

2024 MELGES 15 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

August 22nd – August 25th
Organizing Authority (OA):
Grand Traverse Yacht Club (GTYC),
in conjunction with the Melges 15 Class



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS WITH AMENDMENT #1 CHANGES INCORPORATED

The notation '[DP]' 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 in the SI means it shall not be grounds for protest by a boat.

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) and the M15 Class Association Rules.
- 1.2 US Sailing Prescriptions to 63.1 and 63.2 will not apply, relating to a required posting for any boat in the fleet that may desire to participate in a request for redress hearing.
- 1.3 US Sailing Prescriptions 81 will not apply, relating to not permitting indemnification or hold harmless agreement language in the NOR or SI docs.
- 1.4 The Vakaros RaceSense system will be utilized by the race committee. This changes RRS 41(c). Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 configured for RaceSense at check in and shall be always mounted on the aft side of the mast while racing. Each boat shall either provide a working Atlas 2 at check-in for configuration with RaceSense, or an Atlas 2 will be provided, by Vakaros, to any boat that does not have one available. Vakaros rental is mandatory for those who do not own a Vakaros Atlas2.
- 1.5 RaceSense information is available to all boats.
- 1.6 Failure of an Atlas 2 or the RaceSense system shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 63.1, 60.1(b), 60.2(b) and 60.3(b).
- 1.7 If there is a conflict between the sailing instructions and notice of race, the sailing instructions will take precedence. This changes RRS 63.7. Attachments and supplements are part of these sailing instructions.
- 1.8 Boats that race before completing the entry procedures described in the NOR will be scored Did Not Compete (DNC) for such races, without a hearing. This is added to RRS 63.1, A4 and A5.

2. BOW NUMBERS

Boats shall carry identification bow numbers, corresponding to sail number. Bow numbers must be applied to the forward section of the hull on each side of the boat following the application instructions included with the numbers. Application to the class for approval must be made in cases of variation between bow numbers and sail numbers, and the registrar must be notified of any change.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS**

Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board, which is located online at the regatta webpage on Yacht Scoring.

4. **CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS (SI)**

Any changes to the SI will be posted before 0830 on the day they take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted by 1900 on the day before it will take effect.

5. **SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the Grand Traverse Yacht Club (GTYC) flagpole.

5.2 Flag AP displayed ashore means races are postponed. The first warning signal will be made not less than thirty (30) minutes after the AP displayed ashore is lowered. This changes the RRS Race Signals AP Rule.

6. **SCHEDULE OF RACES**

6.1 A MAXIMUM OF 8 RACES ARE SCHEDULED, WITH A MAXIMUM OF 3 PER DAY.

6.2 **DAILY SCHEDULE:**

Thursday, August 22nd

1000 - 2000 Check-in

1500 - 1900 Vakaros Atlas 2 Configuration

1600 Practice Race

1800 Class Meeting

Friday, August 23rd

1030 Competitors' Meeting

1300 First Warning, 3 Races are scheduled

1800 Regular club bar & dinner service available

Saturday, August 24th

1300 First Warning

1800 Party and dinner at Yacht Club

Sunday, August 25th

1100 First Warning

1400 No warning after this time

TBD Awards Immediately after racing

7. **CLASS FLAG**

The M15 Class Flag will be used.

8. RACING AREAS

8.1 The intended racing area will be within 1.25NM of the R2 Buoy on the West Arm Grand Traverse Bay.

8.2 Competitors will be assigned shore storage & launching sites at one of three locations: The GTYC clubhouse, Viridian South Beach, & Viridian North Beach.

9. THE COURSES

9.1 The Course will be a 4 Leg Windward / Leeward with the finish to the starboard side of the Signal boat as described in the Melges 15 Class Rules H2.3(b), shown in the diagram in Attachment #1. The Course will not be shortened.

9.2 The bearing to the weather mark, and the distance to mark 1 will be displayed on the RC Signal boat no later than the Warning Signal.

9.3 In the event that a gate mark is missing, boats shall round the remaining mark to port.

10. MARKS

10.1 The Starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the RC Signal Boat, and the course's side of the RoboMark buoy set to the port of the Signal Boat.

10.2 Marks 1, 1a, gates 2p/2s will be RoboMark buoys

10.3 The finishing marks will be the Signal boat displaying a blue flag and an orange/pink inflatable can off the starboard side of the Signal Boat, opposite of the course side.

10.4 Change marks will be the same RoboMark buoys.

10.5 [NP] If robotic marks are used, routine movement of these marks on the course will not be grounds for redress. This includes marks returning to station after having been pushed away by a competitor, and collisions with marks that do not cause damage. This changes RRS 60.1(b) and 62.1(a). RRS 31 still applies.

10.6 Back-up Inflatable Marks, in case of technical difficulty, shall be:

- Mark 1 will be an orange inflatable tetrahedron.
- Mark 1a will be a lime green inflatable can.
- Gates 2p/2s will be yellow inflatable cans.
- The starting pin will be an orange inflatable cylinder.
- The finish mark will be an orange/pink inflatable can.

11. THE START

11.1 Races will start using RRS 26.

11.2 A boat starting later than 5 minutes after her starting signal will be scored "Did Not Start" (DNS) without a hearing. This is added to RRS Appendix A5.1 and A5.2.

12. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

The position of the marks may be adjusted +/- 10 degrees and/or +/- 0.1 NM for small shifts in the mean wind without signaling a change of course. Any adjustments will be made before the first boat is on the leg to the affected mark. This is added to RRS 33.

13. THE FINISH

13.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the Starboard side of the Signal Boat, and an orange/pink inflatable can off the starboard side of the Signal Boat, opposite of the course side.

13.2 Flag "A" (Alpha – white/blue swallowtail) displayed with no sound at the finish line "No more racing today".

14. PENALTY SYSTEM

14.1 RRS Appendix V (both V1 and V2) will apply.

14.2 RRS 44.3 will not apply.

15. TIME LIMITS

15.1 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish shall be ninety (90) minutes. If no boat sails the course and finishes within the time limit, the race for that fleet will be abandoned.

15.2 Boats failing to finish within twenty (20) minutes after the first boat of her fleet sails the course and finishes, will be scored "Time Limit Expired" (TLE) without a hearing. Boats scored TLE shall be scored equal to the last boat to finish plus 1. This changes RRS 35, A4 and A5.

16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

16.1 The Protest Time Limit is sixty (60) minutes after the RC Signal Boat docks.

16.2 Notices will be posted within thirty (30) minutes after the Protest Time Limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named witnesses.

16.3 Hearings will be held in the Regatta Office in the GTYC Clubhouse, immediately to the left inside the front entrance

16.4 Notices of hearings by the RC or Protest Committee will be posted to inform boats under RRS 61.1 (b).

16.5 For races held on the last day of racing, scoring inquiries must be filed within the Protest Time Limit or 30 minutes after the provisional final results are posted, whichever is later.

16.6 Video and photos taken from any support and/or coach boat, or spectator boat shall not be used as evidence at protest hearings. This changes RRS 63.6

17. SCORING

17.1 The Low-Point Scoring System, RRS Appendix A, will be used.

17.2 A minimum of three (3) races must be completed to constitute a regatta.

17.3 When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of all

races sailed.

17.4 When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of all races sailed excluding her worst score.

18. SAFETY REGULATIONS

18.1 When the "L" Flag is displayed from the RC Signal Boat, it is requested that all boats check in.

18.2 Competitors shall wear either a US Coast Guard approved PFD or a PFD approved by the country of their citizenship or residence, always, while afloat. The PFD may be removed temporarily so that clothing may be changed, added, or removed. [DP] (Refer to Attachment 3 section 2.1)

18.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC either before leaving the racecourse area or, if that is impracticable, immediately after arriving ashore. Failure to notify the RC in a timely manner may result in disqualification for the day's racing. [NP] [DP]. Should she return, she should notify the RC prior to her next start.

19. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT [NP]

19.1 Substitution of competitors will not be allowed without approval of the PRO or the Protest Committee. If necessary, the Protest Committee may approve a substitution after the fact, but the request must be filed within the Protest Time Limit of that day's racing. [DP]

19.2 Any substitution of damaged or lost equipment must be reported to and approved by the PRO or the Protest Committee. If necessary, the Protest Committee may approve a substitution after the fact.

20. OFFICIAL BOATS

20.1 RC Signal boat will be marked by a blue flag with the letters "RC".

20.2 RC Support boats will be marked as follows:

- Windward mark, leeward, and technical support boats will have yellow flags reading "RC"
- Judge boats will have blue flags reading "Judge"
- Safety Patrol boats will have flags reading "Patrol"

21. TRASH DISPOSAL

Trash shall be kept aboard competitor's boat, or a Spectator boat until it can be properly disposed of ashore. This is added to RRS 47. The Signal or Start Pin Boat will not accept trash from competitors.

22. RADIO COMMUNICATION

The RC working channel will be VHF 69, (unless otherwise stated by RC) and will monitor VHF 16.

23. **PRIZES**

Prizes will be awarded as outlined in the NOR.

24. **LAUNCHING**

Boats will be beach or ramp launched via dollies. ***Hoist launching is not available.***

25. **INSURANCE**

Each participation boat shall carry insurance including third party liability insurance.

26. **DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

26.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race.

26.2 The Organizing Authority, Race Committee, Melges 15 Class Association, Grand Traverse Yacht Club, its' employees, and volunteers supporting this regatta will not accept any liability for material damaged or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the regatta.

27. **RIGHTS TO USE NAME AND LIKENESS**

By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant the Organizing Authority, the Melges 15 Class Association, and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recordings, and other reproductions of them made at the venue or on the water from the time of their arrival at the venue until their final departure, without compensation.

28 - **SAFETY**

28.1 - A boat that retires from a race or leaves the racing area is requested to notify the RC on VHF Ch 69, by cell phone, or by hailing any RC boat. A boat that subsequently returns to the racing area is asked to check in with the RC Signal Boat as in 17.1 or via VHF Ch 69. There will be no penalty for not checking out or back in.

28.2 — ***The primary communication for all medical emergencies is 911***

28.3 - The Signal Boat is equipped with an AED device.

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SAILING INSTRUCTIONS ATTACHMENT “1”

Course Diagram

(Not to scale)

(For diagram purposes only – not to scale – actual marks may differ in shape, size, and color)

