize an original crew member to substitute.
- 6.4 When a registered crew is unable to continue in the event, the OA may authorize a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment.
- 6.5 The total weight of the crew, including the skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed 272 kg (599.7 lbs), determined at the time of registration. No further weigh-in shall be required, except upon crew substitution.

7 EVENT FORMAT

- 7.1 The OA intends to provide ten (10) J/22 type boats for racing in the event. Each boat will have the following sails: Mainsail, jib and spinnaker. Boats will be allocated as decided by the OA or the race committee. The current intention of the OA and RC is to rotate boats daily; however, this may be changed by the OA or RC at the event. The OA or RC may also require boats to be exchanged in a knock-out stage.

- 7.2 The sails to be used will be allocated by the OA or RC. The OA or RC may require rotation of sails for any reason. Rotation of sails by the OA or RC shall NOT be grounds for redress by a competitor. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 7.3 While all reasonable steps are taken to equalize the boats. Variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.
- 7.4 The number of matches to be sailed each day will be determined by the RC and OA with the intention of the RC to start each subsequent flight as soon as practicable after the previous flight.
- 7.5 The course will be windward/leeward with starboard roundings, and finishing downwind.
- 7.6 The intended racing area will be near the mouth of the Severn River or the Chesapeake Bay.
- 7.7 Skippers will be seeded into a round robin based on World Sailing ranking list 30 days prior to the event.
 - (a) After the **First Stage** the following will apply:
 - (1) Skippers will be paired based on ranking in the First Stage with the highest ranked skipper paired with the lowest and the other skippers paired accordingly, unless the stage specifies a different arrangement.
 - (2) In reference to RRS C4.1, the highest ranked skipper from the first stage shall choose their end for the first match. Boats shall alternate every odd match, unless otherwise agreed by both skippers.
 - (3) Further matches in the series will not be sailed once the first skipper scores the points required for that stage.

EVENT FORMAT

The event will consist of the following stages:

Stage 1 – Single Round Robin

- (a) All skippers are scheduled to sail against all other skippers once.

Stage 2 – Quarter Final Knock-outs

- (a) Skippers placing 1 through 8 in the round robin will be paired 1 v 8, 2 v 7, etc. in accordance with a table to be distributed by the RC.
- (b) The first skippers to score at least **three (3) points** qualify for Stage 3

Stage 3 – Semi-Finals

- (a) Of the skippers qualified for this stage, the skipper with the highest place in Stage 1 will pick his/her opponent and will have the starboard entry for their first race. The remaining two skippers will race each other and the skipper with the highest place in Stage 1 will have the starboard entry for their first race.
- (b) The first skippers to score at least **three (3) points** will proceed to Stage 5
- (c) The other skippers will move to Stage 4

Stage 4 – Petite-Final Knockout Series

- (a) The skippers qualifying for this stage will be paired in accordance with a table to be distributed by the RC.
- (b) The first skipper to score at least **two (2) points** will place third in the regatta. The other skipper will place fourth.

Stage 5 – Final Series

- (a) The skippers qualifying for this stage will be paired in accordance with a table to be distributed by the RC.
- (b) The first skipper to score at least **three (3) points** will be the winner. The other skipper will place second.

Stage 6- Consolation Round Robin

- (a) Skippers placing 5 and lower after Stage 2 (or placing 5 through 8 in Stage 1 if Stage 2 is not sailed)

will be paired in accordance with a table to be distributed by the RC. The results of this round robin will be for places five through eight.

(b) This stage will be run concurrently with stages 3 through 5.

7.8 Per **USWMRC Conditions 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. A one race knockout series will be avoided if at all possible. The US Sailing Representative in conjunction with the Race Committee shall determine actions and decisions to be taken regarding results when not resolved by RRS Appendix C."

8 PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

8.1 Schedule

- (a) Registration Thursday, August 17, 2023 from 1000 to 1800, and Friday, August 18, 2023 from 0830 to 0900.
- (b) Crew weighing Thursday, August 17, 2023 from 1000 to 1800, and Friday, August 18, 2023 from 0830 to 9000.
- (c) Boat available for practice and clinic Thursday, August 17, 2023 from 1000 to 1800.
- (d) First Briefing on Friday, August 18, 2023 at 0900.
- (e) First meeting with umpires immediately following First Briefing.
- (f) Daily debrief after the first and second day of racing approximately 30 minutes after the last boat returns to the dock.
- (g) Racing days from Friday, August 18, 2023 through Sunday, August 20, 2023
- (h) Saturday and Sunday briefings at 0900.
- (i) Time of the first attention signal each day will be 1100 or as announced at daily briefings.
- (j) The latest time for an attention signal on the last day of racing will be approximately 1400 on Sunday, August 20, 2023.
- (k) Prize Giving will be held approximately 30 minutes after the last boat returns to the dock on Sunday, August 20, 2023.

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

- (a) Initial briefing
- (b) Daily briefings
- (c) Prize giving

9 [NP] ADVERTISING

9.1 As boats and equipment will be supplied by the Organizing Authority, World Sailing regulation 20.4 applies. Each boat will be required to display advertising as supplied by the OA.

9.2 The OA intends to supply the following equipment: Boats and Sails. Advertising as supplied by the OA is to be displayed on this equipment.

9.3 Competitors may be permitted to display advertising ashore at the venue, subject to permission from the OA.

9.4 Boats shall not be permitted the right to protest for infringements of any rules regarding advertising. This changes **RRS 60.1**.

10 [NP] CODE OF CONDUCT

10.1 Competitors and Support Persons shall comply with any reasonable request from any official, including attendance at official functions and co-operation with event sponsors, and shall behave so as to not bring the event into disrepute.

10.2 Competitors and support persons shall handle any equipment provided by the organizing authority with care, seamanship, in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

10.3 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, they shall be excluded from the remaining races of the series and, where practicable, removed from the regatta venue and sent home. When a competitor withdraws from part of an event pursuant to the Code, the scores of all completed races shall stand for the purposes of determining the seeding of subsequent rounds or stages in the event. However, that competitor's boat/team will no longer be eligible to compete in the event, shall be removed from the final event scores, and each boat/team with a worse finishing place in the event shall be moved up one place.

11 [NP] SUPPORT PERSONS

- 11.1 This event is designated as a US Sailing Grade 3 Event for coaching purposes. See the US Sailing's Coaching and Support Boat Policy at <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/resources/coaching-and-support-boat-policy/> There will be no private/team coaching nor US Sailing-supplied coaches during the regatta.
- 11.2 The OA may arrange spectator boats and boat drivers.

12 [NP] MEDIA, IMAGES and SOUND

The OA and its sponsors have the right to use any images and sound recorded during the event free of any charge.

13 DATA PROTECTION

Any personal information given will be kept secure. The OA and Host will not sell or rent your personally identifiable information.

14 RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.'

15 PRIZES

- 15.1 The **Allegra Knapp Mertz Perpetual Trophy** will be presented to the first-place team and the **Mrs. C.F. Adams Memorial Perpetual Trophy** will be presented to the second-place team.
- 15.2 Only a team that is composed of 100% US citizens or resident aliens throughout the Championship Final event may be declared U.S. National Champion. 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"). (USWMRC Conditions 12.4 and 12.5)
- 15.3 US Sailing Medals will be awarded to the competitors finishing in first through third places.
- 15.4 **Invitation:** The top placing eligible skipper (per U.S. Match Racing Championship Conditions) will be invited to the **2023 U.S. Match Racing Championship hosted by Rochester Yacht Club on September 21-24, 2023**. Should the qualifying skipper decline their spot to the 2023 USMRC, or have already been invited, the spot will be filled by the USMRC's Invitation Committee process per the USMRC Conditions.
- 15.5 **Invitation:** The top placing eligible skipper at the 2023 USWMRC (per U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship Conditions) will be invited to the **2024 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship** hosted by **Chicago Yacht Club August 1-4, 2024**. Should the qualifying skipper decline their spot to the 2024 USWMRC, the spot will be filled by the USWMRC's Invitation Committee process per the USWMRC Conditions.

15.6 **Invitation:** If there is a Nations Cup held in 2024, the top placing skipper at the 2023 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship who is a U.S. Passport holder and not representing another MNA will be the U. S. Representative for the Open Nations Cup event. Should the qualifying skipper decline their spot, the next highest placing eligible skipper shall receive the invitation. The skipper going to the Nations Cup shall promptly nominate their crew (US Sailing Members and U.S. Passport holders who are not representing any other MNA) to the US Sailing's International Selection Committee for approval.

16 NATIONS CUP QUALIFIER

- 16.1 If there is a Nations' Cup in 2024 then U.S. Sailing Regulation 12.03, Protected Competitions, will be in effect for this event and following rules and procedures will apply:
- (a) The US Sailing prescriptions to rules 63.1 and 63.2 shall apply to a Protected Competition, except that "when practicable" in the prescription are deleted.
 - (b) Protest committees shall include at least 33.3% Sailor Athlete representation as per Section 105 of the US Sailing Bylaws <https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/US-Sailing-Bylaws-2022-12-05-FINAL.pdf> and USOPC Bylaws Section 8.5.1(b). At least half those Sailor athletes must be either 10-year Sailor Athletes and the remaining Sailor Athletes must be 10 Year Sailor Athletes or 10 Year + Sailor athletes.
 - (c) The right of appeal will not be denied under rule 70.5 (a), (b) or (c), but an expedited appeal process may be used that balances the needs of the competitor for certainty with respect to berths in future competitions and sufficient time to prepare the arguments and evidence for the appeal.
 - (d) Note: There is no appeal from a decision made under rule C5, C6, C7 or C8 and a party to the hearing may not ask for a reopening (see rule C9,1).
 - (e) Any boat that is a party to a redress hearing may be represented by up to two individuals. This changes rule 63.3(a).
 - (f) If a hearing is scheduled after the event is concluded and after the sailors and officials have left the venue, it will be scheduled as soon as possible, and in a place and manner chosen with deference to the competitor's preferences or circumstances; and parties to the hearing have the right to be present telephonically or via video feed as appropriate, provided all participants can hear and speak to each other.
- 16.2 Other Rule Changes:
- (a) Rule 65.2 is changed as follows: "seven days" is changed to "24 hours" and "promptly" is changed to "within 24 hours".
 - (b) Rule 66.1, Reopening a Hearing, second sentence is deleted and replaced by: However, if an appeal of its decision has been sent to the national authority, the hearing shall not be reopened unless the national authority requires reopening under rule R5.4 or decides the appeal cannot be considered.
- 16.3 Expedited appeals procedure. The expedited appeals system in rule R8, Expedited Appeals, will be used see https://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Expedited-Appeals-Rule-R8_3.18.2019.pdf

17 FURTHER INFORMATION

<u>Event Chair:</u>	Jo Anne Weimer joanne@lucecreek.com
<u>Vice Chair:</u>	Debbie Gosselin dhgosselin19@gmail.com
<u>Principal Race Officer:</u>	Sharon Hadsell
<u>Deputy Race Officer:</u>	Taren Teague
<u>Chief Umpire:</u>	Vicky Sodaro
<u>US Sailing</u>	Nancy Mazzulli nancymazzulli@ussailing.org
<u>Women's Match Racing Chairs:</u>	Beka Schiff & Janel Zarkowsky

Release Date: April 10 2023