U.S. MELGES 24 CLASS ASSOCIATION
2025 NATIONAL CLASS REPORT

The U.S. Melges 24 Class Association (USM24CA) is pleased to report another exceptionally strong year of racing, participation, and organizational development. Membership remains robust, with 91 Full Owner Members and a total membership exceeding 200 in 2026, representing one of the strongest membership recordings for the U.S. Class in nearly a decade. Across the country, our regional fleets continue to demonstrate enthusiasm, commitment, and a high level of competitive sailing.

The 2026 season was particularly significant, with much of the year's racing activity building toward the World Championship in Harbor Springs, Michigan. From the opening events in St. Petersburg and Miami through the summer championships and regional series, the U.S. fleet maintained excellent momentum throughout the season.

Racing and Championships
The U.S. Class enjoyed a highly competitive national calendar, supported by strong regional racing programs. The Southeast Racing Series, Quantum Great Lakes Cup, and ongoing West Coast racing activities continue to provide important opportunities for participation, fleet development, and competitive engagement. Building on the success of these programs, the USM24CA is exploring the potential introduction of a Northeast Racing Series in 2027, further expanding opportunities for organized regional competition along the East Coast.

The 2026 U.S. National Championship in Traverse City, Michigan, attracted 47 entries, reflecting the continued strength of the fleet and its commitment to championship-level competition.

The highlight of the season was undoubtedly the 2026 Melges 24 World Championship in Harbor Springs, Michigan. With approximately 50 boats participating, the championship represented a significant increase in attendance compared with the 2022 Worlds in Fort Lauderdale, and continued the positive momentum established at the successful 2024 Worlds in San Francisco.

Little Traverse Yacht Club and Irish Boat Shop were exceptional hosts, delivering an outstanding championship both on and off the water.

While we would have welcomed greater participation from our European counterparts, we recognize the considerable financial, logistical, and time commitments associated with international travel.

Class Development and Technology
The U.S. Class continues to explore opportunities to enhance the value of membership, strengthen fleet engagement, and improve the racing experience.

A major development in 2026 was the successful integration of Vakaros RaceSense into the North American Sailing Series. The technology has contributed to greater efficiency in race management, and competitors are increasingly recognizing its benefits as they gain experience racing with the system.

The USM24CA is also evaluating additional technology-based opportunities that could provide meaningful benefits and resources to Melges 24 owners and members.

Organization and Governance
The U.S. Class remains organizationally strong, supported by dedicated leadership, active regional representatives, and consistent communications with its membership.

At the time of this report, the USM24CA is conducting its district governor elections for the upcoming term. We anticipate strong continuity among our existing representatives, many of whom have expressed their willingness to continue serving.

Recruitment of district leadership for the Gulf Coast and Pacific Northwest remains a priority as we work to maintain effective representation across all regions.

World Sailing Categorization
One ongoing concern for the U.S. Class is the timeliness and consistency of World Sailing's sailor categorization process, particularly as it relates to Corinthian eligibility.

During 2026, we encountered several separate instances involving delayed categorization or insufficient responsiveness ahead of significant racing events, including the Spring Championship, US Nationals, Worlds and a Southeast Racing Series event at Davis Island Yacht Club.

These circumstances create unnecessary uncertainty for competitors and organizers, particularly when eligibility determinations remain unresolved close to an event.

The U.S. Class would welcome stronger communication, more proactive engagement, and greater consistency in the categorization process to ensure that Corinthian competitors receive the timely support necessary to participate with confidence.

Looking Ahead to 2027
The U.S. Class is preparing another exciting and comprehensive racing calendar for 2027, with the North American Sailing Series continuing to serve as an important framework for national and regional competition.

We look forward to returning to Lake Geneva for the U.S. National Championship in October and supporting our Canadian counterparts as they prepare to host the North Americans in June.

We are also enthusiastic about the inaugural Melges Watersports Center event, the Space Coast Cup in December 2026 and its potential to become a regular fixture on the U.S. racing calendar.

With strong membership, engaged leadership, active regional fleets, and continued investment in championship racing and technology, the U.S. Melges 24 Class enters 2027 with considerable momentum and optimism.



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