



LITTLE TRAVERSE YACHT CLUB
SAILING INSTRUCTIONS
Melges 24 Pre-Worlds
Harbor Springs, Michigan — August 29–30, 2026

The Organizing Authority (OA) is the Little Travers Yacht Club in conjunction with the US Melges 24 Class Association.

[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 Class rules: The Melges 24 Class Rules apply except as modified by the Notice of Race or the Sailing Instructions.
- 1.4 The Melges 24 Support Vessel requirements will **NOT** be enforced for this event.
- 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 73. 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 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]**
- 1.9 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]**

2. COMMUNICATIONS

- 2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board Online (ONB) at https://yachtscoring.com/notice_board_summary/50832 ..
- 2.2 All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on channel 73, the primary event channel.
- 2.3 Except when communicating with the Race Committee, Coast Guard, or in an emergency, a boat shall not make or receive voice or data transmissions not available to all competitors..
- 2.4 The RC may broadcast on VHF 73 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.
- 2.5 Signals on shore will be displayed from the Yardarm on the front lawn of LTYC
- 2.6 When Flag AP is displayed ashore, 1 minute’ is replaced by ‘not less than 60 minutes’ in the Race Signals.

3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Any change to these sailing instructions will be posted no later than 1030 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
Friday August 28	0900-1200	Check-In
	1200	Competitors briefing
	1330	Official practice racing- expect on-water/verbal instructions; this is practice for RC as well as competitors
Saturday August 29	0900-1100	Registration / Check-in / Late Vakaros compliance
	1130	Competitors' briefing
	1230	First warning signal (multiple races scheduled)
	After racing	Apres sailing; expect weather and schedule briefing for Sunday. LTYC cash bar/food available
Sunday, August 30	1130	First warning signal
	1500	No Warning Signal After This Time
	After racing	Awards

4.1 Seven (7) 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 or numeral pennant one.

6. RACING AREA

6.1 Racing will take place on Little Traverse Bay, Harbor Springs, Michigan. See Addendum A.

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 (Ls/Lp) may be used. If only one gate mark is present, it shall be rounded to port.

7.4 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.

7.5 Courses will not be shortened. This changes RRS 32.

7.7 Course changes will be announced on VHF 73. Race committee can move the windward mark 10° in either direction or 0.1nm in distance without signaling.

8. MARKS

8.1 The windward mark (1) and offset mark (1a) will be orange MarkSetBots (MSB). Gate marks (4s/4p) and start/finish marks will be yellow (MSB). Change Marks will be original marks.

8.2 Routine movement of MSB 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..

9. THE START

9.1 RRS 26 is replaced by Addendum RS.

9.2 The starting line will be between staffs with the attached RaceSense instruments on yellow MSB

9.3 The Signal boat is not part of the starting line and will be positioned on the starboard side of the start/finish line.

9.4 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. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

10.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will move the original mark(s) (or the finishing line) to a new position and announce the change on VHF Ch 73. Marks may be moving into position after the announcement. This changes RRS 33.

10.2 Race committee may move a mark up to 10° or 0.1nm without signaling a change in course. This shall be announced on VHF Ch 73. This changes RRS 33

11. THE FINISH

11.1 The finish line will be between staffs with the attached RaceSense instruments on yellow MSB.

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1 Time limit for the first boat to sail the course will be 120 minutes. The time limit for the first boat to the windward mark is 30 minutes. The finishing window after the first finisher is 30 minutes. The window will close by moving the MSB to the starting line position.

12.2 If no boat reaches the windward mark within the time limit or sails the course as required by RRS 28 and finishes within the time limit, the RC shall abandon the race.

12.3 A boat still racing when the finishing window expires, after at least one boat has met the requirements of SI 12.2, 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. 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 also be a One-Turn 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 on the porch of LTYC and shall be delivered there within the applicable time limit.

14.2 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the signal boat docks.

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

15. SCORING

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

15.2 When five (5) or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

15.3 Scoring for the Corinthian division, where offered, will be calculated separately from the overall standings using the same formula (SI 15.1–15.2), 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 9.4.

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 Emergency Action Plan (EAP) is posted on the ONB.

17. EQUIPMENT INSPECTION AND RACESENSE

17.1 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. See Addendum RS for the complete rules. **[NP]**

17.2 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. SPARE

20. PRIZES

20.1 Prizes will be awarded to the top three (3) teams overall.

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

21. INSURANCE

21.1 Each boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance. Evidence of insurance may be required at registration.. **[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

Event Chair: Tom Meier **Email: m24worlds26@gmail.com**

Event PRO: Mark Foster 361-816-9801

Class Contact: US Melges 24 Class Association — <https://www.melges24.com>

Addendum A

Race Area

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

Primary Race Area: Waters of Little Traverse bay.



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 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. 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 by the RC is replaced by electronic identification through RaceSense. This changes RRS 29
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.