



## **Race Committee Requirements/Guidelines**

These requirements and guidelines are born out of the Melges 15 Class Rules. Adhesion to them is mandatory for Class Sanctioned Melges 15 events and recommended for non-sanctioned events.

### **Sanctioned Class Event RC Goals:**

The goal of the Melges 15 Class Association is to foster fun, high-quality, user-friendly racing. Making sailing accessible is of utmost importance for the Melges 15 class. The Class includes sailors from a range of skill levels and experience backgrounds, which provides both a challenge and opportunity for race officers. The Class values a high-quality Race Committee, and would like to thank you in advance for your time! We hope this guide can be a quick reference of the expectations of the Class and Class rule requirements.

Sanctioned Events Include:

World Championships -  
National/Continental Championships -  
Organized Series such as Melges 15 Winter Series Events/ Melges World League Euro Events -  
Regional Championships -

### **RC Goals:**

- To limit time spent on the water to racing as much as possible, limiting time between races.
- To set fair racecourses.

## **VHF Communication:**

VHF is the primary form of communication with the Melges 15s present on the Race Course. Listed are some best practices/highly-recommended guidelines for radio communication with the fleet. Obviously, each PRO has their own methods, but due to the wide variety of skills, knowledge, and abilities, we recommend constant and concise communication with the competitors. If the PRO is uncomfortable with or unable to use the VHF, we recommend designating someone on their staff to handle radio communications.

- **PRIOR TO THE START**
  - **1 Hour Before Start** : An announcement at the hour gun of the RC's intentions, racing area, and any other pertinent information.
  - **30, 20, 10, and 5 Minutes Prior to Start**: An announcement of time to the start, where racing location is, and current conditions. This will encourage stragglers to expedite.
  - **1 Minute to Warning or Drop of AP**: An announcement of the time to start or to drop of AP.
  - **10-Second Countdown to Warning Signal**
  - **30-Seconds to Prep**: We recommend announcing what preparatory signal will be used.
  - **10-Second Countdown to Prep**

The radio should be silent from the preparatory signal to go unless AP is displayed while in sequence.

- **At Warning Signal**: Either ALL CLEAR CALL shall be made or an announcement of OCS boats.

Post/Pre Race:

- **Once the Last Boat has Finished**: The RC shall inform the fleet of their intentions, the intended racecourse, whether this will be the final race of the day, and approximate time to the next warning signal. We highly recommend that no more than 5 minutes be spent waiting in between the last boat finishing and the next race warning signal.

During the Race:

- **Course Changes/Shortening**: Changes should be communicated via VHF in addition to visual/sound signals on the racecourse.

## **Decision to Race**

- The M15 Class wants to avoid lengthy on-the-water postponements. The goal should be to choose the best possible time for racing on that particular day and coalesce the fleet around that timing.
- The RC should have a presence on the water in the racing area at the hour gun in order to take wind readings and determine whether conditions are raceable.
- The RC should have the racecourse set well before the warning signal.

## Wind Limits

- (a) No race shall be started in under **5 knots** sustained wind.
- (b) No race shall be started in over 22 knots of sustained wind or in gusts of over 25 knots.
- (c) If during a race the wind exceeds the minimum or maximum wind limits, it is at the RC's discretion to continue or abandon.

**The 5-knot wind limit is the hard floor. Please do not start a race in under 5 knots of wind.**

## Starting

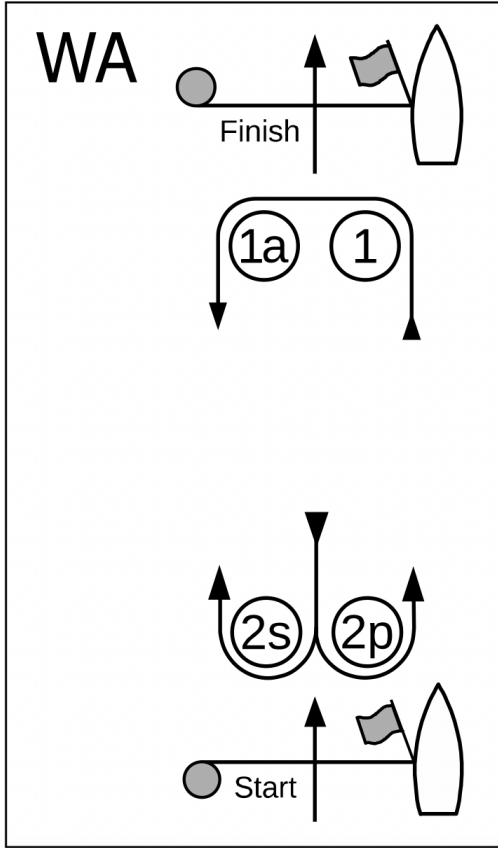
- The suggested starting line length is the number of boats entered x 15 x 1.25. This formula may be adjusted by the RC.
- 5-Minute starts shall be used.
- **Any RC boat calling OCS boats on the starting line or assisting in calling the starting line shall be a part of the line, anchored and with a staff flag flying. Any un-anchored pin boat shall stand well off of the line.**
- A midline boat may not be used unless approved by the class.
- We recommend starting with P flag prep signals. After the first general recall and at the RC's discretion the I flag may be used for the entirety of the series. Consider the conditions and squareness of your starting line before moving to a U flag start. Unless a persistent trend of general recalls occurs, we recommend trying to revert back to the I or p flag. The black flag should only be used if absolutely necessary.
- The RC shall make an announcement of OCS boats that have been penalized under the U Flag/Black Flag as soon as possible after the start.

## Courses

The following courses are the class-approved configurations for racecourses.

### *Recommended courses*

- WA3 - For last race of the day.
- LA2/LAD2 - For all other races.

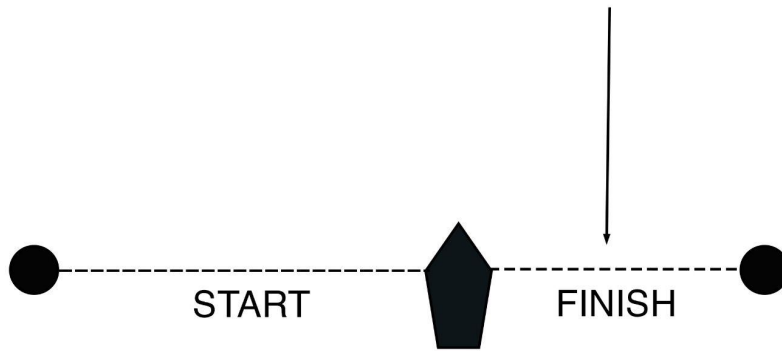
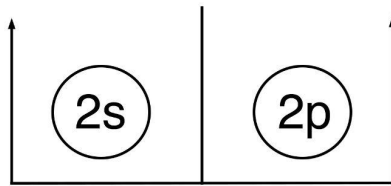
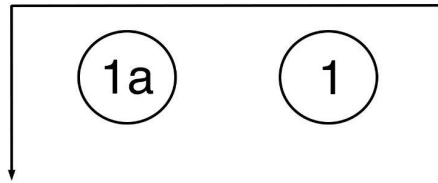


Course WA – Windward/Leeward with Offset Mark, Windward Finish	
<i>Signal</i>	<i>Mark Rounding Order</i>
WA2	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – Finish
WA3	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – Finish
WA4	Start – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – 1 – 1a – 2s/2p – Finish

LAD	Course LAD – Windward/Leeward with Offset Mark, Hollywood Finish	
	Signal	Mark Rounding Order
	LAD1	Start-1-1a-2p-Finish
	LAD2	Start-1-1a -2s/2p-1-1a -2p-Finish
	LAD3	Start-1-1a -2s/2p-1-1a -2s/2p-1-1a -2p-Finish

LA	Course LA - Windward/Leeward with Offset Mark, Downwind finish
LA2	Start- 1 - 1a-2p/s - 1 -1a- finish

Start - 1 - 1a - 2s/2p - 1 - 1a - Finish



### Time Limits/Target Race Times

- Target times shall be set before each event depending on the number of boats and venue by the host club in consultation with the LIC and IM15CA or regional authority.
- The time limit for boats to finish after the first place boat has finished shall be no less than 20 min.

### General Rule

- In Fleets of over 40 boats, the target race time should be 45 Min.
- In Fleets of under 40 boats, the target race time should be 35 Min.

Course Designation	Target Time	Wind Strength	Course Length
LA2	35 Min	Under 8 knots	.5 miles
LA2	45 Min	Under 8 knots	.6 miles
LA2	35 Min	8 - 12 knots	.6 miles
LA2	45 Min	8 - 12 knots	.7 miles
LA2	35 Min	12 + knots	.7 miles
LA2	45 Min	12 + knots	.8 miles

### Number of Races:

- For events of three or more days, no more than 4 races should be sailed in any one day. Four races may only be sailed on one of the days.
- For two-day events, we recommend only sailing 4 races in ideal conditions and only on the first day of the event.
- Please follow the guidance in the NOR.

### Schedule of Races:

- To maximize time on the water, racing shall occur back to back with up to 4 races being sailed in sequence. A short 10-minute break may occur between races 3 and 4. The goal is to launch and retrieve the fleet once per day.

### Questions:

- If a class representative is onsite or sailing they may be consulted about the decision to race.
- Feel free to contact the class association with any questions.