



**2017 Melges 20 U.S National Championship
August 17-19, 2017**

Hosted by: Sail Newport

The Organizing Authority (OA) is Sail Newport in coordination with the International Melges 20 Class Association (IM20CA).

1. RULES

1.1 This Regatta will be governed by the current *Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)* 2017-2020, including US Sailing Prescriptions, the Notice of Race, the rules of the Melges 20 Class (IM20CA), these Sailing Instructions, and properly posted amendments thereto.

1.2 These Sailing Instructions, including amendments, will take precedence in the case of conflict with the Notice of Race. This modifies RRS 63.7.

1.3 The Organizing Authority (OA) is the International Melges 20 Class Association (IM20CA) with support from Sail Newport and Melges USA.

2. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board located in the Sail Newport Waterfront Center.

2.2 The Race Committee will attempt to announce its intentions for the day on VHF channel 72 at 0900 each morning of the event.

2.3 Race committee broadcasts concerning its intentions, the course to be sailed, starting times, course changes, etc. are a courtesy only. Failure of the Race Committee to make a broadcast, the timing of a broadcast, or the failure of a boat to hear a broadcast shall not be grounds for redress under rule 62.1(a).

3. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Any change in the Sailing Instructions will be posted on the Official Notice Board before 0830 on the day it will take effect, except that any change in the schedule of races will be posted by 2000 on the day before it will take effect.

4. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

4.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Race Committee Signal Boat at Sail Newport's northern-most pier and announced on VHF 72.



4.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, “1 minute” is replaced with “not less than 60 minutes” in the Race Signal AP. This changes Race Signal AP.

5. SCHEDULE

5.1 Racing is scheduled each day from Thursday, August 17, 2017 through Saturday, August 19, 2017. Eight races are scheduled.

5.2 The scheduled time for the warning signal for the first race each day is 1100.

5.3 It is the intent of the Race Committee to run no more than four races each day.

5.4 On Saturday, August 19, 2017, no initial warning signal will be made after 1400.

5.5 Flag “A” displayed from the Race Committee Signal Boat means “no more racing today.”

6. BOW NUMBERS and STICKERS

6.1 Bow numbers shall be displayed on both sides of the bow with the number forward in accordance with Melges 20 class guidelines.

6.2 Any remaining bow stickers featuring the Audi Melges 20 Class logo and or the Audi rings must be removed from the bow area.

6.3 Melges World League Bow stickers will be provided and must be applied prior to the start of racing.

7. RACING AREA

7.1 The rendezvous location for racing each day will be announced at 0900 on VHF 72 each morning.

- Rendezvous A: 1 nm SE (140° mag) from R “2” Bell South of Brenton Reef in Rhode Island Sound.
- Rendezvous B: In the vicinity of Halfway Rock in the East Passage of Narragansett Bay.

8. COURSES AND MARKS

8.1 The course to be sailed will be windward/leeward in configuration. Offset and gate marks will be used.

- Course 4: Start – 1 – 1a – Gate – 1 – 1a – Finish (Downwind)
- Course 5: Start – 1 – 1a – Gate – 1 – 1a – Gate – Finish (Upwind)



8.2 Marks 1 and 1a shall be rounded to port. Mark 1a is an offset mark positioned to port (looking upwind) of mark 1.

8.3 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 one of the leeward gate marks is missing, boats shall round the one existing leeward mark to port. The gate may be laid after the starting signal and, except when there is a change of course, will be positioned approximately 200 yards to windward of the Signal Boat.

8.4 No later than the Warning Signal, the Race Committee will display the course designation as well as the magnetic bearing and approximate distance from the Signal Boat to Mark 1.

9. MARKS

9.1 Marks 1, 1a, and gate marks will be orange tetrahedrons.

9.2 The start and finish line marks will be yellow.

9.3 A change mark, if used for Mark 1 only, will be a yellow tetrahedron.

10. THE START

10.1 Races will be started in accordance with racing rule RRS 26.

10.2 The Class Flag will be numeral pennant one.

10.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee signal boat and the course side of the nearby yellow start mark.

10.4 The Race Committee will attempt to identify recalled boats by broadcast over the fleet VHF channel.

11. CHANGE OF COURSE AFTER THE START

11.1 To change the next leg of the course, the race committee will lay a new mark (or move the finishing line) and remove the original mark as soon as practicable. When in a subsequent change a new mark is replaced, it will be replaced by an original mark.

11.2 A change of course after the start will be signaled before the leading boat has begun the leg, although the mark may not then be in position.

11.3 In the event of a change for a windward mark, the offset mark will be omitted.



11.4 In the event of a change for a leeward gate, the original marks will be moved to accommodate the change. This changes RRS 33.

11.4 A leg may be changed $\leq 5^\circ$ in bearing and/or 0.2nm in length without a signal or change of mark color. This changes RRS 33.

12. THE FINISH

The finish line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee boat and the course side of a nearby finish mark to port of the Race Committee boat (looking upwind).

13. PENALTIES

13.1 The first two sentences of rule 44.1 are changed to read as follows: "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 of a rounding or finishing mark, her penalty shall be a Two-Turns Penalty."

13.2 If a breach of Class Rules is found, penalties shall be at the discretion of the jury, in consultation with a non-competing Class Representative.

14. TIME LIMIT

14.1 The target time for each race is between 45 and 60 minutes. Failure to meet the target time shall not be grounds for redress. This changes rule 62.1(a).

14.2 Any race in which no yacht rounds the first windward mark within 25 minutes of the start will be abandoned.

14.3 The time limit for the first boat to sail the course and finish in accordance with rule 28 shall be 90 minutes. Boats still racing more than 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes will be scored DNF without a hearing. This changes rules 35 and A5.

15. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS

15.1 Competitors are required to inform race committee upon finishing of their intentions to file protest. This changes RRS 61.1.

15.2 Protest forms are available at the jury desk at the Sail Newport Waterfront Center. Protests shall be delivered there within the Protest Time Limit.

15.3 The Protest Time Limit is 60 minutes from the time the Race Committee Signal Boat docks at Sail Newport. The Protest Time Limit will be posted on the Official Notice Board as soon as possible.



15.4 Protest Notices will be posted on the Official Notice Board as soon as possible after they are delivered to the jury desk to inform competitors where and when there is a hearing to which they are party. Protest hearings will be scheduled to start as soon as possible after the notices are posted. The jury will attempt to hear protests in the order of receipt. Representatives of boats who are parties to hearings and their witnesses shall remain on call in the vicinity of the Official Notice Board at the Sail Newport.

15.5 It is each boat's responsibility to check the Official Notice Board by the end of the protest filing time to see if she is cited in a protest. Failure of any party to appear when called for a hearing will be considered by the jury as grounds for proceeding under rule 63.3(b).

15.6 Violations of Sailing Instructions 6, 17, & 19 are not protestable by another boat. This modifies RRS 60.1(a).

16. SCORING

16.1 The Low Point System of RRS Appendix 'A', as modified below, will apply.

16.2 Three races are required to be completed to constitute a series.

16.3 When fewer than six races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores. When six or more races have been completed, a boat's series score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.

17. SAFETY

17.1 All yachts must carry minimum equipment as required by the U.S. Coast Guard and the Melges 20 Class Rules.

17.4 A boat that retires from a race or does not intend to start a scheduled race shall promptly report this to the Race Committee.

18. REPLACEMENT OF CREW

18.1 Crew substitutions before and during the event are permitted. A revised crew list must be submitted to the IM20CA Administrator and approval received prior to the race to which it applies.

19. SUPPORT BOATS

19.1 Owners are responsible for the compliance of their support boats with these Sailing Instructions. The Race Committee only may protest a boat whose support boat violates these Sailing Instructions.

19.2 Support boats are required by the Race Committee to monitor the VHF channel and provide assistance to any competitor in danger if notified to do so by the Race Committee.



19.3 Only support boats that have registered with the Race Committee will be allowed in the racing area.

19.4 Individual coach or support boats shall not approach closer than 300 feet to any boat that is racing, except at mark roundings or the finish line where they shall not approach closer than 100 feet upwind of the windward mark or downwind of the leeward mark, and extensions of the finish line. At the warning signal for the start, individual coach or support boats shall leave the area being used by the racing boats and may station themselves outside of either the pin or committee signal boat, but no closer to either end than 100 feet.

19.5 Video and photos taken from any support and/or coach boat shall not be used as evidence at protest hearings. This alters RRS 63.6. This rule is not intended as a deterrent to social interaction before and between races.

20. FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information, please contact:

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