

MELGES 24 Gold Cup

April 13th , 14 th , and 15 th 2021

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organizing Authority (OA) is US Melges 24 Championship Events Inc. Race Management services are provided by the Regatta Management.

1. RULES

- 1.1. The regatta will be governed by the *rules* as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2. Only the US Sailing Prescriptions to RRS 67 and 76.1 as well as to RRS 61.4 shall apply.
- 1.3. The following rules will be changed:
 - a) All competitors shall wear personal flotation devices while racing, except for brief periods while changing or adjusting clothing. Wet suits and dry suits are not personal flotation devices. This changes RRS 40. (NP)
 - b) The Race Committee (RC) will use VHF channel 71 to communicate to the fleet. Failure to make this broadcast or failure to hear the broadcast shall not constitute grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 62.1.
 - c) The Protest Committee (PC) may impose suitable penalties, other than disqualification, for violations of the Class Rules, or other non-Part 2 rules.
- 1.4. Breaches of instructions marked "NP" will not be grounds for a protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a). Penalties for these breaches may be less than disqualification if the PC so decides.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

- 2.1. Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board on the Yacht Scoring Website.
- 2.2. Any questions concerning these sailing instructions, scoring, or any other racing issues shall be submitted in email to rdraftz@charlestonyachting.com

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted on the official notice board before 0900 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 4.1. Signals made ashore will be displayed from a flag pole on the upper deck of the Charleston Yacht Club.
- 4.2. When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 90 minutes' in the race signal AP. This changes RRS Race Signals.
- 4.3. The RC intends to broadcast its intentions for the day at 0930 each morning on VHF channel.

5. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- 5.1. Ten (10) races are scheduled for the event
- 5.2. The initial warning signal is scheduled for 1100 on each day of racing between April 13-April 15 2021.
- 5.3. On the final day of racing (April 15), no initial warning signal will be made after 1430.
- 5.4. The RC may conduct as many as four (4) races each day.

6. RACING AREA

- 6.1 Eastern portion of Charleston Harbor

7. THE COURSES

- 7.1. The course to be sailed will be of a windward-leeward configuration. Offset and gate marks will be used.

- Course 4: Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)
- Course 5: Start – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – 1 – 1a – 2S/2P – Finish (Upwind)

- 7.2. No later than the warning signal, the RC will announce the designated course, approximate compass bearing and distance from the RC signal vessel to Mark 1 on the fleet VHF channel.

- 7.3. Marks 1 and 1a, shall be rounded to port. Mark 1a is an offset mark and will be positioned to port of the associated windward mark (looking upwind).

- 7.4. A leeward gate (two marks) will be used. Boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. If only one gate mark is set, boats shall round the single mark to port. Except when there is a change of course, the gate will be positioned approximately 0.1nm to windward of the RC signal boat. The gate may be laid after the starting signal.

- 7.5. Except when there is a change of course: (a) the downwind finishing line for course 4 will be to leeward of the gate and adjacent to the RC signal vessel; and (b) the upwind finishing line for course 5 will be to windward of mark 1.

8. MARKS

- 8.1. Marks 1, 2S and 2P will be green Mark Set Bots (MSB).
- 8.2. Mark 1a will be an orange MSB.
- 8.3. Change mark will be the original marks.
- 8.4. The starting marks will be RC vessel on one end and a green MSB.
- 8.5. The finishing marks will be RC vessel on one end and a green MSB.

9. AREAS THAT ARE OBSTRUCTIONS

- 9.1. There are no areas in the intended race course that are obstructions.

10. THE START

- 10.1. The starting line will be between the green MSB on the port end of line and starboard end RC signal vessel.

- 10.2. A boat starting later than four (4) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5.
- 10.3. Boats subject to individual recall (RRS 29.1) may be broadcasted on the VHF channel 71 using bow or sail numbers.
- 10.4. After a General Recall for a start that used the starting penalty RRS 30.3 (U Flag Rule) the RC will attempt to broadcast the bow or sail numbers of boats that are observed to be UFD.
- 10.5. Failure of the RC to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 10.6. RRS 30.4 (Black Flag Rule) is changed to permit the RC to display bow number and/or sail number.

11. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

- 11.1. To change the next leg of the course, the RC will move the original mark (or move the finishing line)
- 11.2. The RC can change make minor corrections to the direction and length of the course without signaling a course change.

12. THE FINISH

- 12.1. For both upwind and downwind finishes, the finishing line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the finishing line vessel and a staff displaying an orange flag on a nearby RC vessel, or the course side of a nearby green MSB.
- 12.2. Flag A displayed at the finish means “no more racing today.”

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 13.1. The first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to read: “A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or RRS 31 while racing. However, when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.”
- 13.2. Penalties while in the zone of the windward mark or on the offset leg may be delayed and taken as soon as possible on the downwind leg unless the course is shortened to finish at the windward mark. This changes RRS 44.2

14. TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES

- 14.1. The target time for each race is 45-60 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 62.1(a).
- 14.2. Boats failing to finish within 15 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35.

15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

- 15.1. Protest forms are available at the PC desk, located at Charleston Yacht Club. Protests and requests for redress or reopening shall be delivered there within the appropriate time limit.
- 15.2. The protest time limit is 120 minutes after the last boat has finished the final race on a given day or the final race for a given day has been abandoned. The RC will post the end of the protest time limit on the official notice board.

- 15.3. Notices will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. These notices will be posted on the official notice board. Hearings will be conducted in the approximate order as received.
- 15.4. Notices of protests by the RC or PC will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1(b).
- 15.5. A list of boats that have been scored OCS, ZFP, and/or BFD will be posted on the official notice board. Any request for redress based on such a posted score shall be made no later than one hour after it has been posted. This changes RRS 62.2.
- 15.6. On the last scheduled day of racing, a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered to the PC desk: (a) within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day; (b) no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day. This changes RRS 66.
- 15.7. On the last scheduled day of racing a request for redress from a PC decision shall be delivered to the PC desk no later than 30 minutes after the decision was posted. This changes RRS 62.2.

16. SCORING

- 16.1. The Low Point Scoring System of RRS Appendix A will apply.
- 16.2. Three (3) races are required to be completed to constitute the championship.
- 16.3. When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her scores excluding her worst score.
- 16.4. To request correction of an alleged error in posted race or series results, a boat shall complete a 'Scoring Inquiry Form' available at the PC desk and submit the completed form.

17. SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 17.1. A boat that retires from a race or leaves the racing area between races shall notify the RC as soon as possible. The use of VHF is acceptable.
- 17.2. Boats not leaving the harbor for a scheduled race shall promptly notify the OA.

18. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

- 18.1. Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without prior written approval of the OA. Competitors desiring to substitute crew shall have crew members weighed-in prior to 0930 on that race day at the Race Office, unless otherwise extended by the OA.
- 18.2. Substitution of damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the OA. Requests for substitution shall be made to the OA at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 18.3. Any substitution granted via SI 19.1 or 19.2 will be posted on the official notice board.

19. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

- 19.1. A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the Class Rules and sailing instructions. (On the water, a boat can be instructed by a measurer or equipment inspector to proceed immediately to a designated area for inspection.)

20. EVENT ADVERTISING/ IDENTIFICATION STICKERS/BOW NUMBERS (NP)

20.1. Boats shall display event advertising as provided by the OA as follows: event bow stickers shall be attached to both sides of the boat's hull at all times while racing. In addition, bow numbers shall be displayed on both sides of the boat's hull at all times while racing. Instructions as to position will be supplied by the OA at registration. It is the responsibility of the crew to ensure the numbers and stickers remain on the boat and obtain replacements as necessary. See SI Attachment C.

21. SUPPORT BOATS (NP)

21.1. Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall comply with NOR Attachment A.
21.2. During registration coach and support boats shall declare proof of insurance and provide photo ID of the driver. Boats shall comply with local laws and regulations regarding their operation.

22. HAUL-OUT RESTRICTIONS (NP)

22.1. Boats shall not be hauled out during the regatta except with and according to the terms of prior written permission of the OA.

23. DIVING EQUIPMENT AND PLASTIC POOLS (NP)

23.1. Underwater breathing apparatus and plastic pools or their equivalent shall not be used around boats between the preparatory signal of the first race and the end of the regatta. Snorkels may be used in accordance with Class Rules.

24. RADIO COMMUNICATION (NP)

24.1. Except in an emergency, a boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. This restriction also applies to mobile telephones and other electronic communication equipment.
24.2. The RC will use VHF channel 71 to communicate to the fleet, including the location of the starting area, countdown to the start, OCS bow and/or sail numbers, general recalls and postponements. Failure to make these broadcasts or failure to hear them shall not constitute grounds for granting redress. This changes RRS 62.1.

25. PRIZES

25.1. See NOR 19.

26. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

26.1. Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. Neither the OA, the IM24CA, the USMCA, CORA, nor Charleston Yacht Club, their event management, officers, employees, volunteers, etc. will accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta. Liability waivers shall be signed by all competitors during registration.

27. INSURANCE

27.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$300,000 (USD) per event or the equivalent.

28. RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS

28.1. Competitors grant the OA the unrestricted right and permission to use the name and the image for any text, photograph or video footage of either themselves or the boat they are sailing during the event to be published or broadcast in any media whatsoever (including but not limited to Press and TV advertisements or Internet), for either editorial or advertising purposes or to be used in press information; in this respect, competitors' names and any biographical material of themselves may also be used or reproduced in any way known. As part of the registration process, each individual participating crewmember will be required to sign a declaration accepting this waiver of rights.

29. RACE OFFICIALS

29.1. Principal Race Officer:

Mark Foster

29.2. Protest Committee Chair, Chief Judge:

Sarah Ashton

29.3. Regatta Chair

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