



# Conditions for the US Women's Match Racing Championship and the US Match Racing Championship



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Amendments:

## SECTION A PREAMBLE

*Section A clauses do **not** rank as “rules” as defined by the Racing Rules of Sailing. As such, boats in a regatta may not protest each other for failure to comply with this section, nor base a request for redress on the alleged failure of an organizing authority, race committee, protest committee or technical committee to obey the clauses of this preamble.*

### A1 INTRODUCTION

- A1.1 These conditions govern the US Match Racing Championship (USMRC) and US Women's Match Racing Championship (USWMRC).
- A1.2 These championships and their qualifying events are governed by these conditions and the US Sailing Championships Conditions (abbreviated below as “overall conditions”).
- A1.3 The chair of the US Match Racing Championships Committee (USMRCC) will appoint an Invitation Committee for both USMRC and USWMRC. This may be a single committee or separate committees. In this document, references to the Invitation Committee refers to either committee in context, USMRC Invitation Committee refers only to the USMRC, and USWMRC Invitation Committee refers only to the USWMRC.
- A1.4 For the national finals and each qualifying event, the chair of USMRCC will appoint a US Sailing Representative who will represent the organizing authority (OA) and perform other duties as described below.
- A1.5 In this document, references to “Championship Finals” refers to relevant championship finals, and references to “qualifying events” refers to the relevant events.
- A1.6 Where practical, the qualifying and final events shall be run to the standard for at least World Sailing (WS) Grade 3 grading.

## SECTION B CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

*Section B clauses DO rank as ‘rules’ as defined by the Racing Rules of Sailing.*

*The notation ‘[DP]’ in a rule of this section means that the penalty for a breach of that rule may, at the discretion of the protest committee, be less than disqualification. The notation ‘[NP]’ in a rule of this section means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule nor request redress based on that rule. This changes RRS 60.1 and 61.1.*

### B1 GOVERNING DOCUMENTS

See the overall Conditions for additional documents that apply.

### B2 ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION OF TEAMS

- B2.1 All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of the World Sailing Eligibility Code 2.
- B2.2 All competitors shall obtain a WS Sailor ID by registering online at <https://www.sailing.org/sailors/world-sailing-profile/>. Skippers shall inform the OA of their WS Sailor ID at registration.
- B2.3 The registered skipper shall helm the boat at all times while racing, except in an emergency.
- B2.4 International teams who meet the eligibility requirements are welcome to participate; however, only a team that is composed of US competitors (see US Championship Conditions B7.3(a)) may be declared the US National Champion.

**B2.5** Participation in the Championship Finals event is only by invitation issued by the relevant Invitation Committee as follows:

- (a) Past year's Winner: The previous year's winning skippers will receive an automatic invitation to their respective Championship Finals event.
- (b) The previous year's winner of the USWMRC will receive an automatic invitation to the USMRC Championship Finals event.
- (c) Qualifying Events: The top placing skipper not already qualified for the Championship will be invited to the Championship Finals event.
- (d) Committee Choice: The 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 Championship Chair for consideration by the Invitation Committee.

**B2.6** 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.

### **B3 EVENT FORMAT**

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 quarterfinals and/or semifinals and finals. For quarterfinals, semifinals, and finals, it is recommended that the winner of each pair be the first to win at least three points. For 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 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.

### **B4 COACHING AND SUPPORT BOATS**

Unless changed by the Notice of Race, the coaching level will be Grade 3 (no private coaching) in accordance with the US Sailing Coaching and Support Boat Policy.

### **B5 DAMAGE DEPOSITS**

- B5.1** Damage deposits will be required from each skipper as detailed in the Notice of Race.
- B5.2** [NP] 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).
- B5.3** Responsibility for damage to boats or other property will be determined by the protest committee and all entrants will be bound by its decision.

## **SECTION C CHAMPIONSHIP POLICIES**

*Section C clauses do **not** rank as "rules" as defined by the Racing Rules of Sailing. As such, boats in a regatta may not protest each other for failure to comply with this section, nor base a request for redress on the alleged failure of an organizing authority, race committee, protest committee or technical committee to obey the clauses of this preamble.*

### **C1 CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE**

- C1.1** The Championship Committee shall be the US Match Racing Championship Committee (USMRCC).
- C1.2** The chair of USMRCC will be the US Match Racing Championship Chair and will appoint one or more women to be the US Women's Match Racing Championship Chair(s).

## **C2 DOCUMENTS**

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.

## **C3 QUALIFYING EVENTS**

- C3.1 Information on the qualifying events will be posted on the USMRC and USWMRC webpages on or before February 1 of each year.
- C3.2 The entry criteria for the qualifying events will be indicated in the Notice of Race for each event.
- C3.3 To be a qualifying event, an event shall:
  - (a) comply with these championship conditions
  - (b) have a minimum of 6 (for USMRC qualifier) or 5 (for USWMRC qualifier) entrants

## **C4 RACE OFFICIALS FOR USWMRC (Finals)**

In addition to the requirements of US Sailing Regulations 10.06 regarding race officials for championship events, with regards to the USWMRC (Finals) every attempt will be made to have:

- (a) A woman as the Principal Race Officer (PRO).
- (b) A woman as the Chief Umpire.
- (c) Women consist of at least one half (1/2) of the umpire team.
- (d) A woman as the Host Club's Regatta Chair.

## **C5 ENTRY FORMS AND FEES**

- C5.1 The entry fee for the qualifying events will be indicated in the Notice of Race for the qualifying events.
- C5.2 Skippers receiving invitations to participate in the Championship Finals will be asked to complete entry forms online as directed in the invitation.
- C5.3 The entry fee and payment instructions for the Championship Finals will be stated in the Notice of Race. Additional fees may be assessed to cover the damage deposit, insurance, meals and other expenses.

## **C6 BOATS AND EQUIPMENT**

- C6.1 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 match racing championships are a test of teamwork and tactical racing skills regardless of the type of boat sailed.
- C6.2 Unless the US Sailing 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) There will be a drawing for boats to be sailed in the first race.
  - (c) Boats will be rotated at the discretion of the organizing authority and race committee.
  - (d) RRS 61.4 will be modified in the event documents to provide that variations between boats will not be grounds for redress.
  - (e) 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.
  - (f) 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.

## **C7 EVENT FORMAT**

- C7.1 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.
- C7.2 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.

- C7.3 [NP] The Race Committee 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.

**C8 SCORING**

Scoring will be in accordance with RRS Appendix C, as modified by the Sailing Instructions.

**C9 PRIZES**

- C9.1 The Prince of Wales Bowl will be presented to the Champion of the USMRC.
- C9.2 The Allegra Knapp Mertz Trophy will be presented to the Champion of the USWMRC.
- C9.3 The Mrs. Charles Francis Adams Memorial Trophy will be presented to the runner-up of the USWMRC.
- C9.4 Prizes for qualifying events may be selected by the host club and shall be stated in the respective Notice of Races.