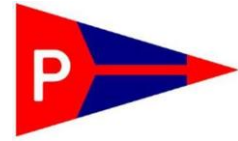


WINTER SERIES
2025
NOTICE OF SERIES



NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organizing Authority (OA) are Fairhope Yacht Club, Pensacola Yacht Club and Pontchartrain Yacht Club

1 RULES [NoR]

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 In any rule governing the Regatta: the notation [NP] means that any infraction to the rule will not be grounds for a protest by a boat (Changes rule RRS 60.1 (a)) and the notation [SP] Denotes a rule which a penalty may be applied by the RC without a hearing (Changes rule RRS 63.1, A4 and A5).
- 1.3 In RRS 90.3(e) the expression "24 hours" is changed by "30 minutes"
- 1.4 The first three sentences of RRS 61.1(a) are changed to 'A boat intending to protest shall inform the other boat at the first reasonable opportunity. When her protest will concern an incident in the racing area that she was involved in or saw she shall hail 'Protest'. She shall inform the Race Committee at the finishing line immediately after finishing of the boat(s) being protested or as soon as practicable after she retires.'
- 1.5 [NP][DP] Competitors and support persons shall promptly comply with any reasonable request or instructions from the Regatta officials, including the officials in charge of the boat parking, beach master and the harbor/channel traffic.

NOTICE TO COMPETITORS. CHANGES TO THE NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING

2 INSTRUCTIONS [SI]

- 2.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board Online (ONBO). Competitors will be informed by text or email (indicated in the registration form) when a Notice to competitors is posted on the ONBO.
- 2.2 Changes to the rules will be posted on the ONBO before 0830am on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted no later than 1900 on the day before it will take effect.
- 2.3 For an on the water change to the sailing instructions: "L" flag shall be displayed. The change will be announced on the designated VHF channel. (This changes RRS Race Signals)

3 GREEN REGATTA [NoR]

- 3.1 The Winter Series 2025 is a Sailors for the Sea "Clean Regatta" which means that any document used by the Organizing Authority, Race Committee, Protest Committee, Measurement Committee and Competitors as a way of communication between them will be online.
- 3.2 There will be no paper format, except for Protest Committee decisions on a protest or request for redress if a party asks for a written decision.
- 3.3 All communications will be received by each boat in the way established in the Registration Form (email).
- 3.4 A boat may request a communication in paper format only if she is a party in the Protest or Request for redress.
- 3.5 [NP] [DP] Rule RRS 47 applies at all times on the water and ashore. Trash may be placed aboard support and RC Vessels while on the water and trash cans. The penalty for breaching rule RRS 47 will be decided by the Protest Committee and could be different than a disqualification. (This change Preamble of part 4 RRS and rule RRS 47)
- 3.6 All competitors are encouraged to use refillable water bottles and recycle all appropriate items.

4 ELIGIBILITY, REGISTRATION AND CREW LIST [NoR]

4.1 The regatta is open to all boats of the Melges15 class that meet the obligations of the Class

Rules. 4.2 Eligible boats may enter by completing online registration at:

#2 Winter SERIES


https://www.regattanetwork.com/clubmgmt/applet_registration_form.php?regatta_id=29205

4.3 Only boats that have completed all registration requirements will be allowed to compete. Note – completed entry includes payment of entry fee.

4.4 The OA will acknowledge completed entries upon post on the official event web site.

5 FEES [NoR]

5.1 The Entry Fee will be \$50 for the Series #1 and #2, and \$75 for the Serie #3.

6 SCHEDULE [NoR]

6.1 Three regattas are scheduled for the Series:

- Regatta #1 January 19 - 20, 2025 Pensacola Yacht Club
- Regatta #2 February 1 – 2, 2025 Fairhope Yacht Club
- Regatta #3 March 15 – 16, 2025 Pontchartrain Yacht Club

7.2 The racing schedule for each regatta will be as follows:

DAY	DATE	TIME(s)	EVENT
Saturday	Jan 19, 2025	0830	Rigging
	Feb 1, 2025	0900	Clinic
	March 15, 2025	1100	Practice Races
	March 15, 2025	1430	BBQ – Buy your own drink
	Jan 20, 2025		
	Feb 2, 2025	1000	First Warning Signal

March 16, 2025

7.3 Twelve (12) races are scheduled for the Series.

7.4 The RC shall attempt to complete four (4) races per day.

7.5 The OA reserves the right to modify the program due to weather conditions or other causes.

8 SIGNALS MADE ASHORE [SI]

8.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from a flagpole in the Pensacola Yacht Club lawn.

8.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, ‘1 minute’ is replaced with ‘not less than 30 minutes’ in the race signal AP. (This changes RRS Race Signals)

8.3 The RC intends to broadcast its intentions for the day at 0900 each morning on channel 72 VHF.

9 COMMUNICATION [SI]

- 9.1 [DP] All boats may carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channel 72. Channels 68, 69, and 71 may be used.
- 9.2 On the water, the RC will make courtesy broadcasts to competitors on VHF radio channel 72.
- 9.3 [DP] From the first warning signal until the end of the last race of the day, except in an emergency or as required by a rule, a boat shall not make voice nor data transmissions and shall not receive voice nor data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 9.4 The RC may broadcast the course, bearing and distance information before the warning signal, start times, starting infractions, and information important to racing. Failure of the transmission, failure of any boat to receive or properly interpret this information, or any errors or omissions on the part of the hailed messages shall not constitute grounds for granting redress. (This changes RRS 62.1(a))
- 9.5 Individual recalls and boats penalized under RRS 30.2 or RRS 30.3 may be broadcast on the designated VHF channel using bow/sail numbers. (This changes RRS 29.1, 30.2 and 30.3)
- 9.6 Failure of the RC to make a broadcast or to time it accurately will not be grounds for a request for redress. (This changes RRS 62.1(a))
- 9.7 The RC may broadcast any course changes over the designated VHF channel. Failure of a boat to hear such notification or failure to broadcast will not be grounds for redress. (This changes RRS 62.1(a))

10 CLASS FLAG [SI]

- 10.1 The Class flag will be M15 Class Insignia.

11 VENUE – RACING AREA [NoR]

- 11.1 The venue host address will be the one for each Organizing Authority.
- 11.2 The location of the racing area will be decided by the Race Committee.

12 MARKS [SI]

- 12.1 Marks 1, 2S and 2P will be orange inflatable tetrahedrons.
- 12.2 Mark 1a will be a red ball buoy.
- 12.3 The starting marks will be RC vessels with an orange flag.
- 12.4 The finishing marks will be either an RC vessel with a blue flag or a yellow inflatable mark.
- 12.5 A RC vessel signalling a change of course, according to SI 15, shall be treated per RRS 31. (This Changes rule RRS 31)

13 THE COURSES and WEATHER LIMITATION [SI]

- 13.1 The course to be sailed will be a windward-leeward configuration. Offset and gate marks will be used. Except in a gate, marks shall be rounded to port. The illustration in Attachment B shows the course diagram.
- 13.2 The approximate compass bearing and distance from the RC signal vessel to Mark 1 may be broadcasted on the designated VHF channel (72).
- 13.3 Marks 1 and 1a, shall be rounded to port. Mark 1a is an offset mark and will be positioned to port of the associated windward mark (looking upwind).
- 13.4 A leeward gate (two marks) will be used. Boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either gate mark. If only one gate mark is set, boats shall round the single mark to port. Except when there is a change of course, the gate will be positioned approximately 0.1nm to windward of the RC signal vessel. The gate may be laid after the starting signal.
- 13.5 Except when there is a change of course according to SI 15, the downwind finishing line will be to leeward of the gate and adjacent to the RC signal vessel.
- 13.6 Races shall not be started when the average wind speed is below 4 knots or exceeds 19 knots. If during the race the wind speed goes over 19 knots for more than 3 consecutive minutes the race shall be abandoned. (This changes RRS 32.1)

14 THE START [SI]

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- 14.1 The starting line will be between the staffs displaying orange flags on the port end RC line vessel and starboard end RC signal vessel.
 - 14.2 To alert boats that a race will begin soon, an ORANGE flag will be displayed at least 3 minutes before a warning signal is displayed. This flag will be removed approximately 5 minutes after a valid start with no sound signal.
 - 14.3 [SP] A boat starting later than five (5) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start without a hearing.
 - 14.4 RRS 30.4 (Black Flag Rule) is changed to permit the RC to display bow number and/or sail number.

15 CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE [SI]

- 15.1 To change the next leg of the course, the RC will move the original mark(s) to the new position or move the finishing line. At the weather mark, the RC will make every effort to set an offset (1a) mark with a change of course.
- 15.2 Under any circumstances, if the offset mark (1a) is absent, boats shall sail to the gate or the finish line from the weather mark.
- 15.3 [NP] Any adjustment of any leg of the course, while boats are racing, by moving mark(s) up to 010° in bearing and/or 0.2 nm in length will not be considered a change of course. (This changes RRS 33)

16 THE FINISH, TIME LIMITS AND TARGET TIMES [SI]

- 16.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag on the finishing line vessel and a staff displaying a blue flag on a nearby RC vessel, or the course side of a nearby yellow inflatable mark.
- 16.2 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish a race will be 2 hours after her start.
- 16.3 The time limit for the first boat to round Mark 1 for the first time after the start is 30 minutes.
- 16.4 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes, and not thereafter retiring, being penalized, or given redress, will be scored TLE (Time Limit Expired, see Scoring). (This changes RRS 35, A5.1, A5.2 and A10)
- 16.5 The target time for races is 45 to 60 minutes. Failure to meet the target time will not be grounds for redress. (This changes RRS 62.1(a))
- 16.6 Flag A displayed at the finish vessel means “no more racing today.”

17 PENALTY SYSTEM and RULE 42 [NoR]

- 17.1 Appendix V and T will apply.
- 17.2 Rule V1 is changed as follows: The first two sentences of rule 44.1 are changed to: 'A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 while racing. However, when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 while in the zone around a mark other than a starting mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty.'
- 17.3 Unless the course is shortened to finish at the windward mark, penalties while in the zone of the windward mark or on the offset leg may be delayed and taken as soon as possible on the downwind leg. (This changes RRS 44.2.)
- 17.4 Unlimited trimming and easing of the asymmetrical gennaker to promote a plane shall be permitted. (This Class Rule changes RRS 42.2 (a))

18 HEARING REQUESTS [SI]

- 18.1 Hearing requests shall be filled by using the online form that can be found: [Protest Form](#) (PC Secretary Email: cesar@pycflboard.com) within the appropriate Time Limit.
- 18.2 The Protest Time Limit (PTL) shall be sixty (60) minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the RC signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The resulting time will be posted at the Official Notice Board Online. (This changes RRS 61.3)
- 18.3 Notices of scheduled hearings will be posted on the Official Notice Board Online to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or may be parties affected by a request for redress.
- 18.4 USSailing Prescription to rule RRS 63.2 will not apply.
- 18.5 RRS 66 is changed as follows:

On the last day of the regatta, a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered:

- (a) within the protest time limit if the requesting party was informed of the decision on the previous day.
- (b) no later than 30 minutes after the requesting party was informed of the decision on that day.

- 18.6 Notices will be posted on the ONBO not later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the protest room, beginning at the posted time.
- 18.7 Within the protest time limit, the RC shall post on the ONBO the boats that are disqualified or penalized under A5. A boat so notified may only request for redress within 30 minutes after that posting.
- 18.8 Notices of protests by the RC or the Protest Committee will be posted on the ONBO to inform boats under rule 61.1 b).

19 SCORING [NoR]

19.1 RACES TO COUNT AND MINIMUM REQUIRED

- 19.1.1 To qualify for inclusion in the final series results a boat shall start in at least 25% of the completed races listed in NoR 7.3.

19.2 SERIES SCORES

- 19.2.1 Three (3) races is required to be completed to constitute the Series.
- 19.2.2 Only the races completed on each Sunday will be scored for the Series.
- 19.2.3 When fewer than four (4) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.
- 19.2.4 When four (4) to seven (7) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 19.2.5 When eight (8) to eleven (11) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her two (2) worst scores.
- 19.2.6 When twelve (12) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her three (3) worst scores.

20 SAFETY AND SUPPORT PERSON / SUPPORT VESSEL REGULATIONS [NoR]

- 20.1 [DP] Before the first warning signal of each day, all boats shall sail past the stern of the RC Signal Vessel on starboard tack and check in by hailing their sail/bow number. They shall continue to do so until their sail/bow number is verbally acknowledged by the RC.
- 20.2 [DP] [NP] [SP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC before leaving the course area or immediately after arriving ashore via radio contact from PYC.
- 20.3 All competitors shall wear, while on the water, other than brief periods while adding or removing clothing, an approved US Coast Guard PFD that depends 100% on foam for flotation that is the appropriate size for the sailor with no modification. The PFD must be worn outside of all clothing, except that a thin shirt may be worn over the PFD to prevent snagging. (This Changes the preamble to Part 4, rule RRS 40 and Race Signals).
- 20.4 Each support vessel shall have a working VHF radio and monitor the radio, an anchor suitable for anchoring in the waiting area, a basic first aid kit and a kill-cord attached to the driver at all times while on the water.
- 20.5 [SP] No drones are allowed closer than 500 meters from racing areas from the Warning Signal for a race and after the last boat has finished the race. As a penalty for breaching this rule the protest committee may impose a discretionary penalty to all boats associated with the owner / operator of the drone. This rule does not apply to the OA drones.
- 20.6 Support persons and Support Vessels shall register with the race office during registration times. They shall declare which boat or boats to which they are attached. Support persons and support vessels shall declare proof of insurance and provide photo ID of the driver. Vessels shall comply with local laws and regulations regarding their operation.
- 20.7 Under all circumstances, coaches and other support vessels are expected to assist any boat in danger.
- 20.8 Coach and support boats shall display a flag, or other identification symbol, as may be required by the race committee.
- 20.9 [DP] [NP] Team leaders, coaches and other support personnel shall be outside of the racing area described in SI 20.10 and 20.11 from the Preparatory Signal until the last boat finishes the last race or the RC displays a postponement, general recall or abandonment signal, unless they are helping a boat in danger. Breaking this rule will be penalized by the Jury.
- 20.10 The racing area is defined as a surface which borders are over 100 meters from the laylines.
- 20.11 The starting area is a rectangle with its borders 100 meters to windward and leeward and 100 meters to pin ends of the starting line.

21 REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT [SI]

- 21.1 Substitution of equipment will not be allowed unless authorized by the Race Committee. Requests for substitution shall be made to the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.

21.2 Any substitution granted via SI 21.1 will be posted on the Official Notice Board Online.

22 LAUNCHING AND BERTHING [NoR]

22.1 The hoist and launch ramp will be available on demand. Please coordinate with fellow competitors.

23 PRIZES [NoR]

23.1 Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finishers in the series.

23.2 Other trophies may be announced on a later date.

24 DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY [NoR]

24.1 Competitors participate in the event entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The OA 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.

24.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the Series, each competitor, and the responsible adult, if any, agree and acknowledges that:

- a) They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- b) They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- c) They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omission;
- d) Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;
- e) The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organizer does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f) The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances.

25 MEDIA RIGHTS AND MEDIA VESSELS REGULATIONS [NoR]

25.1 By participating in this event, competitors automatically grant to the OA and the event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to make, use, and show, at their discretion, any photography, audio and video recording, 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.

25.2 All Press and official spectator boats shall be registered by the race organizing authority during registration.

25.3 Press and spectator vessels shall display any flag, or other identification symbol as may be required by the Race Committee.

25.4 The race organizers may appoint one or more photo vessels, which will be allowed within the race course. The position of these boats shall not be grounds for redress. (This changes rule RRS 62.1)

25.5 Press and spectator vessels shall not interfere with boats racing or the Regatta Direction in any way.