



U.S. Melges 24 Class Report 2022

As always, it was an exciting year for the Melges 24 in the USA. It started off on a high note in January, in Florida, at what was the first Key West regatta held in many, many years. Teams traveled from all over the world to compete as they looked for the best racing opportunities to prepare for the World Championship, which took place in May in Fort Lauderdale, FL.

The Bacardi Winter Series events and the Invitational Cup were well-attended. A total of 32 teams qualified for scoring in 2022, a third of the fleet being Corinthian. The Class looks forward to supporting these events again in 2023.

In December of 2021, the U.S. Class announced its National Ranking Series and the Great Lakes Cup Series in advance of Bacardi. This proved to be beneficial for teams in planning their schedule for the upcoming year. This was published in tandem with a special membership promotion which has helped the U.S. Class increase its total number of members year over year.

The U.S. Melges 24 Class was thrilled to be the NCA host for the World Championship in Fort Lauderdale, FL. To this day, teams still speak fondly of the magnificent racing conditions that they experienced in South Florida, but also reminisce about how high the level of competition was, and how special it was to be a part of such a world-class event. The USM24CA is very excited about Worlds in 2024 as we head to San Francisco. It too will be an epic event!

Mid-year, we sent out a racing participation survey which provided Class leadership with valuable information from owners and crew about what encourages them to travel (or not) to events, etc. It was a special opportunity to hear about what is on their mind, and most especially listen, to see what we can do to ensure events are well-attended and more doable.

Quantum Sails continues to support the U.S. Class on a number of fronts, in particular with sponsorship to the Great Lakes Cup Series of events. Quantum will be returning as a sponsor in 2023. The North American Championship will be included in the Series.

Overall, the National Ranking Series continues to be well attended and supported by the membership across North America. In 2022, the Class enjoyed almost 70 teams racing the 8-part series that spanned the USA, almost 20 teams raced as Corinthians. The series wrapped up in Pensacola, Florida at the U.S. National Championship with a healthy 34 teams on the starting line.

Looking ahead to 2023, the U.S. Melges 24 Class is launching a 30th Anniversary of Racing the Melges 24 campaign. Stay tuned as a year full of milestones will be commemorated, and the pinnacle will be the next U.S. National Championship happening on October 6-8, 2023 in Lake Geneva, WI at the Lake Geneva Yacht Club.