



MELGES 15 IRISH CHAMPIONSHIP

23 – 24 August

SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

The Organising Authority (OA) is Howth Yacht Club CLG. The notation '[NP]' in a rule means that a boat may not protest another boat for breaking that rule. This changes RRS 60.1(a).

1. RULES

1.1 The event will be governed by the rules as defined in The Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), the prescriptions of Irish Sailing (IS) and Melges 15 Class rules.

- The race committee intend to use the Vakaros RaceSense system to manage the starting sequence – The countdown clock will be automatically synced to each competitor device and if the competitor is on course side at the starting signal, an OCS message will be broadcast to their device. If the Race Sense software is being used, Code Flag R will be displayed. This changes RRS 41(c). Each boat shall have a working Vakaros (Atlas Edge or Atlas 2) configured for RaceSense at check-in, and shall be mounted on the aft side of the mast at all times while racing. Each boat shall either provide a working Atlas Edge or Atlas 2 at check-in for configuration with RaceSense, or an Atlas device can be provided by the organisers at a nominal rental charge for the event.
- RaceSense information is available to all boats within the fleet.
- Failure of an Atlas device or the RaceSense system shall not be grounds for redress. This changes RRS 63.1, 60.1(b), 60.2(b) and 60.3(b)
- In the event of a technical glitch, the race team, at their discretion, may elect to run the race manually. In this case Code Flag R will not be displayed
- Distance to Line functionality available in Atlas 2 devices is not permitted. It is the responsibility of the competitor to turn off this function on their device prior to racing. This will be checked at registration and ad hoc during the regatta.

2. COMMUNICATIONS TO COMPETITORS

2.1 Notices to Competitors will be posted online at <https://hyc.ie/open-events>

2.2 The Race Office is located beside the Marina Office

2.3 A Competitor [WhatsApp Group](#) has been setup. You can join by clicking the link on your mobile phone or scanning the QR code below.



3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

3.1 Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted before 09:00 on the day it will take effect, except that any change to the schedule of races will be posted by 20:00 on the day before it will take effect.



4. CODE OF CONDUCT

4.1 [DP] Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

5. SIGNALS MADE ASHORE

5.1 Signals made ashore will be displayed on the flagstaff at the top of the marina walkway.

5.2 When flag AP is displayed ashore, '1 minute' is replaced with 'not less than 45 minutes' in the race signal AP.

6. SCHEDULE OF RACES

6.1 Nine races are scheduled as follows:

| Date | First Race Warning Signal | No. Races Scheduled |
|----------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Fri 22nd | 19.00 | Practice Race |
| Sat 23rd | 11.55 | Up to 4 races may be sailed |
| Sun 24th | 10.55 | Up to 4 races may be sailed |

6.2 The warning signal for each succeeding race will be made as soon as practicable.

6.3 No race will be started after 15:00 on Sunday 24th August, except for postponements, general recalls and abandonment of a race where the first warning signal was made before 15:00.

6.4 If the start time on Sunday morning is to be brought forward to facilitate more racing, this will be advised no later than 20:00 on Saturday evening through the WhatsApp Group and on the official noticeboard.

7. CLASS FLAGS

7.1 The class flag will be the Melges 15 Class Flag.

8. RACE AREA

8.1 The racing area will be to the west of Ireland's Eye. Note that the racing area may be up to two miles from the harbour so it is essential to depart harbour early.



9. COURSE

9.1 The diagram in SI Addendum 1 shows the course, the order in which marks are to be passed, and the side on which each mark is to be left. All marks shall be left to port unless a gate has been laid at Mark position 3, where boats must pass between the marks.

9.2 A board on the Committee Boat will indicate the number of rounds.

10. MARKS

10.1 Mark A (Windward), Marks G (Gate), Start Mark (Pin end) and Finish Mark will all be orange tetrahedral inflatable buoys.

10.2 Mark O (Offset) will be a Pink Cherry buoy.

11. OBSTRUCTIONS

11.1 Competing boats shall give way to trawlers or other commercial boats inside the harbour area.

12. THE START

12.1 The Starting Line will be between a red + white Flag Pole on the race Committee Boat at the Starboard end of the line and an orange tetrahedral inflatable buoy at the Port end.

12.2 Racing shall be started using a five-minute sequence.

12.3 A boat which starts later than 5 minutes after her Starting Signal shall be scored as Did Not Start (DNS) without a hearing. This changes Rules A4 and A5.

12.4 Individual recalls will be made by the Vakaros RaceSense system. Notification will be via red lights on your Vakaros RaceSense after the start. If your device notifies you that you are OCS, you must sail back below the line until your unit light changes from red to green.

12.5 If the RC vessel displays flag V with a sound signal before the warning signal of a race, competitors shall restart their Vakaros Atlas or Edge unit by switching it off, waiting 10 seconds and then switching it back on to reconnect to the RaceSense network. Flag V will remain displayed for a minimum of 2 minutes and will be removed with the next warning signal



13. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE

13.1 Minor adjustments of mark positions will not be signalled by the RC.

14. THE FINISH

14.1 The finish line will be between a red and white pole displaying a Blue flag, on the RC Vessel, and the Finish Mark.

14.2 Boats failing to finish within 10 minutes of the first boat to sail the course and finish will be scored Did Not Finish (DNF). without a hearing. This changes *RRS* 35, A4 and A5.



15. Not Used

16. SHORTENING THE COURSE

Appendix T in the [Racing Rules of Sailing \(RRS\)](#) pertains to Arbitration, a process used to resolve disputes between boats, particularly in situations involving rule infractions during a race. It outlines procedures for both Post-Race Penalties and [Arbitration](#), offering alternatives to traditional protest hearings

16.1 The Race Committee may shorten a course at the end of a lap by displaying Flag S and signalling the change with either two whistles or two hoots as the leading boats in a Class approach the Line.

17. HEARING REQUESTS

17.1 Protests, Requests for Redress and Scoring Inquiries must be submitted online, within the protest time limit,
https://www.racingrulesofsailing.org/events/8890/event_links?name=melges15-irish-championships

The protest time limit is 60 minutes after the last boat has finished the last race of the day or the race committee signals no more racing today, whichever is later. The time will be posted on the official noticeboard.

17.2 Notices will be posted online, within 15 minutes of the protest time limit, to inform competitors of hearings in which they are parties or named as witnesses. Hearings will be held in the Centenary Room on the second floor of the clubhouse.

17.3 Notices of protests by the RC or Protest Committee will be posted online to inform boats under Rule 61.1(b)

17.4 On the last day of the regatta, a request for reopening a hearing shall be delivered: - (a) Within the protest time limit if the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on the previous day; (b) no later than 30 minutes after the party requesting reopening was informed of the decision on that day. This changes Rule 66.

17.5 Arbitration will be available, in accordance with Appendix T.

18. SCORING

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



18.2 When fewer than 4 races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores.

18.3 When 4 or more races have been completed, a boat's score will be the total of her race scores, excluding her worst score.

19. SAFETY REGULATIONS

19.1 All competitors shall wear adequate personal flotation devices at all times when afloat, except briefly while changing or adjusting clothing or personal equipment. Dry suits and wet suits are not adequate personal flotation devices. This changes Rule 40.

Appendix T in the [Racing Rules of Sailing](#) (RRS) outlines the rules for arbitration, a procedure for resolving disputes between sailors. It's an alternative to formal protests and hearings, designed to be faster and more efficient, especially in large fleets. If the [sailing instructions](#) include Appendix T, it means that disputes can be resolved through arbitration before or after a race.

19.2 [NP] [DP] A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee at the first reasonable opportunity. The boat must ensure this communication is acknowledged.

20. REPLACEMENT OF CREW OR EQUIPMENT

20.1 Substitution of crew or damaged or lost equipment will not be allowed unless approved by the RC. Requests for substitution shall be made to the RC at the first reasonable opportunity.

20.2 [NP] [DP] Boats shall sail with their correct sail numbers. Provision to sail under any other number shall be sought in writing from the RC before going afloat and will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. Breaches of this sailing instruction may result in protest by the RC.

20.3 See Section 6 of Notice of Race re Crew Limitations.

21. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT CHECKS

21.1 A boat or equipment may be inspected at any time for compliance with the class rules, notice of race and sailing instructions.

21.2 [DP] When instructed by a race official on the water, a boat shall proceed to a designated area for inspection.

22. Not Used.



23. Not Used 24. SUPPORT PERSON VESSELS

24.1 Support vessels shall register with the race office and display such marking as may be required by the RC.

25. Not Used

26. Not Used

27. Not Used

28. Not Used

29. Prizes

29.1 Per Notice of Race

30. RISK STATEMENT

30.1 Rule 3 of the Racing Rules of Sailing states: "The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue racing is hers alone."

30.2 Sailing is by its nature an unpredictable sport and therefore inherently involves an element of risk. By taking part in the event, each competitor agrees to and acknowledges the risk statement as included in the Notice of Race."

31. INSURANCE

31.1 Each participating boat shall be insured with valid and adequate third-party liability insurance.

Addendum 1

A board on the Committee Boat will indicate the number of rounds.

