



**US MATCH RACING CHAMPIONSHIP
GROUP GHJL AREA QUALIFIERS**

APRIL 12-13 AND JUNE 14-15, 2014

NOTICE OF RACE

1. ORGANIZING AUTHORITY The Organizing Authority (OA) is US Sailing.

2. VENUES The dates, race venues and host clubs for these qualifying regattas will be:

Qualifier #1	April 12-13, 2014	San Francisco Bay	St. Francis Yacht Club (StFYC)
Qualifier #2	June 14-15, 2014	San Diego Bay	San Diego Yacht Club (SDYC)

3. EVENT GRADING

These events have applied for ISAF Grade 3. This grading is subject to review by the ISAF. The events may be re-graded when there is clear reason to do so.

4. PROVISIONAL PROGRAM (all times are Pacific Daylight Time)

4.1 Schedule:

	Qualifier #1	Qualifier #2
Host Club	StFYC	SDYC
Onsite Registration, Crew Weighing, & Practice	April 11, 1200-1700	June 13, 1200-1700
Additional Onsite Registration	April 12, 0800-0840	June 14, 0800-0900
1 st Day Skipper Briefing	0845	0900
1 st Day First Warning	1030	1100
2 nd Day Skipper Briefing	April 13, 0845	June 15, 0900
2 nd Day First Warning	1030	1100

4.2 Unless excused by the OA, skipper attendance at all briefings is mandatory.

5. SKIPPERS ELIGIBILITY

- 5.1 A maximum of eight skippers will be selected for each qualifier event. Only skippers selected by the OA will be eligible to enter this event.
- 5.2 The competition is between yacht clubs and not between specifically designated persons. Clubs represented must be from US Sailing Area G, H, J, or L; selected skippers must be a member of a club in one of those areas.
- 5.3 Each member of the crew must be a current member of US Sailing and of a club that is a current US Sailing member. Eligible crews do not have to be members of the club represented by the eligible skipper. The yacht club represented is the Skipper's Club.
- 5.4 The registered skipper shall helm the boat at all times while racing, except in an emergency.
- 5.5 All competitors shall meet the eligibility requirements of ISAF regulation 19.2.

6. ENTRIES

6.1 Application: Entry into the Group GHJL Qualifiers for the US Match Racing Championship will be made by the following process:

- a. Competitors shall apply for entry into one or more Qualifier events and pay a non-refundable application fee of \$50 online at: www.regattanetwork.com/event/7874 (one application fee regardless of number of desired events; application fee will be credited toward entry fees). The application period for all Qualifier events opens on February 1, 2014. The deadline for applications and selected event registrations to each qualifying event are:

Event	Application Deadline	Registration Deadline
Qualifier #1 (StFYC)	March 1, 2014	March 22, 2014
Qualifier #2 (SDYC)	May 1, 2014	May 22, 2014

- b. Each application shall specify which events the skipper is applying for and the order of preference if more than one event is chosen. Lack of specifying a preference may prevent acceptance into more than one Qualifier event. Priority will be given to placing all applying competitors in an event before allowing multiple entries.
 - c. Preference for acceptance will be given to early applicants. It is possible that entries for any Qualifier event may fill prior to the application deadlines.
 - d. Each application must include a brief resume of experience or the application may be deemed invalid. The resume will only be used if an event is oversubscribed by applications.
 - e. The Area GHJL USMRC selection committee may fill any open spots in the Area GHJL Qualifier events by any means (including applicants from other Areas) if there are insufficient entries to fill an event. A Qualifier may be canceled if it fails to receive 6 entries by the registration deadline for the event.
- 6.2 Entering: Each team shall be considered entered only on completion of registration, crew weighing, and the payment of all fees and deposits.
- 6.3 Registration and Entry fee: After notification of acceptance to a Qualifier event, each competitor shall complete registration online at the website below. A non-refundable entry fee of \$250 (not including original \$50 application fee) shall be paid by credit card only at:

<https://www.regattanetwork.com/event/7874>

not later than 1700 on the registration deadline date for each Qualifier event (e.g., March 22, 2014 for Qualifier #1). A \$100 late fee applies after the registration deadline. Unregistered invitations will be revoked one (1) week after the applicable registration deadline. Entry fees for each Qualifier entered are nonrefundable. If unforeseen circumstances force a competitor to withdraw after entry fees have been paid, the fees may be refunded only if the berth for that event is later filled.

6.4 Damage Deposit

- a. An initial damage deposit of \$1500 shall be paid at registration at the event venue for each Qualifier event. This deposit is the maximum payable as a result of any one incident.
- b. In the event that a deduction from the damage deposit is made by the host club, it may require the deposit be restored to its original amount before the team will be permitted to continue in the event.
- c. If damages occur, the costs will be paid from the deposit of the team causing the damage when fault has been determined. Damages not attributable to a single team(s) will be deducted equally from all entry damage deposits.
- d. Damage occurring during practice will be split equally between all boats involved in the incident.
- e. All remaining damage deposits will be refunded within 30 days following the event with a detailed accounting of expended funds to each team not receiving back the full damage deposit.

7. RULES

- 7.1 The event will be governed by the current *rules* as defined in the 2013 - 2016 Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), RRS Appendix C, and the 2012 USMRC Conditions for this regatta.
- 7.2 Conflicts between the Conditions for this regatta and this Notice of Race (NOR) will be resolved in favor of the Conditions. If there is a conflict between the NOR and the Sailing Instructions (SIs), it will be resolved in favor of the SIs. This changes RRS 63.7.
- 7.3 Competitors in US Sailing championships or qualifiers for US Sailing championships shall wear a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) approved personal floatation device (PFD) while on the water, other than for brief periods while adding or removing clothing. Competitors from outside the U.S. may wear a PFD approved by their National Authority.
- 7.4 The US Sailing Prescriptions to Rule 60, 63.2 and 63.4 do not apply for events organized under this Notice of Race.
- 7.5 The rules for the handling of boats will apply, and will also apply to any practice sailing. Class rules will not apply.
- 7.6 Add to RRS 41: (e) help to recover from the water and return on board a crew member provided the return on board is at the approximate location of the recovery.
- 7.7 RRS C8.6 and C6.3 will be changed in the Sailing Instructions.

8. BOATS AND SAILS

- 8.1 The events will be sailed in J/22-type keelboats.
- 8.2 A mainsail, jib, and spinnaker will be provided for each boat.
- 8.3 Each boat will be supplied with a code flag "Y", a red protest flag, a green breakdown flag, and both yellow and blue identification flags.
- 8.4 All boats will receive equal tuning. Tape or line will be placed on the turnbuckles of all standing rigging, and shall not be removed during the event.

- 8.5 Boats assignments will be determined by the host race committee using a random assignment process. Every effort will be made to have equitable boat assignments. The process by which boat assignments are determined shall not be grounds for redress. This changes Rule 62.1.
- 8.6 Boats are supplied by the host club. It is of the utmost importance that they be treated with care at all times, as the future of these events depends upon these boats being available for future use.

9. CREW (INCLUDING SKIPPER)

- 9.1 For Qualifier #1, the number of crew including the skipper shall be 4, with a maximum combined crew weight of 350 kg (771.6 lbs) when wearing at least shorts and a shirt. For Qualifier #2, the number of crew including the skipper shall be 3 or 4, with a maximum combined crew weight of 262.5 kg (578.8 lbs) when wearing at least shorts and a shirt. A crew list shall be named at event registration and all registered crew shall sail all races unless permission is granted for an alternate as outlined in NOR 9.2 and 9.3 below.
- 9.2 After a Qualifier event starts, with the permission of the OA, a designated alternate may replace any member of a team aboard before any race or flight of a given match, but only in the event of an emergency affecting a regular team member. See: <http://championships.ussailing.org/Committee/Conditions.htm>
- 9.3 Race starts will not be delayed and replacement crew must weigh within 25 pounds of the replaced crew, but not increase the team total over the team weight limit. If a team does not bring a designated alternate to the regatta, the OA may allow a substitute alternate at its discretion.

10. EVENT FORMAT

- 10.1 The event will consist of the following stage: all skippers will sail a double round robin.
- 10.2 The OA may change the format, terminate, or eliminate any round when conditions do not permit the completion of the intended format.

11. COURSE

- 11.1 The courses will be windward-leeward with optional offset legs in the event of cross course current, resulting in either port or starboard roundings and finishing downwind.
- 11.2 The intended course area for Qualifier #1 is the Cityfront, adjacent to the StFYC.
- 11.3 The intended course area for Qualifier #2 is off the Grape St. Pier, San Diego Bay.

- 12. **ADVERTISING** As boats and equipment will be supplied by the Organising Authority, ISAF regulation 20.4 applies. Each boat may be required to display advertising as supplied by the OA. Boats shall not be permitted to protest for breaches of any rules with regards to advertising. This changes RRS 60.1.



13. PRIZES The top finishing team from each Qualifier event not already qualified for the Finals will be awarded an invitation to the USMRC Finals to be held on San Francisco Bay at the St. Francis Yacht Club on October 3-5, 2014.

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15. COACH BOATS

15.1 This is a Grade 1 Coaching event as defined by US Sailing:

http://championships.ussailing.org/Adult/Coaching_and_Support_Vessels.htm

15.2 Coach boats shall conspicuously display team identification. The skipper's club burgee is acceptable.

15.3 Any interference by a coach boat with the racing or event organization may result in a penalty applied by the Protest Committee to the appropriate skipper or team. Penalties are at the discretion of the Protest Committee. This changes Rule 64.1.

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17. DISCLAIMER

All those taking part in the event do so at their own risk. The OA, its sponsors, their agents, employees, representatives, trustees, members, race committee, and officials accept no responsibility for any loss, damage, injury or inconvenience incurred, howsoever caused.

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19. US SAILING REGULATION 10.01 (C) PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

19.1 For adult US Sailing championship events, no competitor shall use, either on or off the water: marijuana or any other controlled substance (as defined in 21 U.S. Code 802) the possession of which is unlawful under 21 U.S. Code 841.

19.2 For junior or youth competitors in any US Sailing championship, no participant or competitor shall use, either on or off the water: marijuana or any other controlled substance (as defined in 21 U.S. Code 802) the possession of which is unlawful under 21 U.S. Code 841, or alcoholic beverages (distilled spirits, wine and beer, each as defined in chapter 51 of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code and intended for beverage use).

19.3 An alleged breach of one of these regulations shall not be grounds for a protest. However, when the protest committee believes that a competitor may have breached one of these regulations, it shall follow the process described in racing rule 69.1, and a competitor found to have breached one of these regulations shall be excluded from the remaining races of the series and, where practicable, removed from the regatta venue and sent home. The competitor's boat shall be disqualified from all races of the series.



20. INFORMATION AND RACE CONTACTS

US Sailing Area GHJL USMRC Rep and Race Chairman, Qualifier #1

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