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**MELGES**<sup>32</sup>

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U.S. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

*Sail Newport & Newport Shipyard, Newport, R.I.*  
*July 27 – 29, 2012*



**Organizing Authority: Sail Newport in coordination with the  
International Melges 32 Class Association (IM32CA)  
Supported by Melges USA**

## **SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

### **1. RULES**

- 1.1 This Regatta will be governed by the *rules* as defined in the current *Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS)*.
- 1.2 The “class rules” for the purposes of the definition of “*rules*” are the International *Melges 32 Class Rules (IM32CR)*.
- 1.3 IM32CR C.1.1 RULES shall apply:
  - (a) RRS 43.1(b) shall not apply.
  - (b) RRS 49.2 is changed in that the lines are hiking lines and tension may be modified.
  - (c) RRS 42.3(c) is modified to allow the spinnaker sheet to be trimmed without restriction.
  - (d) The Equipment Rules of Sailing (ERS) Part I – Use of Equipment shall apply.
- 1.4 These Sailing Instructions (SI’s), including amendments, will take precedence in the case of a conflict with the Notice of Race (NOR). This changes RRS 63.7.
- 1.5 All yachts must carry the minimum equipment as required by the U.S. Coast Guard and the IM32CR (C.5 PORTABLE EQUIPMENT).
- 1.6 If there is a conflict between languages the English text will take precedence.

## **2. RADIO COMMUNICATION**

- 2.1 The Race Committee's VHF channel will be 72.
- 2.2 The Race Committee will attempt to announce its intentions for the day on the Race Committee VHF radio channel at 0900 each morning of the event.
- 2.3 In the event of an onshore Postponement, the Race Committee shall make update announcements on the Race Committee VHF radio channel.
- 2.4 Race Committee broadcasts concerning its intentions, the course to be sailed, starting times, course changes, OCS hails, 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).
- 2.5 Except from the specified Race Committee VHF channel, no competitor shall make or receive radio or cell phone communications commencing from the first Warning Signal of the day until the conclusion of the day's racing, except in the case of an emergency.

## **3. NOTICES TO COMPETITORS**

- 3.1 Notices to competitors will be posted on the Official Notice Board at the Newport Shipyard.
- 3.2 The Race Committee will attempt to post each race's results on the event web site as soon as possible following the conclusion of each individual race. Competitors may check the web site for results while on the water.
- 3.3 Any questions concerning these SIs, scoring, or any other racing issues shall be submitted in writing to Joy Dunigan, IM32CA Administrator at the event headquarters. All inquiry responses will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

## **4. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

- 4.1 Any changes will be posted by 0900 on the day they will take effect, except that any changes in the Schedule of Races will be posted no later than one (1) hour after the latest protest time limit on the day before they take effect (SI 16.2). In the event of no racing on a day, any changes in the Schedule of Races will be posted no later than 1700 hours on the day before they take effect.
- 4.2 Oral changes to the SIs may be given on the water. The Race Committee Signal Boat shall display Code Flag "L" and announce the change on the Race Committee VHF Channel in accordance with rule 90.2(c). Competitors may also approach the Signal Boat and verbally receive the change while Code Flag "L" is displayed.

## **5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE**

- 5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed from the Official Flagpole located at the Newport Shipyard.
- 5.2 Code Flag "L", when displayed ashore signifies that a change in the SIs or other notice to competitors has been posted on the Official Notice Board.
- 5.3 Code Flag "AP" when displayed ashore means that the start has been postponed. The Warning Signal will be made not less than 60 minutes after the lowering of this signal. This modifies Race Signal Flag AP.

**6. SCHEDULE OF RACES**

- 6.1 Racing is scheduled each day from Friday, July 27 through Sunday, July 29.
- 6.2 Eight races are scheduled. The Race Committee may run fewer races at its discretion and may make up a race on Sunday if needed.
- 6.3 The scheduled time for the Warning Signal for the first race each day is 1100 hours. Additional racing to follow (3 races maximum per day).
- 6.4 The Race Committee Boat will signal its intent to run another race that day by displaying Code Flag "R" at the finish of a race. Code Flag "R" will be lowered with one sound one minute before the next Warning Signal is made.
- 6.5 On the final day of the regatta, the Initial Warning Signal for the final race will not be made after 1400 hours. However, after this Initial Warning, any Warning Signal that follows one or more General Recalls, Postponements or Abandonment may occur after 1400.
- 6.6 Informal practice starts and race(s) are scheduled for 1300 on Thursday, July 26. The practice location and other information will be posted on the Official Notice Board.

**7. RENDEZVOUS LOCATIONS** (also see Appendix "A")

- 7.1 The daily rendezvous location will be announced daily at 0900 on the Race Committee VHF Channel (72) and posted on the Official Notice Board.

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.

Rendezvous C: 0.5 nm SW (240° mag) from R "2" Bell South of Brenton Reef in Rhode Island Sound

**8. THE COURSES**

- 8.1 Courses will be as described below and in "ADDENDUM #1- COURSE ILLUSTRATIONS".

- 8.2 Course Designations:

**COURSE # 4** - Start - W - OS - Leeward Gate - W - OS - Finish

**COURSE # 5** - Start - W - OS - Leeward Gate - W - OS - Leeward Gate - Finish

- 8.3 The Windward Mark (W) and the accompanying Offset Mark (OS) shall be left to port.

- 8.4 Courses will be posted on the Race Committee Signal Boat course board prior to the Warning Signal of each race. The number of the course to be sailed, the approximate magnetic compass bearing, and distance from the Starting Line to the first mark will be displayed.

## **9. MARKS**

- 9.1 The original Windward Mark (W) and the Leeward Gate will be Orange Inflatable marks.
- 9.2 The Offset Mark (OS) will be a round ball. The offset mark will be laid to port of the Windward Mark, approximately 200 feet away.
- 9.3 A Leeward Gate will be used. Except when there is a change of course, the Gate will be located to windward of the Starting Line. Boats shall sail between the Gate marks from the direction of the previous mark and round either Gate mark.
- 9.4 If one of the Leeward Gate marks is missing, boats shall round the one existing leeward mark to port.

## **10. THE START**

- 10.1 Races will be started in accordance with *RRS* 26.
- 10.2 The class flag will be the Melges 32 Insignia on a white flag.
- 10.3 The Starting Line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on the Race Committee Signal Boat and a staff displaying an orange flag on a port end Line Boat. In the event that the Pin End Boat is not on station, it will be replaced by a starting mark and the Starting Line will be between the staff on the Race Committee Signal Boat and the course side of the starting mark.
- 10.4 The Race Committee Boat(s) may deploy a “keep away” buoy. Boats shall not pass between this buoy and the Signal Boat when approaching the line to start. The area between this buoy and the Signal Boat shall not rank as an obstruction for the purposes of *RRS* 19 and 20.
- 10.5 A boat starting later than four (4) minutes after her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. (This changes *RRS* A4.1)

## **11. RECALLS**

- 11.1 In the event of an individual recall, the sail numbers, bow numbers or identification of any boat or boats that are identified as OCS may be announced on the Race Committee VHF channel. Failure of a boat to see or hear her recall notification, and the timing and order of such hails, or the length of time it takes to make a notification on the VHF radio will not be grounds for redress. (This changes 62.1 (a).)
- 11.2 The Race Committee may hail the bow numbers or sail numbers of boats that are over the line in the last one (1) minute of the starting sequence after the I or Z Flag has been lowered. Failure of a boat to hear her recall notification, and the timing and order of such hails will not be grounds for redress. (This changes *RRS* 29.1 and 62.1 (a).)

## **12. CHANGING THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

- 12.1 If the change is for a windward leg, the new mark will be a yellow inflatable mark unless the first change is for the final leg of Course 5, which in that case, the finish line will be in the new position.

If the change is for a leeward leg, the new gate marks will be yellow inflatable marks, unless the change is for the final leg of Course 4, which in that case, the finish line will be in the new position.

### **13. THE FINISH**

- 13.1 The Finish Line for leeward finishes (Course 4) will be on the opposite side of the Race Committee Boat from the Starting Line. The Finish Line will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a Race Committee Boat and the course side of a nearby inflatable mark or between staffs displaying orange flags on Race Committee Boats.
- 13.2 The Finish Line for windward finishes (Course 5) will be between a staff displaying an orange flag on a Race Committee Boat and a nearby inflatable mark to port of the Committee Boat or between staffs displaying orange flags on Race Committee Boats.

### **14. PENALTY SYSTEM**

- 14.1 RRS 44.1(a) and 44.2 are changed as so the penalty shall be a one turn penalty including one tack and one gybe, except within 3 boat lengths of a mark the penalty shall be a two turn penalty with each turn including one tack and one gybe.
- 14.2 Unless the course is shortened to finish at the windward mark, penalties within 3 boat lengths of the windward mark or on the offset leg may be delayed and taken as soon as possible on the downwind leg. This changes RRS 44.2.
- 14.3 *The penalty, if any, for a violation of a rule other than a rule of RRS Part 2 and rule 31 will be at the discretion of the Protest Committee and may be other than disqualification. This changes RRS 64.1(a).*
- 14.4 If a breach of Class Rules is found, penalties shall be at the discretion of the Protest Committee, in consultation with a non-competing Class Representative.

### **15. TIME LIMITS**

- 15.1 Any race in which no boat rounds the first windward mark within 45 minutes, or finishes within two (2.0) hours of the start shall be abandoned.
- 15.2 Boats failing to finish within 30 minutes after the first boat sails the course and finishes in accordance with RRS 28.1 shall be scored Did Not Finish (DNF) without a hearing. This changes RRS 35, A4.2, and A5.

### **16. PROTESTS AND REQUESTS FOR REDRESS**

- 16.1 Protest forms will be available at the Regatta Office located at the Newport Shipyard.
- 16.2 Protests and requests for redress shall be delivered to the Jury Secretary within one (1) hour after the Race Committee Finish Boat docks. Notices will be posted as soon as possible to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties to. Hearings will be held at the Newport Shipyard.
- 16.3 It is each boat's sole responsibility to check the Protest Notice Board at the end of the protest filing time to see if she is cited in a protest. Should any party fail to appear when called for a hearing, the Protest Committee may proceed in accordance with RRS 63.3(b). Representatives of boats who are parties to hearings and their witnesses shall remain on call in the vicinity of the Protest Committee until excused by the Committee.

16.4 The representative from each yacht that attends the protest hearing shall be the owner or the Group 1 driver. Group 3 sailors from the boat protesting or the boat being protested are not allowed in the protest room or to be in contact with the representative in the protest room. Group 3 sailors from other boats may be allowed in the protest room as a witness.

16.5 Video and photos shall not be used as evidence at protest or request for redress hearings. This alters RRS 63.6.

## **17. SCORING**

17.1 The Low Point Scoring System, as provided in *RRS* Appendix "A" shall apply, except as changed in this Section of these SIs.

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

17.3 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. This changes RRS A2.

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

## **18. PRIZES**

Prizes will be awarded to the top three finishers overall with the top finisher being presented with the Melges 32 U.S. National Championship Perpetual Trophy.

## **19. TRASH**

Competitors shall not dispose of trash in the water.

## **20. CHECK IN & SAFETY REGULATIONS**

20.1 Prior to the first Warning Signal each day, competitors are requested to verbally check-in with the Race Committee Signal Boat when it is anchored on station.

20.2 A boat that retires from a race or does not intend to start a scheduled race shall promptly report this to the Race Committee on the Race Committee VHF Channel and receive acknowledgement. If this is not possible, she shall promptly report her actions to the Melges 32 Class Administrator or Protest Committee Secretary at the Newport Shipyard.

20.3 Competitors are reminded that Narragansett Bay is a restricted channel and sailing vessels do not have the right of way over a vessel under power which may be restricted in her ability to maneuver.

20.4 Competitors are asked to not pass through the outer two of the center three spans of the Newport Bridge to accommodate the ongoing painting project and associated barges.

20.5 The naval facilities at Coddington Cove and Coasters Harbor are surrounded by an Exclusionary Zone marked by white navigational aids. Vessels navigating inside the Exclusionary Zone may face action by Coast Guard and Naval Authorities.

## **21. SUPPORT BOATS**

- 21.1 Owners are responsible for the compliance of their support boats with these Sailing Instructions.
- 21.2 Support boats are required by the Race Committee to monitor the Race Committee VHF Channel (72) and provide assistance to any competitor in danger if notified to do so by the Race Committee.
- 21.3 Support boats shall comply with IM32CR H.5 "Outside Assistance." This includes the following, with additional language in bold:

*Individual coach or support boats shall not approach closer than 300 feet to any boat that is racing, **or to any layline that is in effect on a leg of the course**, except at mark roundings or the finish line where they shall not approach closer than 200 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.*

## **22. HAUL OUT RESTRICTION**

- 22.1 All boats shall remain in the water for the duration of the regatta except according to the terms and with permission of the Principal Race Officer or the Chief Judge in the event of a required emergency repair.

## **23. REPLACEMENT OF CREW**

- 23.1 Crew substitutions before and during the event are permitted. A revised crew list must be submitted to Joy Dunigan, IM32CA Administrator and approval must be received prior to the race to which it applies. The substitute must comply with all class rules.
- 23.2 Crew substitutions may weigh-in during the designated Substitute Crew Weigh-In period, from 0830 – 0930 hours, on the first day that they will compete. Weigh-ins shall be at the Newport Shipyard.

## **24. DISCLAIMER OF LIABILITY**

- 24.1 Sailing is an activity that carries with it an inherent risk of damage and injury. Competitors participate in this regatta entirely at their own risk and are reminded to pay special attention to RRS 4, Decision to Race. The race organizers, including the OA, Race Committee, Protest Committee, the State of Rhode Island, sponsors, volunteers, or any other affiliated 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 practice for or participation in this event on the water or ashore. 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.

Principal Race Officer: Bruce Golison  
IM32CA Administrator: Joy Dunigan  
Sail Newport: Anderson Reggio

## ADDENDUM #1 - COURSE ILLUSTRATIONS

### EXAMPLE: COURSE BOARD DISPLAYED ON R/C SIGNAL BOAT

Course: 4  
Distance To W: 1.8  
Bearing To W: 120

### COURSE # 4 (Leeward Finish)

Start - W - OS - Leeward Gate - W - OS - Finish

  
(OS) (W)

  
(Leeward Gate)

Start  -----  **R/C**  -----  **Finish**

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### COURSE # 5 (Windward Finish)

Start - W - OS - Leeward Gate - W - OS - Leeward Gate - Finish

**Finish**  -----  **R/C**

  
(OS) (W)

  
(Leeward Gate)

Start  -----  **R/C**



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### Appendix A- Rendezvous Locations

