Ten Years ago a group of Balboa Yacht Club (Newport Beach, CA) members and match racers realized that in recent Governor’s Cups (see below), the international teams were generally doing consistently better than young U.S. match racing sailors. They realized that the problem was not lack of talent, but lack of opportunity.

They decided to start a “national match racing event” with sponsorship by the Newport Balboa Sailing & Seamanship Association (“NBSSA”) and the first regatta was held in 2010 using the “Governor’s Cup 22s” used in that event. The Rose Cup, emblematic of the championship, was donated to NBSSA and named for former America’s Cup tactician and youth match racing “patron” Andy Rose. Under the leadership of Dave Perry, the event ultimately moved around the nation and again thanks to Dave’s leadership, was designated in 2015 as an official US Sailing event: the U.S. Youth Match Racing Championship (“USYMRC”) for the Rose Cup.

At every USYMRC, another special trophy is awarded after a vote by competitors, the Nick Scandone Sportsmanship Award. Nick was one of the finest sailors in the United States but died in early January, 2009, after a six year battle with ALS or “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”. Nick was beating both able bodied and physically challenged competitors throughout the last year of his life, culminating in his winning a Gold Medal in the Beijing Paralympics in 2008. His legacy is an inspiration to all sailors and to winners of his namesake trophy.

The USYMRC is an invitational event based on resumes submitted to US Sailing. Information on how to submit your Request for Invitation (“RFI”) is on the back page of this brochure.

While proven ability in match racing events listed in resumes provided in the RFI will be the largest factor considered by the Selection Committee in selecting skippers, keel boat experience and fleet racing performance are also important. The Committee also seeks to encourage geographic diversity of the entrants.

The winner of the USYMRC for the Rose Cup will receive an automatic invitation to the 54th Annual Governor’s Cup International Youth Match Racing Championship if he or she has filed an RFI with the “GovCup”. (See back page for details.)

The Cup is the most prestigious such regatta in the World and in 2018 was granted Grade 1 status by World Sailing (2019 Grade 1 upgrade request pending). Final grading for 2020 will be dependent upon the final skipper list but it will be at least Grade 2. GovCup alumni include James Spithill, numerous other America’s Cup sailors, Olympians and World Match Racing Tour Champions.

2019  Cameron Feves*
2018  Jack Parkin*
2017  David Wood*
2016  Romain Screve*
2015  Christophe Killian*
2014  Christophe Killian
2013  Scott Buckstaff
2012  Will Holz
2011  Nevin Snow
2010  Chris Segerblom

*USYMRC

2019  Christophe Chaumont
2018  Conrad Vandlik
2017  Porter Killian
2016  Sean Cornell
2015  Colin Kennedy
2014  Dane Byerly
2013  Christophe Killian
2012  Charlie LaLumiere
2011  Michael Carr
2010  Michael Carr

2019  Balboa YC
2018  Balboa YC
2017  St. Petersburg YC
2016  Sail Sheboygan
2014  Oakcliff Sailing/Seawanhaka Corinthian YC
2015  Balboa YC
2016  Sail Sheboygan
2017  Fort Worth BC
2018  Oakcliff Sailing/SCYC
2019  San Diego YC
2020  Rochester YC

The Scandone Trophy

2019  Cameron Feves*
2018  Jack Parkin*
2017  David Wood*
2016  Romain Screve*
2015  Christophe Killian*
2014  Christophe Killian
2013  Scott Buckstaff
2012  Will Holz
2011  Nevin Snow
2010  Chris Segerblom

*USYMRC
Cameron Feves Wins Title in 2019

Cameron Feves of southern California’s Cabrillo Beach Yacht Club didn’t have to travel far to win his first United States Youth Match Racing Championship for the Rose Cup. The 2019 Cup, hosted by San Diego Yacht Club, featured the most competitive fleet of sailors ever and Feves had to work hard for his win.

Cameron and his crew Justin Zmina, Lukas Kraak and Taylor Milefchik (pictured at right, right to left), beat Porter Killian who in 2018 finished second in the U.S. Intercollegiate Match Race Championship. Third place went to David Wood, a former USYMRC Champ (2017) and 4th was Jeffrey Petersen who later in the year placed third in the non age-limited U.S. Match Racing Championship. Wood, Petersen and Killian are all products of the Balboa Yacht Club program which made for an all-southern California Semi-Finals.

To paraphrase and update Rochester YC’s description of its history prepared for the end of the millennium in 2000, “In spite of what you might think, 142-year old yacht clubs are not all that easy to find. Even Newport Yacht Club, R.I. in one of the sailing capitals of the east, is only 122 years old. So it is to the credit of Lake Ontario and early Rochesterians that the pleasure of yachting has had such a long and successful tradition in this area.” To that we would only say “indeed”. U.S. Sailing is honored that the Rochester Yacht Club is hosting both the USYMRC for the Rose Cup and the USMRC for the Prince of Wales Bowl in 2020.

The Club maintains an active racing program in a variety of classes and sizes of boats including an annual one design championship, and in the last two years has or will host a number of championships in addition to the Rose Cup. These include the J24 Nationals and the Sonar World Championships in 2019 and the Great Lakes Laser Championship and U.S. Match Racing Championship later this year. Regattas are also held throughout the season for larger boats in keeping with the Club’s history of hosting and competing for many of the Great Lakes’ premier trophies.

No yacht club can feature such a long history without a focus on teaching and encouraging participation in the sport. Rochester YC has both an active junior program, an adult program and hosts and supports local high school sailing.
Requesting an Invitation

♦ Skipper and crew members must have reached at least their 16th birthday but not have reached their 21st birthday during 2020 and be members of US Sailing.

♦ The event is expected to be a World Sailing Grade 3 Event.

♦ Teams will consist of crews of four (4) with a maximum crew weight of 680 pounds with at least one female and one male in each crew.

♦ The U.S. Youth Match Racing Championship (“USYMRC”) for the Rose Cup is an invitational event based on Requests for Invitation from qualified skippers.

♦ If there are more Requests for Invitations than places available, the USYMRC Selection Committee, organized by the US Sailing Match Racing Championships Committee as organizing authority (“OA”), in its sole discretion, will select the invitees from among qualified requests. Requests for Invitations received by April 1, 2020 will receive preference. Selected invitees will be notified by April 7, 2020.

♦ The Selection Committee will base its selection on a number of factors including experience in match racing as well as fleet racing in dinghies and larger boats. Those requesting invitations should have sufficient experience to handle the Sonar sloops including experience with spinnakers of this size. If the Committee determines that two or more of those skippers requesting invitations are equal in experience and ability, it may favor the older applicant over the younger given that it is an age-limited event.

♦ Teams need not be composed of members of the same yacht club or sailing association.

♦ The NoR, and all the information necessary to prepare an RFI are available on the US Sailing website. To request an invitation or learn more about the event, copy and paste the following into your browser:

   www.ussailing.org/competition/championships/2020-u-s-youth-match-racing-championship/

   Or you can find the site manually. Go to US Sailing > Competition > Youth > US Sailing Championships > USYMRC

   Or, for more information, please contact:

   Dave Perry, US Sailing representative for the USYMRC at:

   davperry@optonline.net

NOTE ON THE GOVERNOR’S CUP: The USYMRC winning skipper will receive an invitation to the Governor’s Cup International Youth Match Racing Event July 20-25, 2020, provided he or she has filed an RFI with the Governor’s Cup by the Friday, April 10, 2020 deadline. If the winning skipper cannot attend, no additional automatic invitations will be issued. However, at its meetings in April, 2020, the Governor’s Cup Selection Committee may choose to invite additional place winners in the USYMRC from among skippers filing a “Gov Cup” RFI by the deadline (for example, the 2nd placed skipper, whomever that may be). However, other than the automatic invitation to the winner described above, the Selection Committee in its sole discretion may choose to invite additional skippers filing a Gov Cup RFI without regard to the USYMRC results.