



## 2023 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship Qualifier for the Allegra Knapp Mertz Trophy

### U.S. Sailing – Organizing Authority St. Petersburg Yacht Club - Host

11 Central Ave  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701, USA

Date: December 15-17, 2023

## NOTICE OF RACE

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

PC:	Protest Committee or International Jury	RC:	Race Committee
NoR:	Notice of Race	SI:	Sailing Instruction
OA:	Organizing Authority	TD:	Technical Delegate
RRS:	Racing Rules of Sailing	[NP]:	A boat may not protest as per NoR 1.4
WS:	World Sailing		

### 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 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 [Championships Code of Conduct](#).
  - (c) US Sailing's current [Championship Conditions](#)
  - (d) [Conditions for the US Women's Match Racing Championship \(USWMRC\)](#)
- 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 do 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 a clear reason to do so.
- 1.7 Regulation 10.04 A.1 and D:

Per U.S. Regulations **10.04, A.1.** “for 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.) In addition, per US Sailing Regulations **10.04 D** “A violation of this Instruction may be protested by race officials or a competitor; however, an inadvertent and momentary breach of this instruction may receive a penalty less than disqualification at the discretion of the protest committee. This changes **rule 64.1**”

- 1.8 **[NP]** 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 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 USWMRC Conditions and the NOR, the USWMRC 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 on the official notice board online: [https://yachtscoring.com/notice\\_board.cfm?eid=16078](https://yachtscoring.com/notice_board.cfm?eid=16078)

## 2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available no later than 1200 on Thursday, December 14, 2023 on the official notice board online at: [https://yachtscoring.com/event\\_documents.cfm?eid=16078](https://yachtscoring.com/event_documents.cfm?eid=16078)

## 3 COMMUNICATION

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the official notice board online at: [https://yachtscoring.com/notice\\_board.cfm?eid=16078](https://yachtscoring.com/notice_board.cfm?eid=16078)
- 3.2 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the St. Petersburg Sailing Center flagpole located next to the launching ramp at waters edge.

## 4 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY

- 4.1 Up to **eight (8) female skippers** will be invited to the 2023 St. Petersburg Yacht Club USWMRC Qualifier.
- 4.2 Skippers wishing to compete in the US Women’s Match Race Qualifier Series [please fill out this form.](#)
- 4.3 Only skippers confirmed by registering with the Host and OA, will be eligible to enter this event. To remain eligible an invited skipper shall confirm registration by paying a **non-refundable entry bond** in the amount of **\$250.00 USD** by the date and time that the Host requests. In addition, the skipper shall complete all other reasonable requests of the OA and Host.
- 4.4 There are no citizenship requirements required for this event.
- 4.5 All competitors shall be members of US Sailing at the time of registration and during the event. International competitors must be members of US Sailing or their MNA.
- 4.6 The entry fee is **\$600.00 USD** payable to St. Petersburg Yacht Club, which includes the **\$250.00 USD** entry bond mentioned in **NOR 4.5 above.**
- 4.7 The skipper shall complete registration, pay any entry fee and arrange for the damage deposit of **\$1,000.00 USD** all in the manner and by the date specified by the OA/Host. In addition, the skipper shall ensure that all crew complete crew weighing between 1100 and 1700 on Friday, December 15, 2023, or 0800 and 0900 on Saturday, December 16, 2023 unless extended by the OA. All payments except the damage deposit shall be made online as requested by the OA/Host. The damage deposit shall be paid to the host club at event registration by credit card.

- 4.8 Both the entry fee and the damage deposit must be paid before a team can sail in any practice session, clinic, or the event.
- 4.9 Final competitor list will be noted in **SI Addendum A**.
- 4.10 When a skipper accepts an invitation and later withdraws within **forty-five (45) days** 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.
- 5.3 In the event of a breakdown, the OA may in its discretion substitute another boat for the one with the breakdown.

## **6 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)**

- 6.1 The number of crew (including the skipper) shall be **three (3) or four (4) or five (5)**. All registered crew shall sail all races.
- 6.2 The skipper shall be female. Other crew members can be any gender.
- 6.3 After the warning signal for a match, the registered skipper shall not leave the helm, except in an emergency, or when excused by the OA.
- 6.4 When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorize an original female crew member to substitute. The OA may authorize a substitute skipper. Per the **U.S. Championship Conditions 4. B. 3**. The substituted sailor shall meet all eligibility requirements and shall be very close in weight to the substituted sailor. The OA and USWMRC Invitation Committee will determine and review qualification to the USWMRC.
- 6.5 When a registered crew is unable to continue in the event, the OA may authorize a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment. Per the **U.S. Championship Conditions 4. B. 3**. the substituted sailor shall meet all eligibility requirements and shall be very close in weight to the substituted sailor.
- 6.6 The total weight of the crew, including the skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed **350 kg or 772 lbs.**, 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 **Eight (8) J70 type boats** for racing in the event. Each boat will have the following sails: Mainsail, Jib, and Spinnaker.
- 7.2 Boats will be allocated as decided by the OA or the race committee. 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.
- 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 and OA 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/leewards with starboard roundings, finishing downwind.
- 7.7 The intended racing area will be in Tampa Bay, East of the St. Petersburg harbor entrance.
- 7.8 Skippers will be seeded into a round robin.

7.9 The event will consist of the following stages:

**Stage 1 – Single Round Robin**

(a) All skippers are scheduled to sail against all other skippers once.

**Stage 2 – Quarter Final Knock-outs**

(a) Skippers placing 1 through 8 in the round robin will be paired

1 v 8, 2 v 7, etc. in accordance with a table to be distributed by the RC.

(b) The first skippers to score at least **two (2) points** qualify for Stage 3

**Stage 3 – Semi-Finals**

(a) Of the skippers qualified for this stage, the skipper with the highest place in Stage 1 will pick his/her opponent and will have the starboard entry for their first race. The remaining two skippers will race each other and the skipper with the highest place in Stage 1 will have the starboard entry for their first race.

(b) The first skippers to score at least **three (3) points** will proceed to Stage 5

(c) The other skippers will move to Stage 4

**Stage 4 – Petite-Final Knockout Series**

(a) The skippers qualifying for this stage will be paired in accordance with a table to be distributed by the RC.

(b) The first skipper to score at least **two (2) points** will place third in the regatta. The other skipper will place fourth.

**Stage 5 – Final Series**

(a) The skippers qualifying for this stage will be paired in accordance with a table to be distributed by the RC.

(b) The first skipper to score at least **three (3) points** will be the winner. The other skipper will place second.

**Stage 6- Consolation Round Robin**

(a) Skippers placing 5 and lower after Stage 2 (or placing 5 through 8 in Stage 1 if Stage 2 is not sailed) will be paired in accordance with a table to be distributed by the RC. The results of this round robin will be for places five through eight.

(b) This stage will be run concurrently with stages 3 through 5.

7.10 The RC and OA may change the format, terminate any stage or the event when, in their opinion, it is impractical to attempt to hold the remainder of matches under the existing conditions or in the remaining time scheduled. Early stages may be terminated in favor of later stages.

**8 PROVISIONAL PROGRAM**

**8.1 Schedule**

- (a) Registration Friday, December 15 2023 from 1100 to 1700, and Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 0800 to 0900.
- (b) Crew weighing Friday, December 15, 2023 from 1100 to 1700, and Saturday, December 16, 2023 from 0800 to 0900.
- (c) Boats available for the clinic Friday, December 15, 2023, from 11:00 to 1600.
- (d) First Briefing on Saturday, December 16, 2023 at 0915.
- (e) First meeting with umpires immediately following First Briefing.
- (f) Daily debrief after racing each day.
- (g) Racing days from Saturday, December 16, 2023 through Sunday, December 17, 2023
- (h) Sunday briefing at 0900.
- (i) Time of the first attention signal each day will be 10:00 or as announced at daily briefings.

- (j) The latest time for an attention signal on the last day of racing will be approximately 1500 on Sunday, December 17 2023.
- (k) Prize Giving will be held approximately 30 minutes after the last boat docks on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

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

- (a) Daily briefings
- (b) Umpire briefings
- (c) Coaching briefings
- (d) Prize giving

## 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 permission from OA.
- 9.4 Boats shall not be permitted the right to protest for infringements of any rules regarding advertising. This changes **RRS 60.1**.

## 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 or place any advertising 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 event, 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] SUPPORT PERSONS

This event is designated as a US Sailing Grade 2 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. The OA may arrange for spectator boats.

**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 DATA PROTECTION:**

Any personal information given will be kept secure. The OA and Host will not sell or rent your personally identifiable information.

**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. .

**14 PRIZES**

14.1 The top placing eligible female skipper (**per U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship Conditions**), not already qualified, will earn an invitation to the 2024 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship at Chicago Yacht Club. Should the qualifying skipper decline the spot to the 2023 USWMRC, the USMRCC Invitation Committee will fill the spot via invitation per the USWMRC Conditions.

14.2 The top **3** teams will receive take home prizes.

**15 FURTHER INFORMATION**

<b>Event Chair:</b>	Amy Baxter	<a href="mailto:amykrisbaxter@gmail.com">amykrisbaxter@gmail.com</a>
<b>Principal Race Officer:</b>	Todd Fedyszyn	<a href="mailto:todd@spyc.org">todd@spyc.org</a>
<b>Chief Umpire:</b>	Phil Pape	<a href="mailto:Phil.Pape@gmail.com">Phil.Pape@gmail.com</a>
<b>US Sailing - OA:</b>	<a href="#">Beka Schiff &amp; Janel Zarkowsky</a>	

Post Date: May 24, 2023