



2026

MELGES 24 U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP Sailing Instructions

August 14–16, 2026 ·

West Grand Traverse Bay · Traverse City, MI, USA

Organizing Authority: Grand Traverse Yacht Club (GTYC),
in conjunction with the

US Melges 24 Class Association (USM24CA)

Regatta Chair: Scot Zimmerman — zimmerman2209@gmail.com

Race Management: Jordan Owen — jo@gtyc.org

Principal Race Officer: Leif Sigmond --- LRSigmond@norboy.com

Chief Judge: Clifford Black — studiodelmar@mac.com

US Melges 24 Class Admin: Joy Dunigan — communications@usmelges24.com

[NP] denotes a rule under which a boat may not protest or request redress, changing RRS 60.4(a) and 61.3. [DP] denotes a rule for which the penalty may, at the jury's discretion, be more or less than a single disqualification, changing RRS 60.5(c).

1. RULES

- 1.1 The regatta will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS).
- 1.2 The Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) will apply.
- 1.3 The Rules and Regulations of the IM24CA will apply.
- 1.4 The IM24CS Standard Coach and Support Vessel Regulations will apply (see Addendum C).
- 1.5 The following US Sailing Prescriptions will apply: the Preamble to RRS Part 5, RRS 65.1, RRS 76.1, and Appendix R (see Addendum B).
- 1.6 The Race Committee (RC) will communicate with competitors using VHF radio on channel 69. Failure to make or hear a broadcast shall not constitute grounds for requesting redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a) and 61.4(b)(1). **[NP]**
- 1.7 RRS 60.4(a)(2) is changed as follows: “(2) if it alleges breach of a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 and is from a boat that was not involved in and did not see the incident, or”.
- 1.8 The protest committee may impose penalties less than disqualification (DPI) for violation of the Class Rules (CR) and RRS other than those of Parts 1 and 2. **[DPI]**
- 1.9 Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge configured for RaceSense at check-in, mounted as required by the OA/class at all times while racing. RaceSense governs official start timing and OCS/mark-boundary identification; see Addendum RS for the complete rules, several of which change the RRS. **[NP]**

2. COMMUNICATIONS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board Online (ONB) at yachtscoring.com/notice_board_summary/50630. A courtesy paper copy may be maintained at GTYC opposite the restrooms.
- 2.2 All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channel 69, the primary event channel.
- 2.3 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 or data transmissions, and shall not receive voice or data communication that is not available to all boats.
- 2.4 The RC may broadcast on VHF 69 the course, bearing and distance information before the warning signal, start times, course changes, and other information important to racing, as a courtesy. A boat may not base a request for redress on failing to make or hear such broadcasts, or on their timeliness.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1 Any change to these sailing instructions will be posted no later than 0800 hrs on the day it will take effect, except that a change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1800 hrs, or the end of protest time, whichever is later, on the day before it takes effect.
- 3.2 A change may be made on the water under RRS 90.2(c) by displaying Flag L with one sound signal. Any oral change will be posted on the ONB as soon as possible; competitors may request a written copy of an on-the-water change from the RC.

4. SCHEDULE OF RACES

Day / Date	Time(s)	Event
Wednesday, August 12	1600 – 1900	Check-In
	1800 – 1930	Wednesday Night Club Race (all welcome)
	1730 – 2030	Club Dinner and Bar Service
Thursday, August 13	1300	Practice Race
	1600 – 1800	Check-In
	1800 – 1830	Competitors' Meeting

Day / Date	Time(s)	Event
	1730 – 1900	Club Dinner and Bar Service
Friday, August 14	0930 – 0945	Opening Ceremony
	1100	First Warning Signal
	1700 – 2030	Club Dinner and Bar Service
Saturday, August 15	1100	First Warning Signal
	1830	Regatta Dinner
Sunday, August 16	1000	First Warning Signal
	1500	No Warning Signal After This Time
	ASAP after racing	Awards

4.1 Ten (10) races are scheduled for the regatta.

4.2 The RC will attempt to complete up to four (4) races per day.

4.3 The OA reserves the right to modify the schedule due to weather conditions or other causes.

4.4 Races may be sailed in quick succession with little time between races. Boats should remain close to the racing area when not actually racing.

5. CLASS FLAG

5.1 The class flag will be the red/white Melges 24 class flag (see Addendum A).

6. RACING AREA

6.1 The venue is Grand Traverse Yacht Club, 13653 S. West Bay Shore Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684.

6.2 Racing will take place on the southern portion of the West Arm of Grand Traverse Bay. The primary race area is approximately one square mile located east of Government Mark Red “8” and one mile south of it (see Addendum A).

6.3 Routine movement of robotic autonomous marks will not be grounds for redress. This includes minor readjustments, marks returning to station after being pushed away by a competitor, and non-damaging collisions with objects that are not currently marks of the course. This changes RRS 61.1(a); RRS 31 still applies. **[NP]**

7. THE COURSE

7.1 All courses will be a four (4) leg Windward/Leeward course with a downwind finish (see Addendum A).

7.2 An offset mark may be used at the windward mark (W1) and, when present, shall be rounded immediately after rounding W1.

7.3 A leeward gate (L1/Ls and L2/Lp) may be used. If only one gate mark is present, it shall be rounded to port.

7.4 On the first and last leg of the course, the leeward gate marks, if present, are not marks of the course and may be passed on either side.

7.5 All marks shall be left to port, except: (a) the finish mark, which shall be left to starboard; and (b) at a leeward gate, boats shall sail between the gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and may round either gate mark.

7.6 Courses will not be shortened. This changes RRS 32. **[NP]**

7.7 Course changes, if any, will be made only at the leeward mark, signaled by the RC gate-patrol vessel with Flag C, a sound signal for attention, a flag indicating the color of the new windward mark, and a display of the compass heading to the new windward mark. Race committee can move the windward mark 5° in either direction or 0.1 in distance without signaling.

8. MARKS

8.1 The windward mark (W1), offset mark, gate marks, and start/finish marks will be Robomark self-propelled marks, or anchored inflatable marks. The RoboMarks are Orange and will have colored banners as follows: Weather mark and Offset marks - Orange banner; Gate Marks - Yellow Banner; Start/Finish Marks - Green Banner. Anchored inflatable marks will be as follows: Start/finish marks: orange pins; gate marks - yellow cans, weather mark & offset - orange tetrahedrons, weather change mark and offset - yellow tetrahedrons

8.2 The starting line will be between a staff with the attached RaceSense instrument displaying an orange flag on the signal boat and the Robomark. If an inflatable mark is substituted for the Robomark, the port end of the starting line will be a RaceSense instrument attached to the inflatable mark.

8.3 The signal boat may deploy a tethered “stand-off” mark from its transom. This mark, and the line attaching it, are not marks of the course and are considered part of the signal boat.

9. THE START

9.1 Races will be started using RRS 26. The preparatory flag will be raised at 4 minutes and lowered at 1 minute before the starting signal.

9.2 The earliest warning signal each day is as shown in the Schedule (Section 4). No warning signal will be made after 1500 hrs on Sunday, August 16.

9.3 The race committee intends to use the Vakaros system for all race starts to provide a digital representation of the starting line and to identify OCS boats and notify them via digital signals to each boat's Vakaros unit. If the race committee determines that the system will not be used for a particular race, they will display flag “Oscar” prior to the warning signal

9.4 The official starting sequence and countdown will be provided by RaceSense on each boat's Vakaros Atlas 2/Atlas Edge; signal flags and sound signals are for information only. This changes RRS 26. **[NP]**

9.5 Visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and 30 by the RC is replaced by electronic identification through the Vakaros RaceSense system. This changes RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4. **[NP]**

9.6 Before the first warning signal 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, continuing to do so until acknowledged by the RC.

10. RECALLS

10.1 The RC will announce on VHF 69 the sail numbers of boats identified as OCS, UFD, or BFD, as a courtesy. A boat may not base a request for redress on failing to hear or receive such an announcement, its timeliness, or the order in which boats are announced. This changes RRS 62.1(a). **[NP]**

11. THE FINISH

11.1 The finish line is between a staff on the RC boat displaying a blue flag with a diagonal orange stripe and the course side of the orange cylindrical finish mark.

11.2 As a courtesy, the RC may acknowledge a boat's finish with a sound signal. A boat may not base a request for redress on failing to hear or receive this signal, or its timeliness. This changes RRS 61.1(a). **[NP]**

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1 RRS 35 is replaced by this SI 12.

12.2 Time limit for the first boat to sail the course will be 120 minutes: first boat to the windward mark 30 minutes, first boat to finish, and the window after the first finisher within which all boats must finish will be 30 minutes.

12.3 If no boat sails the course as required by RRS 28 and finishes within the time limit, the RC shall abandon the race.

12.4 A boat still racing when the time limit expires, after at least one boat has met the requirements of SI 12.3, will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS A4 and A5. **[NP]**

13. PENALTY SYSTEM

13.1 RRS Appendix T will apply.

13.2 The first two sentences of RRS 44.1 are changed to: “A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken a rule of Part 2 or Class Rule C.11 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.”

14. HEARING REQUESTS

14.1 Hearing request forms for protests, requests for redress, and reopening of a hearing are available at the Race Office (GTYC Commodore's Room) and shall be delivered there within the applicable time limit.

14.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the Race Committee's last boat of the day returns to the dock, unless another time is posted on the ONB.

14.3 Protest times and locations will be posted no later than 30 minutes after the protest time limit.

14.4 US Sailing prescribes that no fee shall be charged for a protest or a request for redress (see Addendum B).

15. SCORING

15.1 One (1) race is required to be completed to constitute the regatta.

15.2 When fewer than six (6) races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores.

15.3 When six (6) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

15.4 Scoring for the Corinthian division, where offered, will be calculated separately from the overall standings using the same formula (SI 15.1–15.3), among boats/teams that have qualified for and entered that division.

16. SAFETY

16.1 Before the first warning signal each day, all boats shall check in with the RC per SI 9.5.

16.2 Except in an emergency, all boats shall proceed to and from the racing area under their own power.

16.3 A boat that retires from a race shall notify the RC before leaving the course area, or immediately upon arrival ashore, by radio contact with the Regatta Director or RC staff.

16.4 The primary contact in case of emergency is 911. The GTYC Emergency Action Plan is posted on the ONB.

17. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION AND RACESENSE

17.1 The Technical Committee may weigh, measure, or inspect any boat and/or her equipment before, during, or after racing.

17.2 There will be no facility for initial measurement on-site. Sails shall be measured and stamped by an approved measurer before arrival at the regatta.

17.3 A boat chartered or loaned for this event may carry national letters or a sail number that does not conform to the Class Rules, provided this is reported to the OA at check-in. **[NP]**

17.4 Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge configured for RaceSense at check-in, mounted on the aft side of the mast (or as otherwise required by the OA) at all times while racing. A boat without a configured device may have one provided by the OA for a fee. See Addendum RS for the complete rules. **[NP]**

17.5 Competitors are responsible for calibrating their Atlas 2/Atlas Edge before check-in and for maintaining proper calibration throughout the event, and shall promptly report any device issues to Vakaros staff or the RC.

18. ADVERTISING

18.1 Advertising will conform to World Sailing Regulation 20 and the Class Rules.

18.2 Boats may be required to display event advertising supplied by the OA for the duration of the event.

19. LAUNCHING AND BERTHING

19.1 Arrangements are made independently by competitors. Guest boats should use Elmwood Township Marina (13051 S. West Bay Shore Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684, 231-946-5463) as the primary launch and storage venue. Temporary mast-down storage may be arranged through the GTYC Club Manager. See Addendum V for local logistics.

20. PRIZES

20.1 Prizes will be awarded to the top five (5) teams overall and the top five (5) Corinthian teams.

20.2 Additional prizes from the OA will be posted on the ONB.

21. INSURANCE

21.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$500,000 (USD) per event, or the equivalent. **[NP]**

22. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

22.1 Competitors participate in the regatta entirely at their own risk. See RRS 3, Decision to Race. The OA will not accept liability for material damage, personal injury, or death sustained in conjunction with, prior to, during, or after the regatta.

22.2 By participating, each competitor and responsible adult acknowledges the inherent risks of the sport, their own responsibility for the safety of themselves, their boat, and their property, and that the provision of race management, patrol boats, and volunteers does not relieve them of these responsibilities.

23. MEDIA RIGHTS AND MEDIA VESSELS

23.1 By participating, competitors grant the OA and event sponsors the right, in perpetuity, to use photography, audio, and video recordings made at the venue or on the water during the event, without compensation.

23.2 Press and spectator vessels shall register with the OA, display any required identification, and shall not interfere with racing or the RC. Positions of official photo vessels are not grounds for redress; this changes RRS 62.1.

END OF SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Addendum A

Race Area

Course: Four-leg Windward/Leeward, downwind finish, with an offset mark near the windward mark (W1) and a leeward gate (L1/L2).

Flags: Class Flag — red/white Melges 24 class flag. Start Flag — orange/white checkered flag or shape. Finish Flag — blue flag with a diagonal orange stripe. Preparatory Flag — blue flag with a white square (RRS 26: up at 4 minutes, down at 1 minute).

Primary Race Area: approximately one square mile, located east of Government Mark Red “8” and one mile south of it, on the West Arm of Grand Traverse Bay.

Venue: Grand Traverse Yacht Club (GTYC), 13653 S. West Bay Shore Drive, Traverse City, MI 49684. See the full NOR Addendum A chart for the detailed race-area diagram.

Addendum B

US Sailing Prescriptions That Apply

Add to the preamble to Part 5:

US Sailing prescribes that no fees shall be charged for protests or requests for redress.

Add to rule 65.1:

US Sailing prescribes that: (a) a boat that retires from a race or accepts a penalty does not, by that action alone, admit liability for monetary damages; (b) a protest committee shall find facts and make decisions only in compliance with the rules, and no protest committee or US Sailing appeal authority shall adjudicate any claim for monetary damages, which is subject to the jurisdiction of the courts; (c) a basic purpose of the rules is to prevent contact between boats, and by participating in an event governed by the rules, a boat agrees that responsibility for monetary damages arising from any breach of the rules shall be based on fault as determined by application of the rules, and that she shall not be governed by the legal doctrine of assumption of risk in respect of monetary damages resulting from contact with other boats.

Add to rule 76.1:

US Sailing prescribes that an organizing authority or race committee shall not reject or cancel the entry of a boat, or exclude a competitor eligible under the notice of race and sailing instructions, for an arbitrary or capricious reason, or for reason of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, or age. However, an organizing authority or race committee may exclude a competitor who is a citizen of, or holds a World Sailing ID as a Member National Authority member of, a country listed on the US Sailing website under “Exclusion” at ussailing.org/rules.

Appendix R — Procedures for Appeals and Requests

This appendix is a US Sailing prescription that replaces World Sailing Appendix R for the purpose of creating a two-level appeals system; the US Sailing Appeals Committee acts as the national authority under RRS 71. See the Appeals FAQ at ussailing.org for guidance on preparing an appeal.

Addendum C

IM24CS Standard Coach and Support Vessel Regulations

Section A

- A1 Coach and support vessels shall register with the race office and declare which boat(s) they are attached to.
- A2 Coach and support vessels shall display a numbered flag or other identifying symbol representing the boat to which they are attached.
- A3 No coach or support vessel shall pass information in any way to a boat that is racing. Infringements of RRS 41 (outside help) will be taken very seriously.
- A4 Coach and support vessel personnel shall not communicate with competitors, by any means, from the warning signal of the first race of the day until the competitor has finished the last race of the day (unless AP over H is displayed).
- A5 Coach and support vessels shall not go alongside their boats and there shall be no transfer of goods or equipment until after the finish of the last race of the day.

Section B

- B1 All boats shall proceed to and from the racing area under their own power.

Section C

- C1 Coach and support vessels shall keep clear of the racing area at all times boats are racing, staying more than 100 meters from any point where a boat might sail during normal racing, except when participating in rescue operations.
- C2 Any coach or support vessel that interferes with racing, including creating excess wash or hindering an official vessel, renders the competitor(s) to which it is attached liable to a penalty at the jury's discretion.
- C3 Any boat may protest under this addendum.
- C4 The penalty given by the jury is at its discretion (DPI).

Racing: a boat is racing from her preparatory signal until she finishes and clears the finishing line and marks, or retires, or until the RC signals a general recall, postponement, or abandonment.

Changes to these rules: the IM24CA standard coach vessel appendix shall not be altered; any change is subject to decision by the IM24CA Executive Committee.

Addendum RS

RaceSense — Rules and Instructions for Using the Vakaros System

[NP] Rules and instructions for using the Vakaros and RaceSense system.

1. Each boat shall have a working Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge configured for RaceSense at check-in. A boat without a configured device may have one provided by the OA for a fee. It shall be mounted as required by the OA or class at all times while racing.
2. Competitors shall calibrate their Atlas 2/Atlas Edge before registration/check-in, and are responsible for maintaining proper calibration throughout the event.
3. The Vakaros RaceSense system will be used by the RC, and the relevant information will be available to all boats.
4. Instructions for using the Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge are available in the respective Vakaros User Guides.
5. Competitors shall take all reasonable measures to keep their device safe and operational, and shall promptly notify Vakaros staff on the water or ashore of any issues.
6. The countdown to the start from RaceSense on the Atlas 2/Atlas Edge is the official time. Signal flags are for information only. This changes RRS 26.
7. Visual identification of boats infringing RRS 29 and 30 by the RC is replaced by electronic identification through RaceSense. This changes RRS 29.1, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, and 30.4.
8. An alleged failure of the Atlas 2/Atlas Edge, the RaceSense system, or communication systems is not grounds for a boat or the protest committee to request redress. This changes RRS 61.1(a) and 61.1(c).
9. If the RC vessel displays Flag Oscar with a long sound signal before the warning signal, rules RS.6 and RS.7 will not apply to that race.
10. If the RC vessel displays Flag Romeo with a long sound signal before the warning signal, competitors shall restart their Atlas 2/Atlas Edge (off, wait 10 seconds, on) to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Flag R remains displayed for at least 2 minutes and is removed at the next warning signal.
11. Notice of any required firmware updates between race days will be sent by email, SMS, and/or the regatta WhatsApp group.

Addendum V

Local Logistics (Informational — Not Part of the Sailing Instructions)

Regatta Office: GTYC Commodore's Room (immediate left of the main entrance) — check-in, Skipper's packets, and protest hearings.

Parking: Club lot is limited and reserved for loading/unloading. Day-long parking at the Viridian building next door or the Westport building across the street. Do not park in the grass lot southwest of the club or along the M-22/Bay Shore Drive shoulder.

Launch Ramp: Watch for cross-traffic of boats, vehicles, and people; the ramp can be slippery — traction mats are provided.

Guest Boats: Elmwood Township Marina, 13051 S. West Bay Shore Dr., Traverse City, MI 49684, 231-946-5463 — primary launch and storage venue. Mast-down storage available via the Club Manager.

Ice & Water: Small-quantity ice cooler and filtered water dispenser on the porch; self-serve water cooler inside. Bagged ice available at Dockside Party Store and Circle K.

Club Access: 8:00 am to at least 8:00 pm daily. Showers available in both restrooms.

Bar Service: Open daily after racing; open through dinner on Saturday; closes by 6:30 pm Sunday. Tabs require a credit card on file with the bartender.

Nearby: Dockside Party Store (north on M-22); Aroma's and Bigby's for coffee (M-22 & M-72); Circle K and Speedway for fuel; Apache Trout Grill, Harrington's, The Burrow, and Glendale Burgers for dining; West Marine on Division St.

Club Contacts: Jordan Owen (Race Management & Club Manager), 231-883-5741. Club phone: 231-946-9779. Address: GTYC, 13653 S. West Bay Shore Drive (M-22), Traverse City, MI 49684.