



2026 Melges 15 Midwinter Championship

Organizing Authority: Melges 15 Class

March 18-22, 2027

Melges Watersports Center, 2550 N Banana River Drive, Merritt
Island, FL 32952

Notice of Race

Preamble – The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest or request redress under this rule. This changes *Rules* 60.4(a) and 61.3 as stated below. The notation '[DP]' in a rule means the penalty for breaking this rule may, at the discretion of the jury, be more or less than a single disqualification. This changes *Rule* 60.5(c).

1. Rules

- 1.1. The event is governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing.
- 1.2. In addition to other rules changed in this document and the Sailing Instructions, the following racing rules are changed:
 - 1.2.1. The US Sailing Prescription to RRS 63.1 does not apply.
 - 1.2.2. RRS 41 adds: "(e) help to recover from the water and return on board a crew member, provided after return on board, the boat returns to the approximate location of the recovery.
 - 1.2.3. The first sentence of RRS 44.1 is changed to read: "A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 in an incident while *racing*." This changes RRS 44.1.
 - 1.2.4. RRS 60.4(a) adds, "(4) if the protest is by a boat and is based on a rule with the notation [NP]."
 - 1.2.5. RRS 60.5(c) adds, "(5) the protest is based on a rule with the notation [DP] and the protest committee decides the penalty shall be more or less than a single disqualification."
 - 1.2.6. RRS 61.3 adds, "or is a request by a boat and is based on a rule with the notation [NP]."
 - 1.2.7. RRS A5.4 is added, "A boat that is scored TLE by the race Committee shall be scored points for the finishing place 2 more than the number of boats that sailed the course prior to the finishing window expiration.
 - 1.2.8. RRS A10 adds "TLE – Finishing Window Time Limit Expired. This changes RRS A10



2. Sailing Instructions

- 2.1. The Sailing Instructions will be available online at least 24 hours prior to the first scheduled warning.

3. Communication

- 3.1. The official notice board will be at [Clubspot](#)
- 3.2. [DP] All boats shall carry a VHF radio capable of communicating on USA VHF 19
- 3.3. Vakaros
 - 3.3.1. Each boat shall provide their own Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge at check-in for configuration with RaceSense.
 - 3.3.2. Each boat's Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge shall have a current RaceSense Pass, available for purchase at <https://vakaros.com/pages/passes>, at all times while racing.
 - 3.3.3. The checked-in Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge shall be mounted within 6 inches of the aft side of the mast at all times while racing
 - 3.3.4. No other electronic devices shall be mounted above or near a boat's Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge.
 - 3.3.5. The boat's Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge shall be mounted perpendicular to a line from the center of the bow to the center of the transom.
 - 3.3.6. Each boat is responsible for updating the firmware on their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge as required prior to and during the event.
 - 3.3.7. Each boat is responsible for ensuring calibration of their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge prior to and throughout racing.
 - 3.3.8. Each boat is responsible for ensuring her Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge is configured for a proper class-compliant profile while racing.
 - 3.3.9. Timing and recall signals will be made exclusively via Vakaros RaceSense. The full list of changes will be published in the Sailing Instructions.
- 3.4. [DP] While racing, except in an emergency or for reasons medically necessary, a boat shall not make voice or data transmissions and shall not receive voice or data communications that are not available to all boats.

4. Eligibility and Entry

- 4.1. The event is open to all boats of the Melges 15 class whose person in charge is a member in good standing of the Melges 15 Class Association.
- 4.2. Each boat's entire crew shall sign the waiver referenced in NOR 12.3.
- 4.3. Boats may enter the event by registering online at [Clubspot](#)
- 4.4. Registration closes **March 19 at 0930**
- 4.5. To be considered an entry into the event, a boat shall complete all entry requirements, pay all fees, and check in onsite during the designated check-in period(s).



5. Fees

- 5.1. The registration fee is \$300 through February 11th.
- 5.2. After February 11th, the registration fee is \$350.
- 5.3. Entries canceled more than 14 days prior to the first scheduled warning are refundable less a \$25 administrative fee.

6. Schedule

6.1.

Date	Time	Item
March 18	0900-1600 1200-1700	Clinic (Separate Registration) Competitor Check-in
March 19	0800-0930 0930 1100	Late Check in Competitor Briefing First scheduled warning
March 20	1000	First scheduled warning
March 21	1000 1300	First scheduled warning No warning after this time

- 6.2. 8 races are scheduled. Fewer races may be run at the discretion of the Race Committee.
- 6.3. On the last scheduled day of racing, no warning will be made after 1300 hours (1:00pm).

7. Venue

- 7.1. The venue will be the Melges Watersports Center.
- 7.2. The racing venue will be the waters of the Banana River between the [Jimmy Buffett](#) Memorial Highway and the Peebles Bridge.

8. Courses

- 8.1. Courses will be windward/leeward.

9. Scoring

- 9.1. One race is required to constitute a regatta.
- 9.2. When fewer than 6 races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores.
- 9.3. When 6 or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores excluding her worst score.
- 9.4. RRS 90.3(e) applies.

10. Coaching and Outside Assistance

- 10.1. Spectating and Coaching



- 10.1.1. Spectating is encouraged. Activities like receiving trash, giving encouragement, cheering, and assisting people or vessels in danger is encouraged.
- 10.1.2. Coaching is not permitted. RRS 41 applies from the time boats leave shore until they return to shore. Unless specifically requested by Melges 15 Class staff, the following activities are prohibited:
 - 10.1.2.1. Except in an emergency, transferring extra snacks or hydration to a boat.
 - 10.1.2.2. Towing a boat to and from the racing area.
 - 10.1.2.3. Discussing tactics, boathandling, tuning, or other topics relating to the performance of the boat.
- 11. **Launching**
 - 11.1. Dolly launching is strongly encouraged. If you do not have a dolly, there is a public boat launch for trailers located south of the center. If you do have a dolly, make sure it is clearly labeled.
 - 11.2. There is no assigned boat parking at the center.
 - 11.3. Do not block other boats' access to the water.
 - 11.4. Do not block public driving areas.
- 12. **Risk Statement**
 - 12.1. RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to race is hers alone.'
 - 12.2. By participating in this event, each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. The risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in the weather, failure of equipment, boat handling errors, poor seamanship by other boats, loss of balance on an unstable platform, and fatigue resulting in increased risk of injury. Inherent in the sport of sailing is the risk of permanent, catastrophic injury or death by drowning, trauma, hypothermia, or other causes.
 - 12.3. Prior to participating in this event, each competitor shall sign the Melges 15 Class Waiver of Liability. Boats with incomplete crew waivers will not be considered an entry to the event.
- 13. **Insurance**
 - 13.1. Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third party liability insurance with a minimum covered amount of \$300,000 per covered event.
- 14. **Prizes**
 - 14.1. Prizes will be awarded to the top 5 boats.
 - 14.2. In events with more than 50 entries, additional awards will be given to:
 - 14.2.1. Top Youth (Helmsperson under 21 years)
 - 14.2.2. Top Female Helmsperson
 - 14.2.3. Top Couple
 - 14.2.4. Top Family Entry



- 14.2.5. Top Master (Helmsperson 50-59 years)
- 14.2.6. Top Grand Master (Helmsperson 60-69 years)
- 14.2.7. Top Mega Master (Helmsperson 70 or older)
- 14.2.8. All ages are determined on the day prior to the first scheduled day of racing.

15. Media Rights

- 15.1. Competitors give absolute right for name, likeness, photographs, video, or other media of themselves to be used for any hearing, press, editorial, training, or advertising purposes.

16. No Commercial Activity Policy

- 16.1. The sale, promotion, or advertising of any commercial goods, services, business, brands, or products is strictly prohibited without express written consent. Failure to comply with this rule will result in exclusion from the venue and rejection of any future event entry.
- 16.2. Conducting paid or profit-driven activities such as workshops, events, clinics, or services is not permitted without express written consent. Failure to comply with this rule will result in exclusion from the venue and rejection of any future event entry.

17. Further Information

Melges Class Association

Melges15@melges.com