

Conditions for the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship (USWMRC)

1. ORGANIZING AUTHORITY

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

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 USWMRC Invitation Committee shall be appointed by the USMRCC Chair to fill all slots of the Championship and qualifiers if there are any.

2. CHAMPIONSHIP DOCUMENTS

2.1 The Championship is governed by the US Sailing Championship Conditions (hereinafter referred to as the Championship Conditions).

2.2 The US Sailing Championship Conditions are amended by these Conditions for the U.S. Woman'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 match racing templates shall be used at all levels of the Championship.

2.5 The USWMRC Conditions, Notice of Race, and Entry procedure for the Championship will be posted on the USWMRC webpage on US Sailing: <https://www.ussailing.org/competition/championships/>

3. US SAILING REGULATIONS

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

4. ELIGIBILITY

There is no citizenship or club/association membership requirement for this event; however, each member of a team shall be an individual member of US Sailing or a member of their home country's Member National Authority. (see US Sailing Regulation 10.02(A)).

5. QUALIFYING EVENTS

5.1 Information on the Qualifying events will be posted on the USWMRC webpage on or before February 1 of each year.

5.2 To be a Qualifying event, an event shall

- a.** have a minimum of five (5) entrants, and
- b.** comply with the Race Management Standards.

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/resources/hosting-a-us-sailing-championship/race-management-requirements/>

5.3 The entry criteria for the Qualifying events will be indicated in the Notice of Race for each event.

6. INVITATIONS TO THE CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS EVENT

6.1 Participation in the Championship Finals event is only by invitation issued by the USWMRC Invitation Committee as follows:

a. Past year's Winner: The winning skipper from the previous year's Championship Finals event will receive an automatic invitation to the Championship Finals event.

b. Qualifying Events: The top placing skipper not already qualified for or invited to the Championship will be invited to the Championship Finals event.

c. Committee Choice: The USWMRC Invitation Committee will create an ordered list of skippers to fill any open slot in the Championship Finals event. 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 in the Championship Finals event. Skippers wishing to be included on this list may submit their name and any requested information as per the Notice of Race or if there are no instructions there by emailing the Chairperson of the U.S. Match Racing Championships Committee for consideration by the USWMRC 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 4).

8. INSURANCE, LIABILITY AND DAMAGE

8.1 Host clubs shall have appropriate insurance coverage for the events hosted to include insurance coverage for the club, for the boats used, and a minimum of \$1,000,000 for the race officials participating in the event. The USMRCC recommends the insurance programs available from the Gowrie Group. For more information: <https://www.ussailing.org/membership/become-a-member/#membership-benefits-discounts>

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 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 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 specify 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 semifinals and finals. For quarter-finals, semifinals, and finals, it is recommended that the winner of each pair be the first to win at least three points. For a petit-finals, it is recommended that the winner of each pair be the first to win at least two points.

c. Groups: Competitors may be divided into groups. In such a case, the US Sailing 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. A one-race knockout series will be avoided if at all possible. The US Sailing Representative in conjunction with the Race Committee and Chief Umpire 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. Starting lines should be approx. 25 seconds long. Leeward gates set 2.5-3 lengths in width 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 RC in conjunction with the US Sailing Representative shall have the right to abandon a race in progress when the wind strength for the race is 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.

c. Boats will be rotated at the discretion of the OA and race committee.

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 Race for the Qualifying events.

11.2 Teams/skippers receiving invitations to participate in the Championship will be asked to complete entry forms online as directed in the invitation.

11.3 The entry fee and payment instructions for the Championship will be stated in the Notice of Race. Additional fees may be assessed to cover the damage deposit, insurance, meals and other expenses.

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 a 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.

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 composed of 100% US citizens or resident aliens throughout the Championship Final event 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").

13. ATHLETE SELECTION PROCEDURES FOR THE NATIONS CUP

13.1 World Sailing requires that US Sailing select teams of athletes to represent the United States in the Nations Cup event. Therefore, US Sailing's International Selection Committee (ISC) determines the process by which athletes are selected to represent the United States at the Nations Cup as per US Sailing Regulation 12.01.

13.2 In a timely manner, the USMRCC shall recommend to the ISC for their approval a system for selecting the US Teams for the Nations Cup that is fair and equitable for all entrants. The approved system shall then be published on the USMRC webpage.

13.3 When the U.S. Match Racing Championship (USMRC) or U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship (USWMRC) is used to directly select the skipper(s) representing the U.S. in the Nations Cup event, the Championship Final event (but not the Championship Qualifier events) is a "Protected Competition" (see US Sailing Regulation 12.03 and US Sailing's Protected Competition Guide).