



2025 MELGES 15 WEST COAST CHAMPIONSHIP

Saturday & Sunday, September 13-14, 2025
Marina del Rey, California USA



SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Organizing Authority (OA) is California Yacht Club (CYC), located at 4469 Admiralty Way, Marina del Rey, CA 90292

Phone: 310.823.4567 | Web: www.calyachtclub.com

Event Chair: Jim Revis | See NoR 14 for contact information

1. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1.1 Any change to the Sailing Instructions (SIs) will be posted by 0930 on the day it takes effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it takes effect.
- 1.2 Changes to Sailing Instructions may be made on the water by displaying code flag "L" with one sound while in the racing area and making a VHF broadcast describing the change as permitted by RRS 90.2(c) (Sailing Instructions).

2. COMMUNICATIONS WITH COMPETITORS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board which is the Clubspot event site.
- 2.2 On the water, the RC intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 68. Failure of the RC to broadcast, mistaken broadcasts, or failure of a competitor to receive this information are not grounds for a request for redress. This change is added to RRS 61.1(a) (Requesting or Considering Redress).
- 2.3 [DP] While racing, except in an emergency, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.

3. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

- 3.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagpole located on the CYC front lawn.
- 3.2 When the Answering Pennant (AP) is displayed ashore, "1 minute" is replaced with "not less than sixty (60) minutes" in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) Race Signals AP.

4. SCHEDULE OF RACES

- 4.1 Seven (7) races are scheduled: no more than four (4) races will be sailed on any day.
- 4.2 The scheduled time of the first warning signal on Saturday is 1300. The scheduled time of the first warning signal on Sunday is 1230. Subsequent races will start as soon as practicable.
- 4.3 On the last scheduled day of racing, no more than three (3) races will be sailed, and no warning signal will be made after 1530. In the case of one or more general recall(s) when the initial warning signal was made prior to 1530, subsequent warning signals may be made after that time. This exception does not apply to a race that is postponed or abandoned.
- 4.4 The RC may display flag A (with no sound) while boats are finishing to signal that there will be no more races conducted that day.

5. CLASS FLAG

The class flag is a white flag with a red Melges 15 logo on a white background.

6. RACING AREA

The racing area is on Santa Monica Bay with the starting area approximately one (1) nautical mile northwest of the Marina del Rey breakwater as shown on SI Addendum B.

7. MARKS

Marks are described in SI Addendum A.

8. COURSES

Courses are described in SI Addendum A.

9. THE START

- 9.1 The RC intends to use the Vakaros RaceSense system for all race starts to signal the starting sequence and to identify OCS boats and notify them via each boat's Vakaros unit. If the RC determines that the system will not be used, they will display flag F prior to the warning signal (see SI 9.3 below).

9.2 Vakaros Starting System

- (a) RRS 26 (Starting Races) is changed to: "Races will be started by RaceSense. Times shall be taken from the timer display on a boat's Vakaros unit. There will be no visual or sound signals made by the signal boat."

Minutes before starting signal	Visual signal on Vakaros Unit	Means
5	5:00	Warning Signal
4	4:00	Preparatory Signal
1	1:00	One minute
0	0:00	Starting Signal

- (b) Race Signal P, Preparatory Signal, is changed to "4:00" on a boat's Vakaros unit. This changes Race Signals; Preparatory Signals.
- (c) The starting line is between a Vakaros unit mounted on the starting mark at its port end and the staff displaying an orange and white checkered flag on the RC signal vessel at its starboard end. (See SI Addendum A.)
- (d) Individual recalls will be made by the Vakaros RaceSense system. The RC will not notify competitors who are on the course side of the starting line prior to the start via VHF. Notification will be via red lights and an "OCS" message on the Vakaros RaceSense device after the start. If a boat's device indicates that it is OCS, it must sail back below the line until the unit's light changes from red to green and displays "Cleared".
- (e) Race Signal "X" (Recall Signals; Individual Recall) is changed to the display of "OCS" and red lights on a boat's Vakaros unit.
- (f) RRS 29.1 (Recalls; Individual Recall) is replaced by: "When at a boat's starting signal any part of her hull is on the course side of the starting line or she must comply with rule 30.1, the race committee will promptly notify all such boats by displaying "OCS" and red lights on the boat's Vakaros unit. The notification shall be displayed until the hull of the boat has been completely on the pre-start side of the starting line or one of its extensions, and until the boat has complied with Rule 30.1 if it applies, but no later than four minutes after the starting signal or one minute before any later starting signal, whichever is earlier. If rule 29.2, 30.3, or 30.4 applies this rule does not."
- (g) The following is added to RRS 30.3 (Starting Penalties; U Flag Rule) and 30.4 (Starting Penalties; Black Flag Rule): "Additionally, the race committee may hail via VHF those boats identified as in violation of RRS 30.3 and 30.4." (See SI 2.2).

9.3 Flag F Starting System

- (a) The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange and white checkered flag on the signal vessel at its starboard end and the course side of the starting mark at its port end (See SI Addendum A).
- (b) If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line at her starting signal and she is identified, the RC will attempt to hail her sail number as provided in SI 2.2.
- 9.4 To alert boats of an upcoming race, an attention signal will be made approximately one (1) minute before the warning signal is made.
- 9.5 A boat that starts more than five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This change is added to RRS A5.1 and A5.2 (Scores Determined by the Race Committee).

10. CHANGE THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

To change the next leg of the course, the RC will move the original mark (or move the finishing line) to a new position.

11. THE FINISH

The finishing line is between the staff displaying a blue flag on the RC signal vessel at its port end and a Vakaros unit mounted on the finishing mark at its starboard end. (See SI Addendum A.) If the Flag F Starting System is in effect the finishing line will be between the staff displaying a blue flag on the RC signal vessel at its port end and the course side of the finishing mark at its starboard end.

12. PENALTY SYSTEM

- 12.1 US Sailing Prescription Appendix V, Section V1 (Penalty at the Time of an Incident) applies.
- 12.2 Appendix P, Special Procedures for RRS 42 (Propulsion), applies with the following changes: in P2.1 – *First Penalty*, the word "first" in the title and the word "first" in the first sentence is deleted. P2.2 and P2.3 are deleted.

13. TIME LIMITS

- 13.1 The Mark 1 Time Limit, Race Time Limit (see RRS 35 [Race Time Limit and Scores]), and the Finishing Window are shown in the table below in minutes.

Mark 1 Time Limit	Race Time Limit	Finishing Window
25	60	20

- 13.2 If no boat has passed the first mark within the Mark 1 Time Limit, the race will be abandoned.

- 13.3 The Finishing Window is the time for boats to finish after the first boat sails the course and finishes within the race time limit. Boats failing to finish within the Finishing Window, and not subsequently retiring, penalized, or given redress, will be scored Time Limit Expired (TLE) without a hearing. A boat scored TLE shall be scored one (1) point more than the last place boat that sails the course and finishes within the Finishing Window, and is not otherwise penalized. This changes RRS 35 (Race Time Limit and Scores) and is added to RRS A5.1, 5.2 and A10 (Scores Determined by the Race Committee; Scoring Abbreviations).

14. HEARING REQUESTS

- 14.1 The protest time limit each day is thirty (30) minutes after the RC signal vessel docks on that day. This time will be posted at the *Protest Time Limit and Hearing Schedule* link located on the [Official Notice Board](#) no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the RC signal vessel docks.
- 14.2 A breach of SI 16, 18, as well as any class rule other than class equipment measurement rules, will not be grounds for protest by a boat. This changes RRS 60.1(a) (Right to Protest; Right to Request Redress or Rule 69 Action).
- 14.3 RRS 62.2 (Redress) is modified as follows:
- (a) The second sentence of RRS 62.2 (Redress) is replaced with: "If the request is based on an incident in the racing area, it shall be filed within the protest time limit for that day."
 - (b) A notice of boats scored per RRS A5.1 (Scores Determined by the Race Committee) each day will be posted at the *View Starting Penalties* link located on the [Official Notice Board](#) no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the RC signal vessel docks on that day. The deadline for a request for redress based on this list is the protest time limit for that day.
 - (c) The time limit for a request for redress based on the outcome of a scoring inquiry (see SI 15.4) is thirty (30) minutes after that outcome has been posted.
- 14.4 Hearing request forms are available at the *File a Protest* link located on the [Official Notice Board](#).
- 14.5 Notices to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses will be posted no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the protest time limit each day at the *Protest Time Limit and Hearing Schedule* link located on the [Official Notice Board](#). Hearings will be held in the CYC Office Trailer, beginning as soon as possible.
- 14.6 Representatives of boats who are parties to a hearing and their witnesses shall remain on call in the vicinity of the CYC Office Trailer.
- 14.7 US Sailing Prescriptions to RRS 63.1 (Requirement for a Hearing) and 63.2 (Time and Place of the Hearing; Time for Parties to Prepare) do not apply.

15. SCORING

- 15.1 The Low Point System of Appendix A will apply.
- 15.2 One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute a series. Three (3) races will constitute a championship event.
- 15.3 When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score is the total of her race scores. When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score is, subject to RRS 90.3(b) (Scoring), the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 15.4 Preliminary results will be posted on the [Official Notice Board](#) as soon as possible after racing each day.
- 15.5 Competitors shall notify the RC of any scoring errors each day using the *Submit Scoring Inquiry* link on the [Official Notice Board](#). The deadline to file a scoring inquiry is the protest time limit or thirty (30) minutes after the preliminary results have been posted for that day, whichever is later.

16. [DP] SAFETY REGULATIONS

- 16.1 A condition of entry and participation in the event is the wearing of a U.S. Coast Guard approved lifejacket or, for international sailors only, a lifejacket approved by their country's corresponding authority, properly secured at all times while on the water, except for brief periods while removing or adding clothing. All lifejackets must be suitable for the competitor's weight. Wet suits, dry suits, and inflatable lifejackets do not constitute adequate personal buoyancy. These changes are added to RRS 40 (Personal Flotation Devices), and the Preamble to Part 4 will not apply to RRS 40.
- 16.2 Prior to the first warning signal each day, when the RC signal vessel is displaying code flag "L", each boat shall sail past, on starboard, the stern of the RC signal boat, hail her sail number and be recognized by the RC. Boats missing their first race may check in upon arrival. Boats failing to check-in properly may be given a twenty percent (20%) scoring penalty applied without a hearing to a boat's first valid race of the day. This change is added to RRS A5.1 (Scores Determined by the Race Committee)
- 16.3 A boat that withdraws from a race prior to finishing or does not intend to start a scheduled race shall notify the RC either before leaving the race area or as soon as possible after arriving ashore.

17. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

All boats and equipment must meet M15 class rules and may be inspected by the RC, PC, or Technical Committee for compliance with the rules at any time during the event.

18. RISK STATEMENT

Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3 (Decision to Race). By participating in the event, each competitor agrees to release the race organizers (organizing authority, host yacht club, race committee, protest committee, sponsors, and any others acting in an official capacity for the event) from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in the event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

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SI ADDENDUM A: COURSES

SI 7. MARKS (continued)

- 7.1 Mark 1 is an orange tetrahedron.
- 7.2 Mark 1a (offset mark) is a small pink tetrahedron.
- 7.3 Marks 2s and 2p are yellow tetrahedrons.
- 7.4 Marks S and F are orange tetrahedrons.
- 7.5 A new windward mark, as provided in SI 10, is the alternate color to the one signaled during the starting sequence.

8 COURSES (continued)

- 8.1 Marks 1 and 1a shall be rounded to port.
- 8.2 The angle between Mark 1 and Mark 1a is approximately 90°.
- 8.3 Mark 2s/2p is a gate. In the event only one gate mark is on station, that mark shall be rounded to port.
- 8.4 The starting/finishing lines are approximately 0.1 nautical mile to leeward of Mark 2s/2p.
- 8.5 No later than the warning signal for each class, the RC signal vessel will use numeral placards or a white board to display the approximate magnetic bearing and distance from Mark 2s/2p to the first weather mark.
- 8.6 No later than the warning signal for each class, the RC signal vessel will use numeral pennants to signal one of the courses shown below:

Numeral Pennant	Courses
1	Start – 1 – 1a -- 2s/2p – 1 – 1a -- Finish
2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – Finish

COURSE DIAGRAM

1a▲ -- ▲ 1

2s▲ -- ▲ 2p



(Not to Scale. Mark F will be on station only when boats are finishing.)

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SI ADDENDUM B: RACING AREA

