

2024 U.S. Match Racing Championship

for the Prince of Wales Bowl

U.S. Sailing – Organizing Authority

St. Francis Yacht Club – Host Club

700 Marina Boulevard

San Francisco, CA 94123

Race Dates - October 4-6, 2024

Practice Date - October 3, 2024

NOTICE OF RACE

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

PC: Protest Committee or International Jury

NoR: Notice of Race

OA: Organizing Authority

RRS: Racing Rules of Sailing

WS: World Sailing

RC: Race Committee

SI: Sailing Instruction

TD: Technical Delegate

[NP]: A boat may not protest as per NoR 1.4

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 most current versions of 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 Championship Conditions: [Championship Conditions - US Sailing](#)
 - (c) The U.S. Match Racing Championship Conditions:

[2024-USMRC-Championship-Conditions.pdf \(ussailing.org\)](#)

(d) US Sailing's Championships Code of Conduct:

[USSA-Championship-Code-of-Conduct.pdf \(ussailing.org\)](#)

- 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 shall not apply.
- 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 U.S. Regulation **10.04, A.1.** applies: "[f]or 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.)
- 1.8 **[DP]** 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 If there is a conflict between the USMRC Conditions and the NoR, the USMRC Conditions will prevail. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.13 The OA reserves the right to amend this NOR. Any amendments to the NOR shall be posted at [the event website](#).

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available no later than 1200 on Wednesday, October 2, 2024 on the official notice board at [the event website](#).

3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted online at [the event website](#).
- 3.2 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the St. Francis Yacht Club flagpole located on the Race Deck of the main clubhouse.

4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Up to **Ten (10) skippers** will be invited to the 2024 US 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 USMRC Conditions.
- 4.2 Automatic Invitations will be issued to:
 - (a) The 2023 winner of the U.S. Match Racing Championship.
 - (b) The 2023 winner of the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship.
 - (c) The highest placing eligible skipper (per the current USMRC Conditions) from each qualifier of the 2024 USMRC Qualifier Series who is not already qualified for the 2024 USMRC.
- 4.3 Skippers wishing to be invited to one or more of the 2024 USMRC Qualifiers may request an invitation by clicking [Here](#)

Or by going to [2024 U.S. Match Racing Championship - US Sailing](#) and clicking on the link contained in the 2024 USMRC Qualifier Series Critical Data Sheet.

- 4.4 Open positions will be available by resume and will be filled by the Invitation Committee of the USMRCC in accordance with the USMRC Conditions. To request an Invitation, please send an email with your interest and resume to the Karen Butler, Chair of the Invitation Committee, at sabot2593@gmail.com
- 4.5 The Invitation Committee will commence issuing invitations to the 2024 USMRC following each qualifier event, and will issue any open invitations beginning **July 1, 2024**. It will continue to issue invitations until the event is fully subscribed.
- 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 **\$400.00 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 There is no citizenship requirement for this event. All competitors shall be members of US Sailing at the time of registration and during the event, except that International competitors must be members of US Sailing or their MNA (See USMRC Conditions – Section 4 Eligibility)
- 4.8 All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of World Sailing regulation 19.4
- 4.9 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.
- 4.10 The entry fee is **\$1,000.00 USD** payable to St. Francis Yacht Club as set forth in the letter of invitation, including the **\$400.00 USD** entry bond in **NOR 4.6** above.
- 4.11 The skipper shall complete registration, pay any entry fees, arrange for the damage deposit of **\$2,000.00 USD** and shall ensure that all crew complete crew weighing between 1030 and 1800 on Thursday, October 3, 2024, or 0800 and 0830 on Friday, October 4, 2024 unless extended by the OA. All payments except the damage deposit shall be made as set forth in the letter of invitation. The damage deposit shall be paid to the host club at event registration by credit card. Both the entry fee and the damage deposit must be paid before a team can sail in any practice session or the event.
- 4.12 Final competitor list will be noted in **SI Addendum A**.
- 4.13 If there is a conflict between the USMRC Conditions and the NoR, the USMRC Conditions will prevail. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 4.14 When a skipper accepts an invitation and later withdraws within **two (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 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.

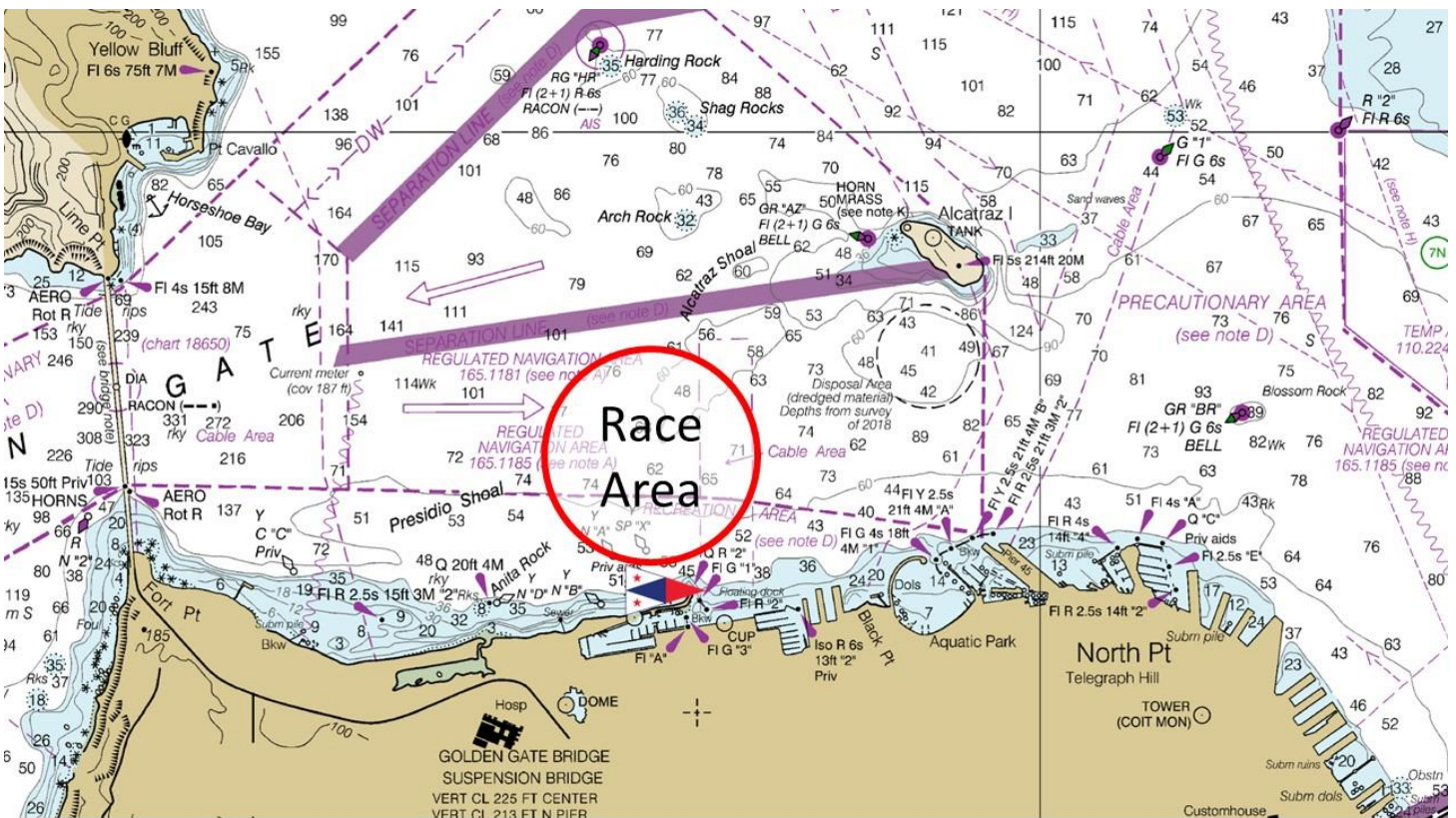
6 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

- 6.1 The number of crew (including the skipper) shall be 3, 4 or 5. 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 350 kg, 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 and Jib. In addition, a Spinnaker will be provided to each skipper at on-site registration which the team will use for the entire event.
- 7.2 Boats will be allocated as decided by the OA or the RC. The intention of the OA and RC will be to allocate boats by draw, and then rotate daily. The RC may also require boats to be exchanged in a knock-out stage, and may also require boats to be exchanged at any time.
- 7.3 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).
- 7.4 While all reasonable steps are taken to equalize the boats, variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 62.
- 7.5 The number of matches to be sailed each day will be determined by the RC with the intention of the RC to start each subsequent flight as soon as practicable after the previous flight.
- 7.6 The course will be windward/leeward with optional offset legs in the event of cross course current, resulting in either port or starboard roundings and finishing downwind.
- 7.7 A leeward gate may be used.
- 7.8 The intended racing area is the City Front in front of the St. Francis Yacht Club.



- 7.9 Skippers will be seeded into a round robin based on World Sailing's ranking list 30 days prior to the event.
- (a) After **Stage 1** the following will apply:
 - (1) Skippers will be paired based on their finishing places in Stage 1 with the highest placed 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 placing skipper from Stage 1 shall choose their end for the first match and boats shall alternate every match thereafter.
 - (3) Further matches in the series will not be sailed once the first skipper scores the points required for that stage.
- 7.10 The event will consist of the following stages:
- (a) **Stage 1 – Single Round Robin** All skippers will sail a round robin.
 - (b) **Stage 2 – Top Eight (8) Knock-Out Quarter-finals & 9th - 10th Consolation Series**
 - (1) **Top Eight Quarter-final Series:** The first skipper of each pairing to score at least **three (3) points** shall proceed to Stage 4, and the others will sail in Stage 3.
 - (2) **Consolation Series:** Skippers placing 9 and 10 in Stage 1 will be paired. The first skipper to score at least **two (2) points** will place ninth, and the other skipper will place tenth.
 - (c) **Stage 3 – Fifth to Eighth Place Round Robin**

The skippers from Stage 2 who qualified for this stage shall sail a single round robin for fifth through eighth place.
 - (d) **Stage 4 – Semi-final Knock-Outs**
 - (1) Of the skippers from Stage 2 qualifying for this stage, the highest finishing skipper in Stage 1 shall select his opponent when requested by the RC to do so. The remaining two skippers shall race each other.
 - (2) If Stage 2 is not sailed, then the four highest placing skippers from Stage 1 will be paired. The skipper finishing first in Stage 1 shall select his opponent when requested by the RC to do so. The remaining two skippers shall race each other.
 - (3) The first skipper to score at least **three (3) points** shall proceed to Stage 6 for the Knock-Out finals for first and second place, and the other skippers shall proceed to the Stage 5 Petit-finals for third and fourth Place.
 - (e) **Stage 5 – Petit-finals for Third and Fourth Place**
 - (1) The skippers from Stage 4 qualifying for this stage shall race to determine third and fourth place.
 - (2) The first skipper to score at least **two (2) points** shall be awarded third place, and the other skipper shall be awarded fourth place.
 - (f) **Stage 6 – Knock-Out Finals**
 - (1) The skippers from Stage 4 qualifying for this stage shall race to determine first and second place.
 - (2) The first skipper to score at least **three (3) points** shall be awarded first place, and the other skipper shall be awarded second place.
- 7.11 Per **USMRC 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, October 3, 2024 from 1030 to 1800, and Friday, October 4, 2024 from 0800 to 0830.
- (b) Crew weighing Thursday, October 3, 2024 from 1030 to 1800, and Friday, October 4, 2024 from 0800 to 0830.
- (c) Boats available for practice Thursday, October 3, 2024 from 1030 to 1800.
- (d) First Briefing on Friday, October 4, 2024 at 0845.
- (e) First meeting with umpires immediately following First Briefing.
- (f) Daily debrief after the first and second day of racing.
- (g) Racing days from Friday, October 4, 2024 through Sunday, October 6, 2024
- (h) Saturday and Sunday briefings at 0900.
- (i) Time of the first attention signal each day will be 1023 or as announced at daily briefings.
- (j) The latest time for an attention signal on the last day of racing will be approximately 1700 on Sunday, October 6, 2024.
- (k) Prize Giving will be held after racing on Sunday, October 6, 2024.

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

- (l) Initial briefing for skippers
- (m) Daily briefing for skippers
- (n) Prize giving for the top three skippers and crews

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, but this is subject to individual negotiation with the OA.

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] COACHING AND SUPPORT PERSONS

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.

12 [NP] MEDIA, IMAGES and SOUND

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

13 RISK STATEMENT

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. **Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia or other causes.**

14 PRIZES

- 14.1 The **Prince of Wales Bowl** will be presented to the first-place team.
- 14.2 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"). (USMRC Conditions 12.4 and 12.5)
- 14.3 US Sailing Medals will be awarded to the competitors finishing in first through third places.
- 14.4 Invitation: The top placing eligible skipper at the 2024 USMRC (per U.S. Match Racing Championship Conditions) will be invited to the **2025 U.S. Match Racing Championship**. Should the qualifying skipper decline his or her spot to the 2025 USMRC, the spot will be filled by the USMRCC's Invitation Committee process per the USMRC Conditions.

15 FURTHER INFORMATION

Event Chairman	Bruce Stone	bruce@brucestone.com	(917) 822-4060
Race Director	Felix Weidling	racedirector@stfyc.com	(415) 820-3710
PRO	Mark Townsend	s_mark_townsend@hotmail.com	(562) 533-5909
Chief Umpire	Bruce Cook	bacook@optonline.net	(516) 633-1646
Race Office	Caleigh Thompson	racing@stfyc.com	(415) 655-7756
OA Representative	Grant Baldwin	grant@calguitars.com	(650) 494-7648
USMRCC Chair	Karen Butler	sabot2593@gmail.com	(619) 818-2511
US Sailing Contact	Diana Emmanuelli	dianaemmanuelli@ussailing.org	(401) 342-7961

Release Date: February 14, 2024