



# 2023 MAST Almost Fall Regatta

## September 16, 2023

Milwaukee Bay, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

# NOTICE OF RACE & SI

## 1. RULES

- 1.1. The race will be governed by the rules as defined in *The Racing Rules of Sailing for 2021 - 2024*.
- 1.2. 'Safety First' is THE most important rule for MAST racers. The MAST Racing Series is structured to allow a safe and supportive environment for sailors and families who want to try their hand at racing. Our emphasis is on learning and having fun. We encourage sailors of all abilities and experience to join.
- 1.3. Attend the AFR Skippers Meeting (10:30 am at the McKinley Pavilion - the green roofed building in the McKinley North Section parking lot)
  - 1.3.1. Score enhancing supplies and instructions will be provided at the Skippers Meeting.

## 2. SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 2.1. All Sailing Instructions are included in this NOR.
- 2.2. The sailing instructions will consist of the instructions in RRS Appendix S, Standard Sailing Instructions, and supplementary sailing instructions that will be on <https://mastracing.org/forms-docs>.

## 3. CHANGES TO SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

- 3.1. Any change to the sailing instructions will be posted by 0900 on the day it will take effect at <https://mastracing.org/forms-docs>. An email notification will be sent to all members of the fleet.
- 3.2. Changes to the sailing instructions may be made on the water via VHF radio on channel 79.

## 4. COMMUNICATION WITH COMPETITORS

- 4.1. All official notices will be posted on <https://mastracing.org/forms-docs>
- 4.2. On the water, the race committee intends to monitor and communicate with competitors on VHF radio channel 79.
  - The following communications may be made by the race committee on VHF radio channel 79: time checks, race area, schedule changes, starting order of

divisions, location of race committee vessel, courses, change of courses, shortening, postponement, abandonment, starting signals, recalls, and next start sequence.

- 4.3.** A boat shall not make or receive voice or data transmissions regarding racing conditions that is not available to all boats.

## **5. ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRY**

**5.1.** The AFR is open to all seaworthy sailboats appropriate for the waters within 4 nautical miles of the Breakwater Light marking the “center gap” entrance to Milwaukee Harbor on Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**5.2.** Eligible boats may enter by emailing the MAST Race Chair at [ElizGreene@mac.com](mailto:ElizGreene@mac.com) by September 13, 2023

**5.3.** Guest Boat: Skippers **new to MAST** may race their boat in the AFT as a guest as follows:

**5.4.** The skipper notifies the Race Committee emailing the MAST Race Chair at [ElizGreene@mac.com](mailto:ElizGreene@mac.com) by September 13, 2023

5.4.1. The guest boat will be timed and adjusted times will be posted. The guest boat will not be scored in any division or in the fleet.

## **6. FEES**

**6.1.** No fees are

## **7. CODE OF CONDUCT**

**7.1.** Competitors and support persons shall comply with reasonable requests from race officials.

## **8. SCHEDULE**

**8.1.** Races will be held on Saturday, September 16<sup>th</sup>.

**8.2.** The mandatory Skippers Meeting will be at 10:30 am at the McKinley Pavilion (the green roofed building in the McKinley North Section parking lot)

**8.3.** The warning signal for the first start shall be at 12:30 pm

**8.4.** There will be one start at 12:35 pm

**8.5.** Following the race, awards will be announced at a pot-luck party at the McKinley Pavilion.

## **9. Division FLAGS**

**9.1.** There will be one division using a green

## **10. RACING AREA**

**10.1.** The waters within 4 nautical miles of the Breakwater Light marking the “center gap” entrance to Milwaukee Harbor on Lake Michigan in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

## **11. COURSES**

11.1. The start line will be set inside the break wall between the North and Center gaps. Boats will race out the Center gap, around the MAST mark, back into the North gap to finish.

11.2. All courses are sailed leaving all marks to port as they are rounded.

## 12. MARKS

12.1. Approximate GPS Mark Locations and Descriptions:

12.2. MAST: N43 02.195 W87 50.764 (Orange Post with light)

## 13. SCORING

13.1. **Spinnaker Scoring:** Boats sail using the end-of-season adjusted Fleet HCP (spinnaker) PHRF. Boats who do not declare a spinnaker receive a time reduction of 14 seconds per 10 minutes sailed.

13.1.1. Score enhancing supplies and instructions will be provided at the Skippers Meeting.

13.1.2. The race will be scored using the standard MAST System.

13.1.3. Score enhancements will be added or deducted from the score after the race is

13.2. **Week-to-Week PHRF Adjustment:**

13.2.1. MAST encourages members, especially new and less experienced racers, to come out to race every week. At the same time the scoring system must present a sufficient challenge to those who are experienced racers. To that end, all boats start out with their assigned PHRF rating and then after each race the ratings are adjusted based on how a boat placed in the race. The PHRF rating of those who finish first, second and third in their division or fleet are adjusted down (forcing them to “give more time” to other boats). The fourth-place boat is not adjusted. All others competing have their PHRF increased slightly (giving them a better chance next race).

13.2.2. Detailed information about the scoring and PHRF system available at <https://mastracing.org/forms-docs>

## 14. THE START

14.1. The race will be started by using rule 26 with the warning signal made 5 minutes before the starting signal.

14.2. The starting line will be between an orange flag displayed on the committee boat anchored at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

14.3. If any part of a boat's hull is on the course side of the starting line within one minute of her starting signal, **she shall keep clear of other boats and sail across an extension** (the start line extended beyond/outside the pin or Committee Boat) so that her hull is completely on the pre-start side before she starts (i.e. she must re-enter the starting area from outside of the pin or Committee Boat to in order to start). **This modifies RRS rule 29.1.** Boats that

are over-early at the start and do not (re)start will be scored OCS. The committee boat will *attempt* to hail any offending boats by horn and radio. All boats must (should) monitor channel 79.

**14.4.** External propulsion is not allowed once the warning flag has been raised. This is a local rule modification.

**14.5.** **In no case shall a boat start a race under Spinnaker sail.** This includes having a sail, pole, or other hardware set in a manner that would restrict a boat's ability to tack or jibe prior to the race start. In the event a boat is in violation of these rules, that boat shall be scored DNS.

## **15. CHANGE OF THE NEXT LEG OF THE COURSE**

**15.1.** If a race must be shortened, the committee boat will move and anchor at the new finish and announce the change via VHF radio.

## **16. THE FINISH**

**16.1.** The finishing line will be between an orange flag displayed on the committee boat anchored at the starboard end and the course side of the port-end starting mark.

## **17. TIME LIMITS**

**17.1.** If no boat has passed the first mark by 1:15 pm, the race shall be abandoned.

**17.2.** If no boat has finished the race by 2:30 pm, the race shall be abandoned.

**17.3.** Boats that do not reach the finish by 3:00 pm will be scored DNF.

Committee boats may choose to extend this time limit if boats are near to the finish line at 3:00 pm.

## **18. HEARING REQUESTS**

**18.1.** The following changes RSS 61.1(a) Informing the Protested:

### **IF YOU ARE FOULED**

- A. Avoid Contact!
- B. Take a deep breath and remember we are all here to have fun.
- C. If you believe you've been fouled, hail the offending boat saying "PROTEST" and the BOAT NAME (declaring loudly enough for the other boat to hear or using the VHF radio), and raise a red flag on the stern of the boat if you have one.
- D. Once onshore, if you intend to pursue the protest, you must notify the Race Committee Chairperson of your protest, including a description of the incident and the racing rules you believe were violated, within two hours after the last boat finishes the race.

### **IF YOU FOUL ANOTHER BOAT**

- A. Avoid Contact!

- B. Take a deep breath and remember we are all here to have fun. If there is any possibility you impeded the progress of another boat or caused a dangerous condition, in the spirit of MAST, treat the incident as a foul.
- C. If you believe you fouled another boat, get clear of all other boats, and do two complete circles in the same direction. Once the circles are complete, you can rejoin the race without further penalty.
- D. If you do not think there was a foul, continue sailing the race with the understanding that you are racing under protest.
- E. Once the race is complete, you will be contacted by the Race Chairperson if a protest has been filed by the other boat. The Race Chair will ask for an account of the event from the person in charge of your boat and other eyewitnesses.

**18.2.** The following changes RSS 63 Hearings.

All protests and requests for redress will be heard and decided by majority vote of the Race Committee, which shall consist of the Race Committee Chairperson and two other MAST members who are knowledgeable about the Racing Rules of Sailing and who were not aboard the boats involved in the protested incident.

If the Race Committee Chairperson was aboard one of the boats involved in the protested incident, the Commodore shall appoint a MAST member not involved in the protested incident to serve as a substitute Race Committee Chairperson, who shall choose the other members of the Race Committee and consider the protest.

The penalties shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Race Committee and can be, but are not limited to, loss of one place in the finish, disqualification from the race, and suspension for one or more races. The decision of the Race Committee is final. In the event a boat is protested and found to be in violation of the racing rules twice during a season, the Race Committee may suspend a boat's racing privileges for up to the remainder of the season. If a boat files more than two protests that are found to be without merit, that boat may also be subject to penalty within the sole discretion of the Race Committee.

## **19. RISK STATEMENT**

- 19.1.** RRS 3 states: 'The responsibility for a boat's decision to participate in a race or to continue to race is hers alone.' By participating in this event each competitor agrees and acknowledges that sailing is a potentially dangerous activity with inherent risks. These risks include strong winds and rough seas, sudden changes in 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.**

## **20. INSURANCE**

- 20.1.** Each participating boat shall be insured with valid third-party liability insurance with a minimum cover of \$300,000 per incident or the equivalent.

## **21. SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- 21.1.** A boat that retires from a race shall notify the race committee via VHF radio channel 79 at the first reasonable opportunity.
- 21.2.** MAST Safety Recommendations:
- 21.2.1.** Each captain is responsible for the safety of all persons aboard during MAST racing activities.
- 21.2.2.** Boats are encouraged to have ready a boarding ladder, a cushion or ring buoy ready to throw, a whistle or horn, and an anchor with line.
- 21.3.** MAST strongly encourages the use of USCG-approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) by all persons aboard.
- 21.4.** MAST strongly encourages having a VHF radio aboard and monitoring 79.
- 21.5.** Crew overboard practice drills are strongly encouraged.
- 21.6.** In an emergency, boats are required to render assistance to another boat or crew member as needed. Any boat that stops to render assistance in an emergency to another boat or crew member during a MAST event will be granted redress under RRS 62.1 (c)

## **22. EQUIPMENT AND MEASUREMENT**

- 22.1.** Measurement is not required. Boats with a valid handicap, rating, or class measurement certificate shall provide the certificate for determination of racing handicap. Boats without a certificate shall be provided a handicap by the Race Chairperson based on boats of similarity and documentation provided.
- 22.2.** Whenever a MWPHRF handicap is available for the MAST boat or a similar boat, it shall be used in lieu of other ratings providing there are no other determining factors for adjustment.
- 22.3.** Whisker poles or spinnaker poles that attach to the mast are allowed. Other poles (boathooks etc.) that are continuously handheld are also allowed. The pole must be applied to the clew of the headsail or the sheet near the clew. It is recommended that Crew tending whisker poles should wear PFDs and not lean out over the lifelines. Whisker poles may be employed on either the same or opposite side as the main boom.
- 22.4.** There are no restrictions on the length, use, or type of whisker pole other than those noted above.

- 22.5.** Spinnakers, and cruising spinnakers flown from a pole, are allowed only for specific races as noted in the Schedule.
- 22.6.** Reachers and other light air headsails that attach to the forestay and can be rated as genoas are allowed. Asymmetric spinnakers that exceed 160% of “J” are considered in the same category as symmetric spinnakers.
- 22.7.** When spinnakers are allowed in specific races, a boat wishing to use a spinnaker must advise the committee boat when checking in. **This declaration should be made before the first warning signal at 6:10.** Not confirming the intention to use a spinnaker with the race committee may cause a boat to incur an additional 5-minute penalty.

## **PRIZES**

- 1.1.** The perennial **Almost Fall Regatta Cup** will be awarded to the member (social or racing) member boat with the lowest score after all enhancers are applied. The winner has the honor of planning and conducting the **2024 Almost Fall Regatta.**

## **2. FURTHER INFORMATION**

- 2.1.** For further information please contact [racechair@mastracing.org](mailto:racechair@mastracing.org).