



GRAND TRAVERSE YACHT CLUB

2021 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SERIES

MELGES 24 SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

1. RULES — The series will be governed by The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of the United States Sailing Association (USSA), and the International Melges 24 Class Rules, except as any of these are changed by these sailing instructions.

1.1. A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty, consisting of one tack and one gybe, when she may have broken a rule of Part 2, Rule 31, or Rule 42 while racing.

2. ENTRIES — Eligible boats may be entered by completing registration with the Grand Traverse Yacht Club (GTYC) through Yacht Scoring at <http://www.yachtscoring.com> and paying all applicable race fees prior to racing.

2.1 Drop-In Race Fees — A boat may enter at will if not previously in the series by signing up at [yachtscoring.com](http://www.yachtscoring.com). The first race fee is \$30, with each subsequent race being \$15. Entries may also be made at the bar at GTYC.

3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS — Will be posted on the official Fleet Race Notice Board located at the GTYC Clubhouse inside the main entrance.

4. CHANGES IN SAILING INSTRUCTIONS — Any change in the sailing instructions will be posted before 1630 hrs on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 1200 hrs on the day before it will take effect. These posted changes may also be communicated to the competitors on the water over VHF Channel 69 prior to the 1st warning. The RC boat will display Code Flag “L” when a change has been posted and is to be communicated.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE — Will be displayed from the GTYC flagstaff and will be communicated to competitors over VHF Channel 69. If you have any question regarding the status of a race, call the Race Committee @ 231.883.5741

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

<i>SERIES</i>	<i>DATES</i>	Earliest Time of WARNING SIGNAL
SPRING	June 3 – June 24	1755 hrs
SUMMER	June 1 - July 24	1755 hrs
TWILIGHT	August 5 - Aug 29	1755 hrs
FALL	Sept 4 - Sept 26	1755 hrs

7. COURSES

7.1 Courses will be windward/leeward. Number of legs will be at the discretion of the Race Committee.

7.2 The course selection will be displayed from the RC Boat no later than one (1) minute before the 1st warning signal

7.3 Signals will be as follows for course designation displayed on the course board on the transom of the signal boat. The course designation will also be broadcast on VHF 69 as a courtesy.

“4” — Four leg windward/leeward with downwind finish

“5” — Five leg windward/leeward with upwind finish

“4M” — 4 leg windward/leeward with mid-leg start and upwind finish

7.4 The upwind mark will be a yellow tetrahedron. In case of a change of that mark, the change mark will be a large orange ball

7.4.1 An upwind offset mark — small yellow ball — will be used. If the offset is not present, the next mark of the course after the windward mark is the leeward mark

7.5 A set of downwind gates — green balls — will be used. The gate to the competitor's port on a downwind heading will be rounded to port. The gate to the competitor's starboard on a downwind heading will be rounded to starboard.

7.5.1 If only one gate mark is present, that mark will be rounded to port

7.6 If the course includes with a mid-leg start/finish line, that line is restricted. The penalty for any yacht that sails upwind or downwind between the inflatable start mark and the start shape shall be a 20% score penalty without appeal.

7.7 The appearance of the inflatable marks are represented in Appendix A

9. START

9.1 Races will be started using rule 26

9.2 The class flag will be a white shape

9.3 The starting line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag or shape on the RC Boat and the course side of the starting mark for the course. The position of the RC Boat will depend on water depth around the start mark (i.e., the line may be reversed).

9.4 The signal boat may deploy a “stand-off” inflatable mark tethered to its transom. This mark is not a mark of the course. This buoy and the line attaching it to the boat are considered to be part of the signal boat.

9.5 The time limit for yachts that do not start with their section is 3:00 minutes after the start signal for their section. Boats in the starting area that fail to start with their section after 3:00 minutes will be scored *Did Not Start (DNS)*

9.6 There will be no starting sequences initiated after 1930 hrs.

10. RECALLS

10.1 If an Individual Recall has been signaled, the RC will attempt as a courtesy to notify *On Course Side* (OCS) competitors over VHF Channel 69 or by hail.

10.2. If a General Recall is signaled, the starting sequence for any subsequent GTYC Wednesday Night Races classes will not be affected and the start for the recalled class will be after the last regularly scheduled class. This changes RRS 29.2.

11. FINISH

11.1 The finishing line will be between a staff displaying a blue flag or shape on the RC Boat and the course side of the nearby mark of the course. The position of the RC Boat will depend on water depth around the finish mark (i.e., the line may be reversed).

11.1.1 In the case of an upwind finish, a yellow inflatable cylinder may be set to starboard of the signal boat. The finish will be between the blue shape on the signal boat and the yellow cylinder

11.2 The RC will remain on station at the finish until the time limit unless conditions dictate otherwise. If the RC is not on station, competitors shall take their own time when their bow crosses a line through the finish mark that is perpendicular to the last leg of the race and they are within 50 yds of the mark.

12. TIME LIMITS

12.1 The time limit to finish will be 75 minutes. Boats failing to finish within 10 minutes after the first boat in her section, but still racing, will be scored "Time Limit Expired" (TLE) and will receive one (1) more point than the last boat to finish. This changes RRS 35.

13. PROTESTS/REQUESTS FOR REDRESS & ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION

13.1 The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the final race or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later

13.2 Hearings

14.2.1 Hearings will be held in a public space on the GTYC grounds at the discretion of the appointed protest committee

14.2.2 The protest committee will consist of three fleet members unconflicted by the events of the protest

14.2.3 The format of protest hearing will consist of 1 minute of statement by the protestor, 1 minute of defense by the protestee, and one minute of committee's questions. The committee's decision will be delivered as soon as practically possible.

14.3 OPTIONAL PENALTIES

14.3.1 PENALTIES AT THE TIME OF THE INCIDENT

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."

14.3.2 PENALTIES TAKEN AFTER A RACE

(a) After a race, a boat that may have broken a rule of Part 2 or rule 31 while racing may take a Scoring Penalty. Rules 44.1(a) and (b) apply when such a penalty is taken. Rules 44.3(a) and (b) are deleted and replaced by: "A boat takes a Scoring Penalty by informing the race committee in writing, identifying the race number and when and where the incident occurred."

(b) If taken before the protest time limit, the penalty shall be a 20-percent Scoring Penalty. If taken after the protest time limit but before the start of a hearing of a protest involving the incident, the penalty shall be a 30% Scoring Penalty. The penalty shall be calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c).

(c) If a yacht is found by the Protest Committee to have committed a foul, the penalty shall be a 50 - percent Scoring Penalty. The penalty shall be calculated as stated in rule 44.3(c).

14.4 EXPEDITED HEARINGS

14.4.1 INFORMING THE RACE COMMITTEE

A boat intending to protest or request redress based on an incident in the racing area that she is involved in or sees shall, at the first reasonable opportunity after she finishes, inform the race committee at the finishing line of her intent to protest or request redress and, when applicable, the identity of the protestee

14.4.2 CHANGES IN HEARING PROCEDURES

This rule applies to all hearings except hearings under rule 69.

(a) If the protest committee is able to assemble the parties to a hearing before the protest or redress time limit, it may begin the hearing and may waive the requirements of rule 61.2 or 62.2.

(b) Rule 63.5 is changed to: "At the beginning of the hearing, if there is no objection, the protest or request is valid and the hearing shall be continued. If an objection is made, the protest committee shall take any evidence . . . [no further change]."

(c) Insert a new sentence after the third sentence of rule 63.6: "However, the committee may limit the number of witnesses, and the time during which parties may present evidence and ask questions."

(d) The first sentence of rule 65.2 is changed to: "A party to the hearing is entitled to receive the above information in writing, provided she asks the protest committee for it no later than 30 minutes after being informed of the decision or coming ashore following the last race of the day, whichever is later."

(e) The US SAILING prescriptions to rules 60, 63.2 and 63.4 are deleted.

(f) Change the third sentence of rule 66 to: "A party to the hearing may not ask for a reopening."

15 - CODE OF CONDUCT

15.1 — SPORTSMANSHIP AND THE RULES - Competitors in the sport of sailing are governed by a body of rules that they are expected to follow and enforce. A fundamental principle of sportsmanship is that when competitors break a rule they will promptly take a penalty, which may be to retire

15.2 - Competitors shall comply with any reasonable request from any official and shall not behave so as to bring the event or the sport into disrepute.

15.2 - Competitors are expected to comply fully with rule 2 at all times. Abuse or intimidation of other competitors, race officials, or officials of the host club will not be tolerated. All such incidents shall be reported to the Principal Race Officer. Repeated incidents by individuals or teams shall be reported to the protest committee and may be considered gross misconduct (a gross breach of sportsmanship).

15.3 - Competitors shall not obstruct Race Management vessels as they conduct operations including setting marks, anchoring, and judging the start/finish line. Repeated incidents by individuals or teams shall be reported to the protest committee.

15.4 Competitors shall not use VHF radio or text communication to interfere or interject into Race Committee race management operations. Repeated incidents by individuals or teams shall be reported to the protest committee.

15.5 When a competitor and/or crew is found to have committed an act of Gross Misconduct, the penalty shall be a scoring penalty equal to 40% of the entries in the race for each incident. Additionally, the competitor and/or boat that was responsible for the crew may not discard this race in the series.

15.6 Verbal abuse of the RC and/or Protest Committee will be considered an act of Gross Misconduct.

16. SCORING

16.1 The Low Point scoring system, RRS Appendix A and RRS Appendix A9 , "*Race Scores In A Series Longer Than A Regatta*", will apply.

16.2 One race constitutes a series, applicable to the Spring, Summer, & Fall sectional series. After the completion of a four race in a series, a throw out will be calculated removing a yacht's high score. Additional throwouts will be calculated in following multiples of four.

16.3 The Wednesday Night Season Championship will be determined by a low point calculation of the point totals accumulated in the Spring, Summer, & Fall sectional series, *minus the subtraction of a yacht's highest race score not already taken as a throwout*

17. SAFETY REGULATIONS — (Signal Boat cell number is 231-883-5741)

17.1 Competitors who withdraw from a race shall notify the RC over VHF Channel 69.

17.2 The primary contact in case of emergency is 911

17.3 - Weather will be monitored via the following applications: "My Radar", "Storm - Weather Radar", & "My Lightning Tracker". Decisions on the conduct of racing by the OA and PRO will be based on these applications.

18. RADIO COMMUNICATION — A boat shall neither make radio transmissions while racing nor receive radio communications not available to all boats. VHF Channel 69 will be monitored by the RC and they will only respond to competitors who identify themselves.

19. AWARDS — Series awards will be presented to the top three yachts in the seasonal and overall series at the GTYC Wednesday Night Awards Night. Details to be announced as the season goes on. All boats and crews invited!

20. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY

20.1 - Sailing is an activity that has an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors in this event are participating entirely at their own risk. See RRS 4, Decision to Race. The race organizers (organizing authority, race committee, protest committee, host club, host club employees or volunteers, sponsors, or any other organization or official) will not be responsible for damage to any boat or other property or the injury to any competitor, including death, sustained as a result of participation in this event. By participating in this event, each competitor agrees to release the race organizers from any and all liability associated with such competitor's participation in this event to the fullest extent permitted by law.

20.2 - The safety of a boat and its crew is the sole and inescapable responsibility of the Skipper who shall ensure that the boat is fully sound, thoroughly seaworthy, and manned by an experienced and physically able crew. Neither the establishment of regulations or inspection of a boat in any way limits or reduces the complete and unlimited responsibility of the Skipper.

20.3 - The Organizing Authority, Grand Traverse Yacht Club, their employees and volunteers do not accept responsibility for the loss of life or injury to participants or others, or for the loss or damage to any vessel in any way or from any cause during or relating to this series.

20.4 - The Skipper shall be responsible for the conduct of his crew. In the event of a serious breach of conduct, the destruction of property or the failure to comply with a reasonable request of any Race Officer or Committee Member, the Skipper will be responsible for all damages and the boat may be subject to protest, which may include disqualification from the series.

21. COVID NOTICE: The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, has been declared a worldwide pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is extremely contagious and is believed to spread mainly from person-to-person contact. It is believed that an individual can be infected with COVID-19 without their knowledge and be asymptomatic. The Grand Traverse Yacht Club (GYTC) has put in place preventative measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19. However, the GTYC cannot guarantee that participants or anyone else will not become infected with COVID-19, and participation in an GTYC event could increase the risk of contracting COVID-19. By participating in an GTYC event, participants ACKNOWLEDGE the contagious nature of COVID-19 and VOLUNTARILY ASSUME THE RISK that they may be exposed to or infected by COVID-19 by participating in an GTYC event, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. Participants understand that the risk of becoming exposed to or infected by COVID-19 at an GTYC may result from the actions, omissions, or negligence of others, including, but not limited to, GTYC employees, volunteers, and other participants.

22. INSURANCE - Each participating boat shall be insured with valid, third party liability insurance with a minimum coverage of \$300,000 USD, to compete in the 2021 GTYC Wednesday Night Series.

23. PARKING - Availability of parking on the grounds of the GTYC clubhouse on Wednesday nights will be according to the standing GTYC parking policy. *Melges 24 crews should make an effort to only have one vehicle per boat in the GTYC lot.* Help maximize available space and park all cars and boats within the marked spaces. Parking is also available across M-22 behind the Westport building & at the Bluewater Hall. Parking in the Sherloq Solutions building parking lot north of the club is allowed after 5:00 pm. Parking along the right-of-way on M-22 is illegal and very dangerous. Drive carefully on the grounds especially after dark. M-22 is a high traffic area; show extreme caution when exiting the club.



GRAND TRAVERSE YACHT CLUB



Windward Mark
Inflatable
Tetrahedron

Windward
Change
Inflatable Tomato

Offset
Inflatable Tomato



Leeward Gate
Inflatable Tomato

Leeward Gate
Inflatable Tomato



X-Ray - "X"
Inflatable Cylinder
As Start/Finish PIn