



## **Melges 15 Howth Autumn Series**

**Sunday 4 October – Sunday 25 October 2026**

### **NOTICE OF RACE & SAILING INSTRUCTIONS**

#### **1) Organising Authority (OA)**

a) The OA is the Irish Melges 15 Class in conjunction with Howth Yacht Club (HYC). The series is administered by the Howth Melges 15 fleet.

#### **2) Rules**

- a) Racing will be governed by the Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS), as amended below.
- b) RRS 41 adds: “(e) help to recover from the water and return on board a crew member, provided that after the return on board, the boat returns to the approximate location of the recovery.”
- c) The first sentence of RRS 44.1 is changed to read: “A boat may take a One-Turn Penalty when she may have broken one or more rules of Part 2 in an incident while racing.”

#### **3) Sailing Instructions**

a) This document serves as both the Notice of Race and the Sailing Instructions for the series. Any changes will be communicated via the WhatsApp group below.

#### **4) Communication**

a) The official notice board will be the HYC M15 WhatsApp group. Results will be posted here also.

#### **5) Vakaros / RaceSense**

- a) Racing will be run using Vakaros RaceSense. Each boat shall provide their own Vakaros Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge.
- b) The Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge shall be mounted within 6 inches of the aft side of the mast at all times while racing, perpendicular to a line from the centre of the bow to the centre of the transom. No other electronic devices shall be mounted above or near it.
- c) Each boat is responsible for updating firmware on their Atlas 2 or Atlas Edge prior to and throughout racing, and for ensuring it is configured for a proper class-compliant profile (Distance to Line functionality not allowed).
- d) Timing, starting and recall signals will be made exclusively via Vakaros RaceSense.
- e) Failure of an Atlas 2/Edge or the RaceSense system shall not itself be grounds for a request for redress.
- f) We may run races without RaceSense should circumstances require. Competitors are advised to carry a watch or device with a countdown timer as a backup.

## 6) Eligibility and Entry

- a) The series is open to all Melges 15 dinghies.
- b) Entry fee: €95 per boat, payable via [this Revolut payment link](#), or by scanning the QR code below. Please add your boat's sail number to the end of the default note ("HYC M15 Autumn Series"). Receipt of the entry fee constitutes entry into the Series.



## 7) Race Management

- a) Racing will be run from a single committee RIB, with marks laid for a windward-leeward course (see Appendix A).
- b) Four short races are planned for each race day.

## 8) Schedule

| Date              | First Gun | Target Ashore |
|-------------------|-----------|---------------|
| Sunday 4 October  | 11:00     | ~13:00        |
| Sunday 11 October | 11:00     | ~13:00        |
| Sunday 18 October | 11:00     | ~13:00        |
| Sunday 25 October | 11:00     | ~13:00        |

*First gun (warning signal) each race day will be at 11:00, with a target to be ashore by approximately 13:00.*

## 9) Registration and Briefing

Vakaros RaceSense units will be scanned/registered with each boat **between 09:30 – 10:00 on Sunday 04 October** (the first race day), ahead of the 10:00 briefing.

**A short briefing will follow at 10:00**, covering race format, the course, and any changes to these Notice of Race / Sailing Instructions. All helms are asked to attend.

Registration on subsequent race days is not required.

## 10) Marks

**Note:** Please refer to appendix A for a diagram of the course layout.

- a) Two orange tetrahedral marks ("Teabags"), each fitted with a Vakaros RaceSense instrument, will be used as marks 2S and 2P.
- b) As shown in Appendix A, marks 2S and 2P together form the starting line, the downwind gate, and the finishing line. Boats start and finish by crossing the line between them, timed using Vakaros RaceSense (see Section 5).
- c) A cherry mark will be laid as the windward mark (Mark 1).
- d) A boat on the course side of the line at her starting signal will have this indicated on her own Vakaros unit ("OCS"), clearing once she returns behind the line ("CLEAR").
- e) A boat that has not started within 4 minutes of her starting signal will be scored Did Not Start.

f) Ideally we run RaceSense with three Vakaros units: one on each gate mark (2S and 2P), and one in the RIB connected to the RaceSense tablet. This lets the RIB stay mobile and respond to a rescue if needed. If we only have two units, the RIB will anchor in place of 2P, taking on its role and operating as a gate mark downwind, just like 2S.

### 11) Duration and Time Limits

- a) Racing will target four short races each race day, starting at 11:00 and concluding, with boats ashore, by approximately 13:00.
- b) We may adjust the number of races, or shorten a race, in the interests of completing the programme within this time.

### 12) Scoring

- a) A discard will be applied after every four races.
- b) One race is required to constitute the series.

### 13) Prizes

*There will be a fun daily prize giving in the club bar after racing each Sunday, and a series prize giving after the final race on Sunday 25 October.*

- a) A daily prize will be awarded to the boat with the lowest total points across that day's races, discards not applied. A boat that has already won a daily prize during the series is not eligible to win again; the prize passes to the next best-placed boat on that day who has not yet won one. In the event of a tie for the daily prize, the tied boat with the better result in the last race of the day wins it.
- b) Overall prizes for the series will be awarded to 1st, 2nd and 3rd overall. A prize for 1st Silver will be awarded to the boat that tops the second half of the fleet, based on final overall series placings (top half rounded up if the number of boats is odd). Note any boats entered but not starting any races will be excluded from the split

### 14) Buoyancy and Clothing

- a) Adequate personal flotation devices (PFDs) and appropriate sailing gear shall be worn by competitors when afloat.

### 15) Risk Statement

*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." 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 and acknowledges that:*

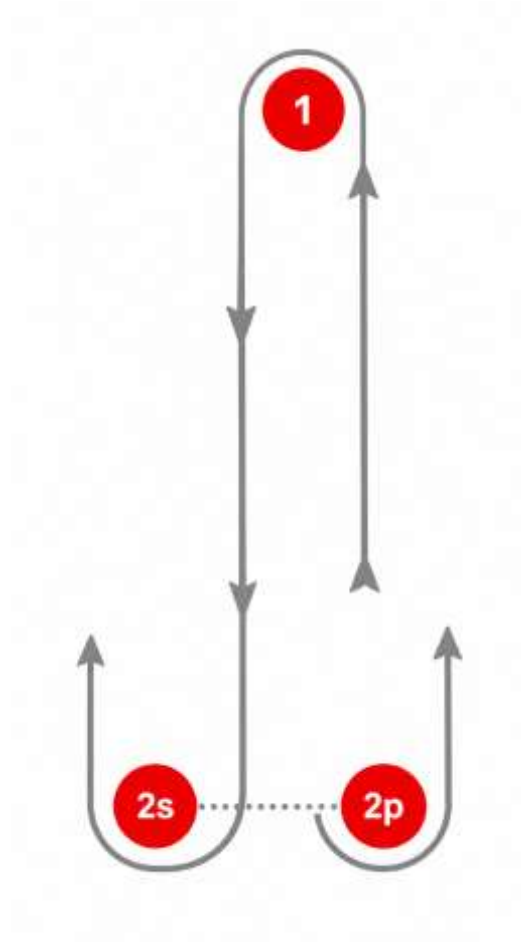
- a. They are aware of the inherent element of risk involved in the sport and accept responsibility for the exposure of themselves, their crew and their boat to such inherent risk whilst taking part in the event;
- b. They are responsible for the safety of themselves, their crew, their boat and their other property whether afloat or ashore;
- c. They accept responsibility for any injury, damage or loss to the extent caused by their own actions or omissions;
- d. Their boat is in good order, equipped to sail in the event and they are fit to participate;

- e. The provision of a race management team, patrol boats and other officials and volunteers by the event organiser does not relieve them of their own responsibilities;
- f. The provision of patrol boat cover is limited to such assistance, particularly in extreme weather conditions, as can be practically provided in the circumstances;
- g. It is their responsibility to familiarise themselves with any risks specific to this venue or this event drawn to their attention in any rules and information produced for the venue or event and to attend any safety briefing held for the event.

## **16) Insurance**

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

## Appendix A – Course Diagram



- Mark 1 is the windward mark, to be left to port.
- Marks 2S and 2P are two orange tetrahedral marks (“teabags”), each fitted with a Vakaros unit. They serve as the start line, the downwind gate, and the finish line.
- Sequence: Start (2S/2P) – 1 – Gate (2S/2P) – 1 – Finish (2S/2P).
- As per clause 10 (Marks), note that the RIB may be anchored in place of 2P and, in this scenario, will take on the role of 2P.