



2026 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship

Detroit, MI

September 24-27, 2026

(September 24 – Practice/Clinic, September 25-27 – Racing Days)

NOTICE OF RACE (NoR)

Organizing Authority: US Sailing

Host Club: Bayview Yacht Club

All times are Eastern Time

[Event Website](#)

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

RCV: Race Committee Vessel

RRS: Racing Rules of Sailing

SI: Sailing Instruction

RC: Race Committee

WS: World Sailing

The notation '[DP]' in a rule in the NoR or SI 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 the NoR or SI 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.

1 RULES

1.1 The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) including Appendix C.

1.2 Other documents that govern the event are:

(a) The US Sailing Regulations, available at:

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/resources/regatta-management/>

(b) [DP] US Sailing Championship Conditions ("Overall Conditions"), available at:

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/resources/championship-conditions/>

(c) Conditions for the combined US Women's Match Racing Championship and the US Match Racing Championships ("USWMRC Conditions"), available on the event website.

(d) [NP] US Sailing Championship Code of Conduct, available at:

<https://ussailing.jotform.com/form/211036206221134>

(e) [DP] US Sailing Coaching and Support Vessel Policy, available at:

<https://www.ussailing.org/competition/resources/coaching-and-support-boat-policy/>

This is a Grade 3 (no private coaching) event.

(f) Rules for Handling Boats and Equipment will be detailed in the SI. These will apply to any practice sailing and sponsor races.

1.3 Class Rules will not apply.

1.4 [DP] Each competitor shall wear a USCG approved PFD at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while adding or removing clothing. (See US Sailing Regulation 10:04 A.1.)

1.5 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, 60.5(b), 90.3(a), A5, and C10.7.

1.6 [NP] 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 61.4(b)(1).

1.7 The US Sailing prescriptions to the preamble to Part 5, Section B, and to Rule 63.1(b) do not apply.

1.8 The event has applied for 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.

2 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The sailing instructions will be available after 1200 on September 23, 2026 on the [online official notice board](#).

3 COMMUNICATION

3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the [online official notice board](#) and as a courtesy on the bulletin board at BYC.

3.2 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the flag pole located on the front lawn of the BYC club house.

4 ENTRY AND ELIGIBILITY

4.1 Up to **10 skippers** will be invited. Only skippers invited by the Invitation Committee will be eligible to enter this event.

4.2 All competitors (skipper and crew):

(a) 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 US Sailing Championship Conditions B7).

(b) Shall have Competition Eligibility as detailed in the World Sailing Eligibility Code.

(c) There is no nationality requirement to enter this event, but in accordance with USWMRC Conditions B2.4, only teams of all US competitors may be declared U.S. National Champion.

4.3 Invitations:

(a) Skippers will be invited by the Invitation Committee for the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship ("Invitation Committee") in accordance with the USWMRC Conditions.

(b) In accordance with USWMRC Conditions B 2.5 (a), Automatic Invitations will be issued to:
(1) The 2025 winner of the U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship

(c) Open positions will be available by resume and will be filled by the Invitation Committee of the USWMRC in accordance with the USWMRC Conditions. To Request an Invitation please fill out [this form](#).

(d) **The Invitation Committee will commence issuing invitations to the 2026 USWMRC on or after March 30, 2026.** It will continue to issue invitations until the event is fully subscribed.

- (e) To remain eligible an invited skipper shall confirm acceptance of the invitation by email by the date and time specified in the invitation. **A non-refundable entry bond in the amount of \$350 USD** shall accompany the acceptance of the invitation for this to be valid. In addition, the skipper shall comply with other requests detailed in the letter of invitation.
- (f) When a skipper accepts an invitation and later withdraws within **two months** of the event or leaves the event before the end without written approval from the OA, it is possible for a zero score to be applied to the skipper's Ranking points for that event by World Sailing. (World Sailing Policy H1.5.3)

4.4 The **entry fee** is **\$1000 USD** payable to **Bayview Yacht Club**, which includes the **\$350 USD entry bond** in NOR 4.3(e) above.

4.5 The **initial damage deposit** is **\$1,000 USD** to be paid at registration by credit card, unless extended by the OA.

4.6 By the end of onsite registration:

- (a) All crew shall complete crew weighing between **1100 and 1700** on Thursday, September 24, 2026, or **0800 and 0900** on Friday, September 25, 2026, unless extended by the OA.
- (b) All skippers shall provide a World Sailing Sailor ID. These can be obtained by registering online at: <https://www.sailing.org/sailors/world-sailing-profile/>
- (c) All skippers and crew shall agree in writing to abide by the US Sailing Championship Code of Conduct.
- (d) All skippers and crew shall agree in writing to the US Sailing Waiver of Liability.
- (e) All skippers shall pay any entry fee, and arrange for the damage deposit.

4.7 A team shall be considered entered on completion of all online and onsite registration requirements, crew weighing, and payment of all fees and deposits. All skippers must complete registration and pay all fees and deposits prior to obtaining a boat for practice.

4.8 Final competitor list will be published on the online official notice board in NOR 3.1 above.

4.9 All payments shall be made online via the link provided in the letter of Invitation. (see NoR 4.3)

5 DAMAGE / DAMAGE DEPOSIT

5.1 Each supplied boat is insured by the OA for third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of **\$1500** per incident.

5.2 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.

5.3 The remaining damage deposit will be refunded within **thirty (30) days** after the event.

6 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

6.1 The number of crew (including the skipper) shall be **four (4) or three (3)**. 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 **599 lbs.**, 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 in accordance with the US Championship Conditions B11.

7 [NP] EVENT FORMAT

7.1 The OA intends to provide at least **eight (8) Ultimate 20 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 RC. The intention of the OA and RC is to allocate boats by draw, either daily or for each round. The RC or OA 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 exchange or rotation of sails for any reason.

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 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/leeward with optional offset legs in the event of cross course current, resulting in either port or starboard rounding, and finishing downwind.

7.7 The intended racing area is offshore of the club in the Detroit river from the Freighter Channel to the American Shoreline.

7.8 Skippers will be seeded into a round robin based on the most recent World Sailing ranking list prior to the event.

7.9 In a knockout series, the following will apply:

- (a) In reference to RRS C4.1, for each pair the highest ranked skipper from Stage 1 shall be starboard entry for the first match and boats shall alternate ends every match.
- (b) Crews will exchange boats after odd matches of the series, unless otherwise agreed by both skippers.
- (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:**

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 **three (3) 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 their 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 **three (3) 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 10 in Stage 1 if Stage 2 is not sailed) will be paired to sail each other once in accordance with a table to be distributed by the RC. The results of this round robin will be for places five through tenth.
- (b) This stage will be run concurrently with stages 3 through 5.

7.11 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 Schedule

Thursday, September 24, 2026

1100 to 1700	Registration and Crew Weigh In
1200 to 1830	Clinic & Practice
1900	Happy Hour / Opening Ceremony at Bayview YC

Friday, September 25, 2026

0800 to 0900	Registration and Crew Weigh In
0900	First Briefing and meeting with the Umpires
1030	First Attention Signal or as announced at First Briefing
*After Racing	Umpire Debrief
*After Debrief	Dinner at Bayview YC

Saturday, September 26, 2026

0900	Daily Briefing and meeting with Umpires
1030	First Attention Signal or as announced at Daily Briefing
*After Racing	Umpire Debrief

Sunday, September 27, 2026

0900	Daily Briefing and meeting with Umpires
1030	First Attention Signal or as announced at Daily Briefing
1700	Approximate latest time for an Attention Signal
*After Racing	Awards Ceremony on the front lawn of BYC.

*Approximately 30 minutes after the last boat returns to the dock.

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

- (a) Initial briefing
- (b) Daily briefings
- (c) Prize giving

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 as 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, 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, good seamanship, and in accordance with any instructions for its use and without interfering with its functionality.

11 [NP] SUPPORT PERSON

11.1 This event is designated as a US Sailing Grade 3 Event for coaching purposes. See 1.2(e) above for a link to US Sailing's Coaching and Support Vessel Policy. There will be no private/team coaching nor US Sailing-supplied coaches during the regatta.

11.2 The OA may arrange 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.

14 RISK STATEMENT

14.1 Competitors participate in the regatta at their own risk. See Racing Rules of Sailing rule 3 (Decision to Race). The organizing authority will not accept any liability for material damage or personal injury or death sustained in conjunction with or prior to, during, or after the regatta.

14.2 Competitors shall accept full responsibility for their actions during any activity related to the event. This includes activities before, during, and after the regatta from the time they arrive at the venue until they leave the venue at the conclusion of the event.

15 PRIZES

15.1 US Sailing Medals will be awarded to the competitors finishing in first through third places.

15.2 The **Allegra Knapp Mertz Perpetual Trophy** will be presented to the first-place team and the **Mrs. C.F. Adams Memorial Perpetual Trophy** will be presented to the second-place team.

15.3 The top team composed of all US competitors will be declared the **US Women's National Champion** (see US Championship Conditions B7.3 and USWMRC Conditions B2.4)

15.4 In accordance with USWMRC Conditions B2.5(a), the top placing eligible skipper will be invited to the 2027 U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship.

15.5 In accordance with the USWMRC and USMRC Combined Conditions B2.5(b), the top placing eligible skipper will be invited to the 2027 U.S. Match Racing Championship.

16 FURTHER INFORMATION

Principal Race Officer:	Sandy Grosvenor	sandy@gromurph.org
Chief Umpire:	Kathy Lindgren	kat.lindgren585@gmail.com
BYC Event Chair	Jacque Reardon	jreardon722@gmail.com
BYC Regatta Director:	Ali Augsburger	Ali@byc.com
US Women's MR Chair:	Beka Schiff	schiffbeka@gmail.com
US Sailing Competition Manager:	Diana Emmanuelli	Dianaemmanuelli@ussailing.org
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