



2025 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship

for the Allegra Knapp Mertz Trophy

U.S. Sailing – Organizing Authority

together with St. Francis Yacht Club

San Francisco, California

August 15-17, 2025

NOTICE OF RACE

AMENDMENT 1 04/04/2025 12:00

AMENDMENT 2 08/03/2025 11:30

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 and can be found at:
<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/championships/2025-u-s-womens-match-racing-championship/>
 - (a) The US Sailing Regulations which govern all US Sailing Championships and Qualifying Events. Attention is drawn to regulations 2.02, 2.03, 4.02, 10, 13, and 14.04, although other regulations may be applicable as well.
 - (b) US Sailing's Championships Conditions (Overall Conditions)
The combined U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship and U.S. Match Racing Championship Conditions (USWMRC Conditions)
 - (c) US Sailing's Championships Code of Conduct
 - (d) US Sailing Coaching and Support Boat Policy
 - (e) SafeSport Athlete Safety Handbook
- 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.
- 1.5 The US Sailing prescriptions to the preamble to Section B of Part 5 of the RRS and to Rule 63.1 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 a 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 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, 60.5(b), 90.3(a), A5, and C10.7.
- 1.9 Errors or omissions by the RC **or OA** 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 61.4(b)(1).
- 1.10 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, August 13, 2025 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 flag pole 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 2025 US Women’s Match Racing Championship. Only skippers invited by the USWMRC Invitation Committee (Invitation Committee) will be eligible to enter this event. Invitations will be issued pursuant to the USWMRC Conditions.
- 4.2 An Automatic Invitation will be issued to the winner of the 2024 U.S. Women’s Match Racing Championship.
- 4.3 Open positions will be available by resume and will be filled by the Invitation Committee in accordance with the USWMRC Conditions. To request an Invitation, please apply at the [USWMRC Form](#) with your name, address, phone number, yacht club, and sailing resume.
- 4.4 The Invitation Committee will commence issuing invitations to the 2025 USWMRC beginning April 1, 2025. It will continue to issue invitations until the event is fully subscribed.
- 4.5 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 online by the date and time specified in the invitation. A **non-refundable entry bond** in the amount of **\$400 USD** shall accompany the acceptance for this to be valid. In addition, the skipper shall complete all other reasonable requests of the OA.
- 4.6 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 USWMRC Conditions – B2.4 & Overall Conditions B7).
- 4.7 All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of World Sailing Eligibility Code 2.
- 4.8 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.
- 4.9 The entry fee is **\$1,000 USD** payable to St. Francis Yacht Club as set forth in the letter of invitation, including the **\$400 USD** entry bond in **NOR 4.6** above.
- 4.10 The skipper shall complete registration, pay any remaining entry fees, arrange for the damage deposit of **\$2,000 USD** and shall ensure that all crew complete crew weighing between 1030 and 1800 on Thursday, August 14, 2025, or 0800 and 0830 on Friday, August 15, 2025 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.

- 4.11 Final competitor list will be noted in SI Addendum 'ELIGIBLE SKIPPERS'.
- 4.12 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 Policy H1.5).

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 entire Entry Fee and Damage Deposit must be paid before a team can sail in any practice session or the regatta.
- 5.3 The remaining damage deposit will be refunded or released within **thirty (30) days** after the event.

6 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

- 6.1 The number of crew (including the skipper) shall be 4 **(four) or 5**. All registered crew shall sail all races.
- 6.2 The total weight of the crew, including the skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed **350 kg 272 kg**, determined at the time of registration. No further weigh-in shall be required, except upon crew substitution.
- 6.3 After the warning signal for a match, the registered skipper shall not leave the helm, except in an emergency.
- 6.4 When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorize an original crew member to substitute.
- 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.

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 61.4(b)(1).
- 7.4 While all reasonable steps are taken to equalize the boats, variations will not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 61.4(b).
- 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 Addendum 'Racing Area' shows the location of the racing area.
- 7.9 Skippers will be seeded into a round robin based on World Sailing's ranking list 30 days prior to the event. After **Stage 1** the following will apply:
- (a) 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.
 - (b) 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.

- (c) 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:

- (d) **Stage 1 – Single Round Robin** All skippers will sail a round robin.
- (e) **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.
- (f) **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.
- (g) **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.
- (h) **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.
- (i) **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 **USWMRC Conditions 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."

8 PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

8.1 The program is as follows:

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Thursday, August 14	1030 - 1700	Registration & Weigh-In
	1030 - 1700	Optional Practice
Friday, August 15	0800 - 0830	Registration & Weigh-In
	0845	First Briefing & Meeting with Umpires
	1023	First Warning Signal
	After Racing	Social & Debrief

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Saturday, August 16	0900	Daily Briefing & Meeting with Umpires
	1023	First Warning Signal
	After Racing	Social & Debrief
Sunday, August 17	0900	Daily Briefing & Meeting with Umpires
	1023	First Warning Signal
	After Racing	Social & Awards Ceremony

- 8.2 On the last scheduled day of racing no warning signal will be made after 1700.
- 8.3 The prizegiving will be held approximately 30 minutes after the last boat returns to the dock on Sunday, August 17.
- 8.4 Unless excused by the OA, attendance at the following is mandatory:
- (a) Initial briefing for skippers
 - (b) Daily briefing for skippers
 - (c) Photo shoot with each team in team uniforms at the docks before First Briefing
 - (d) Prize giving for the top three skippers and crews

9 [NP] ADVERTISING

As boats and equipment will be supplied by the Organizing Authority, World Sailing Advertising Code 4 applies. Each boat will be required to display advertising if supplied by 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:
 - a marijuana or any other substance if possession is illegal under state or federal law; or
 - b any alcoholic beverages.
 - (c) An alleged breach of one of these regulations shall not be grounds for a protest; this changes rules 60.1. 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. There will be no private/team coaching nor US Sailing-supplied coaches during the regatta. See the US Sailing's Coaching and Support Boat Policy.

12 RIGHTS TO USE NAME, LIKENESS, AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

- 12.1 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the organizing authority 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.
- 12.2 Additionally, competitors automatically grant the organizing authority and race officials the right to use their personal contact information, including but not limited to a current email address and cell phone number, for race administration and regatta communications.

13 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race 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 US Sailing Medals will be awarded to the competitors finishing in first through third places.
- 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 (USWMRC Conditions B2.4).
- 14.3 Invitation: The top placing eligible skipper at the 2025 USWMRC (per U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship Conditions) will be invited to the **2026 U.S. Match Racing Championship**. Should the qualifying skipper decline, the spot will be filled by the Invitation Committee per the USWMRC Conditions.
- 14.4 Prizes not claimed at the prize-giving ceremony will remain with the organizing authority.

15 FURTHER INFORMATION

Event Chair	Bruce Stone	bruce@brucestone.com	(917) 822-4060
Race Director	Felix Weidling	racedirector@stfyc.com	(415) 820-3710
Race Officer	Mark Townsend	s_mark_townsend@hotmail.com	(562) 533-5909
Chief Umpire	Katie Maxim	katiemaxim@gmail.com	(707) 363-3300
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	championships@ussailing.org	(401) 342-7961

ADDENDUM 'RACE AREA'

