



U.S. Match Racing Championship Qualifier
Organized by US Sailing and Texas Corinthian Yacht Club
Hosted by Texas Corinthian Yacht Club
Kemah, TX

NOTICE OF RACE

May 6-7, 2017

NOTE REGARDING THE 2018 WORLD SAILING NATIONS CUP

World Sailing intends to hold the next Nations Cup (an international Match Racing Championship) in 2018. The Regional Qualifiers for the Open and Women's divisions will be held in late 2017 or in 2018. The U.S. can send up to two skippers to the Regional Qualifiers depending on whether World Sailing allows two skippers. The U.S. representative in the Open division will be based on the results at the 2017 U.S. Match Racing Championship (see the USMRC Conditions for more information). The Women's division representative will be selected by resume. More information on the Women's selection system will be available by April 1, 2017. Selected skippers can choose whomever they want to crew for them at the Nations Cup Regional Qualifiers (i.e., they do not need to sail with their crew from the USMRC, nor does their USMRC crew need to be eligible to sail in the Regional Qualifiers).

1 ORGANIZING AUTHORITY

The Organizing Authority (OA) will be US Sailing in conjunction with Texas Corinthian Yacht Club.

2 VENUE

The venue will be Upper Galveston Bay, Kemah, TX, USA

3 EVENT GRADING

The event has applied for World Sailing Grade 3.

This grading is subject to review by World Sailing. The event may be re-graded when there is clear reason to do so.

4 PROVISIONAL PROGRAM

4.1 Schedule

- (a) Race office open from Friday, May 5, 2017
- (b) Registration: Friday, May 5 2017, 1300 to 1700 & Saturday, May 6, 2017, 0830 to 0900.
- (c) Crew weighing is on Friday, May 5, 2017, 1300 to 1700 & Saturday, May 6, 2017, 0830 to 0900.
- (d) (e) First briefing at 0900 on Saturday, May 6, 2017.
- (f) First meeting with umpires is on Saturday, May 6, 2017, immediately following first briefing.
- (g) Racing days from Saturday, May 6, 2017 to Sunday, May 7, 2017.
- (h) Time of the first attention signal each day will be 1000.
- (i) The latest time for an attention signal on the last day of racing will be 1600 on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

- (j) Second briefing will be at 0900 on Sunday, May 7, 2017.
- (k) Daily debriefs approximately one (1) hour after the last boat reaches the mooring each day.
- (l) Prize giving will be on Sunday, May 7, 2017, following debrief.

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

- (a) Initial briefing for skippers.
- (b) Daily briefing, for skippers.
- (c) Prize giving for the final skippers and crews.

5 SKIPPERS ELIGIBILITY

5.1 Up to eight (8) skippers will be invited. Only skippers invited by the Invitation Committee of the U.S. Match Racing Championships Committee (USMRCC) will be eligible to enter this event. Skippers may request invitations to one or more of the Qualifying events. The application period for all Qualifying events opens on January 1, 2017. Request invitations to individual qualifying events online by clicking on the link at:

https://docs.google.com/a/oakcliffsailing.org/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfMSI89k2MIYj2c95bhfxKXOEb8k-PsRbwJkHlKR0E5_ydNGw/viewform - start=invite

The USMRCC Invitation Committee will consider a skipper's experience as demonstrated by World Sailing ranking, match racing results and sailing resume, along with the following additional factors:

- (a) Skippers who have not attempted to qualify at another event
- (b) Skipper preference list
- (c) Skipper proximity to event venue (OA may give preference to skippers travelling more than 500 km to assist event grading)
- (d) Need to fill available qualifying slots at each event

5.2 To remain eligible a skipper shall confirm acceptance of the invitation in writing by registering online and paying the entry fee through the Regatta Network link in the invitation to be received by the date specified on the letter of invitation.

5.3 All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of World Sailing regulation 19.2.

5.4 All competitors shall obtain a World Sailing Sailor ID by registering online at <http://www.sailing.org/isafsailor>. Skippers shall inform the OA of their World Sailing Sailor ID at registration.

5.5 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.

6 ENTRIES

6.1 Entering

- (a) Skippers may begin applying online for invitations to the qualifiers on January 1, 2017 (See NOR 5.1 and 5.2 above). The USMRCC Invitation Committee will begin issuing invitations to the qualifiers on February 1, 2017, and will continue to issue invitations until each qualifier is fully subscribed.
- (b) Skippers will be given two (2) weeks to accept their spot at each qualifier, unless otherwise indicated in the invitation letter.
- (c) The skipper shall be entered in an event upon completion of registration, crew weighing and the payment of all event fees and deposits.

6.2 Entry Fee

A non-refundable entry fee of \$350 USD shall be paid by the date and in the manner specified in the invitation letter.

6.3 **Withdrawal**

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, a zero score may be applied to their Ranking points for that event by World Sailing. (World Sailing Regulation 27.2)

6.4 **Damage deposit**

- (a) An initial damage deposit of \$1,500 USD shall be paid at registration, unless extended by the OA. This deposit is the maximum payable by the skipper as a result of any one incident.
- (b) If a deduction from the damage deposit is decided by the OA, it may require that the deposit be restored to its original amount before the skipper will be permitted to continue in the event.
- (c) Any remaining deposit after the event will be refunded within 10 days after the event.

6.5 The entire Entry Fee and Damage Deposit must be paid before a team can sail in any practice or clinic session.

7 **RULES**

7.1 (a) The event will be governed by the rules as defined in the RRS, including Appendix C, and

- (1) The US Sailing Regulations which govern all US Sailing Championships and Qualifying Events. In particular, Regulations 2.02, 4.02, 10, 13, and 14.04 apply, although other Regulations may be applicable as well. The US Sailing Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.ussailing.org/wp-content/uploads/DARoot/Bylaws/RegsAmended2015-06-22.pdf>

- (2) US Sailing's current "Championship Conditions" will apply to all the events in the series, and can be found at:

<http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/championship-conditions/>

- (3) The current U.S. Match Racing Championship Conditions which can be found at:

<http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/adult/matchracing/>

- (4) The current U.S. Women's Match Racing Championship Conditions which can be found at:

<http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/adult/womensmatchracing/>

- (b) The rules for the handling of boats will apply, and will also apply to any practice sailing, clinics or sponsor races. Class rules will not apply.

- (d) Conflicts between the Conditions for the USMRC the USWMRC and this Notice of Race (NoR) will be resolved in favor of the Conditions. If there is a conflict between the NoR and the Sailing Instructions (SIs), it will be resolved in favor of the SIs. This changes RRS 63.7.

7.2 Major Alterations to the RRS

- (a) RRS 40 and the preamble to Part 4 is changed as follows: 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.)

- (b) Add to RRS 41: (e) help to recover from the water and return on board a crew member, provided the return on board is at the approximate location of the recovery.

- (c) RRS C6.3, C7.4, C8.6, C10.2, 28.1, 60.1(b), 62.1(a), 63.1, and A5 will be changed in the sailing instructions for this event.
- (d) RRS C10.2 will be changed to the following:
When a competitor withdraws from an event pursuant to the US Sailing Code of Conduct [voluntarily or by reason of being excluded by a protest committee], that competitor's team shall be removed from the final event scores and each team with a worse finishing place in the event shall be moved up one place.

8 BOATS AND SAILS

- 8.1 The event will be sailed in Sonar type boats.
- 8.2 Eight boats will be provided.
- 8.3 The following sails will be provided for each boat: Mainsail, Genoa, Jib and Spinnaker.
- 8.4 Boats will be allocated by draw, either daily or for each round as decided by the race committee.

9 CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

- 9.1 The number of crew (including the skipper) shall be three or four. All registered crew shall sail all races.
- 9.2 The total weight of the crew, including the skipper, dressed in at least shorts and shirts, shall not exceed 579 LBS., determined at the time of registration or such time as required by the RC.
- 9.3 When a registered skipper is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorize an original crew member to substitute in accordance with the Championship Committee Conditions.
- 9.4 When a registered crew member is unable to continue in the event the OA may authorize a substitute, a temporary substitute or other adjustment. The substituted sailor must be eligible to compete and must be very close to the approximate weight of the substituted sailor.

10 EVENT FORMAT

- 10.1 The event format will consist of Round Robin(s), Knock-out Series and Finals racing. The format will be specified in the sailing instructions.
- 10.2 The RC may change the format, or terminate any stage or the event when, in its 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.

11 COURSE

- 11.1 The course will be windward/leeward with starboard roundings, finishing downwind.
- 11.2 A leeward gate may be used.
- 11.3 The intended course area will be Upper Galveston Bay, Kemah, TX.

12 ADVERTISING

- 12.1 As boats and equipment will be supplied by the Organizing Authority, World Sailing Regulation 20.4 applies. Each boat may be required to display advertising as supplied by the OA.

- 12.2 Competitors may be permitted to display advertising ashore at the venue, but this is subject to individual negotiation with the OA.
- 12.3 Boats shall not be permitted the right to protest for breaches of any rules regarding advertising (amends RRS 60.1).

13 PRIZES

13.1 Invitations

The top placing eligible skipper (per U.S. Match Racing Championship Conditions) not already qualified will earn a qualification spot to the 2017 U.S. Match Racing Championship hosted by Oakcliff Sailing on October 13-15, 2017. Should the qualifying skipper decline his/her spot to the USMRC, the USMRCC Invitation Committee will fill the spot via invitation per the USMRC Conditions.

- 13.2 Additional prizes given by the host club will be listed in the sailing instructions.
- 13.3 The OA may reduce a prize in the case of misconduct or refusal to comply with any reasonable request, including attendance at official functions.

14 MEDIA, IMAGES and SOUND

14.1 If required by the OA:

- (a) Television personnel and equipment (or dummies) supplied by the OA shall be carried on board while racing.
- (b) Competitors shall wear microphones supplied by the OA during racing and be available for interviews when advised by the OA or RC.
- (c) Registered skippers shall wear communications equipment supplied by the OA that will allow commentators to communicate with them whilst racing.

- 14.2 Competitors shall not interfere with the normal working of the OA supplied media equipment.
- 14.3 The OA have the right to use any images and sound recorded during the event free of any charge.

15 COACH BOATS

This event is designated as a US Sailing Grade 3 Event for coaching purposes. No private/team coaching nor US Sailing-supplied coaches. Private/team spectator boats only if permitted in the NOR. The OA may arrange for spectator boats. The US Sailing's Coaching and Support Boat Policy is available online at:

<http://www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/coaching-and-support-boat-policy/>

16 SPARE

17 DISCLAIMER

All those taking any part in the event do so at their own risk. The OA, its associates and appointees accept no responsibility for any loss, damage, injury or inconvenience incurred, howsoever caused.

18 DISCIPLINE



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:
 - 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. The competitor's boat shall be disqualified from all races of the series.

19 EVENT CONTACTS

Event Chair: Pierce Owens, fleetcaptain@tcyc.org, 713-805-7800

U.S. Match Racing Championship: Greg Kiely, grkiely@gmail.com

USMRC Homepage: www.ussailing.org/racing/championships/adult/matchracing