



Seven Nations Compete In First Women's SAILING Champions League

Hamburg, 14 June 2018 – Women's SAILING Champions League is about to begin with a first all-female regatta this weekend at the start of Kieler Woche [aka Kiel Week, the biggest sailing regatta in the world]. This event is the latest innovation to be launched out of the successful SAILING Champions League format. Taking place from 16 to 18 June, this innovative regatta presented by Audi has attracted prestigious yacht clubs from Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland.

It is fair to say that the Danes from Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub (KDY) are fielding one of the strongest and most experienced crews for Kieler Woche; at the helm is Danish Olympic representative Henriette Koch, crewed by a team many of whom raced together when they won the 2015 Women's Match Racing World Championship, including Tina Schmidt Gramkov who also sailed for Denmark in the match racing event at London 2012.

Less than two weeks ago, at the first semifinal of the SAILING Champions League in Porto Cervo, the only all-female crew among the 22 international entries was winning heats against the men. As a result KDY has qualified to compete in the final of the SAILING Champions League at St Moritz later this summer.

In Kiel, each team will compete with a four to five-person crew. The event will be sailed in J/70 boats and the racing area will be Kiel Bay in the Baltic Sea.

Laura Fischer, who will be at the helm for German club Deutscher Touring Yacht Club, commented: *"We are happy to be part of the first-ever Women's SAILING Champions League. We have put together a young but at the same time very experienced team. We are excited to be competing against the other female crews from other European clubs and we are looking forward to some exciting races in Kiel."*

The first Women's SAILING Champions League event is organised by SAILING Champions League GmbH and the International Sailing League Association (ISLA). Nynne Desirée Ammundsen, General Secretary from ISLA, said: *"From an ISLA point of view, what we see with Women's SAILING Champions League is all that we could ever wish for. Gathering and developing a strong league concept while developing the dynamics of league sailing is the founding mission of ISLA. In addition, promoting this mission for women - an important target for ISLA - is an extra bonus. It is therefore a true pleasure to provide a platform and experience the international desire for a Women's SAILING Champions League event."*

Watch the trailer of Women's SAILING Champions League:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aOxlaJTKlWY>

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Livestream and results:

To follow all the action online, tune into the livestream for the Saturday and Monday of racing. This will be available on Facebook, YouTube and also on www.sailing-championsleague.com.

The SAP Sailing Analytics provide 24/7 additional statistics and data for sailors, fans, spectators and media like GPS tracking, real-time analysis, live leaderboard combined with 2D visualisation. You find all results on sapsailing.com!

These clubs compete in Women's SAILING Champions League:

1	Denmark	Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub
2	Denmark	Hellerup Sejlklub
3	Finland	Nyländska Jaktklubben
4	Germany	Deutscher Touring Yacht-Club
5	Germany	Norddeutscher Regatta Verein
6	Lithuania	GVK/Platu 25
7	Netherlands	International Yacht Club Amsterdam
8	Sweden	Malmö Segelsällskap
9	Switzerland	Zürcher Segel Club

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Background Notes for Editors

PAST WINNERS OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2017: Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, Italy

2016: Deutscher Touring Yacht-Club, Germany

2015: Kongelig Norsk Seilforening, Norway

2014: Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub, Denmark

HOW DOES THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WORK?

The most successful National Sailing League clubs compete against each other in three SAILING Champions League events, two semi-finals and then a Final. Each club forms a team from its most accomplished sailors. To win the title and the much sought-after trophy, the clubs have to perform under pressure and put in a world-class performance when it matters most. Short races, one-design boats, a standardised course and a competition between the most prestigious sailing clubs in the world - all these ingredients combine to guarantee sailing at its best.



THE IDEA BEHIND SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

It's a straightforward format that has been working well in football for years; now we have clear proof that it also works for sailing: *An international club competition generating high levels of media interest and a competition that clubs, sailors and fans can all identify with.*

The idea behind SAILING Champions League is simple: it's the championship of the national champions. The most successful clubs of the National Sailing League countries are competing against each other to fight for the title: "Best Sailing Club of the Year".

WHY NATIONAL SAILING LEAGUES?

The SAILING Champions League is based on the same proven and successful format of National Sailing Leagues. It all started out with a bold experiment in 2013 with the creation of the German Sailing League in 2013. The format was the brainchild of consulting and holding company "Konzeptwerft" in conjunction with some of the leading German sailing clubs as well as the German Sailing Association.

The concept took off like wildfire and it wasn't long before it started capturing the attention of sailors in other countries. The organisers of the German Sailing League started getting several serious inquiries from all around Europe and even from the USA. In 2014, Denmark became the first European country to adopt the format of a National Sailing League along the lines of the German model. As of 2018, 17 countries in Europe and the USA are running their own National Sailing Leagues. The logical conclusion of this trend? One international League for the national champions and the best of the National Sailing Leagues – the SAILING Champions League.

YOUTH SAILING AND WOMEN'S SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUES

Following the exponential growth of the League format, the next obvious steps were to create special Leagues for Youth and Women's competition. So for the first time in 2018 we see sailors competing in the Youth SAILING Champions League and Women's SAILING Champions League. It's all about making league sailing as accessible and attractive as possible to a wider group of sailors, as well as increasing the appeal to sponsors and commercial partners.

HISTORY OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

In 2013, the consulting and holding company "Konzeptwerft" in Hamburg revolutionised the sport of sailing in Germany. For the first time the clubs raced directly against each other in a friendly competition called the National Sailing League. The concept took the ages-old tradition of "club versus club" and turned that friendly rivalry into a competition that immediately caught the interest of sailors around the country. It ignited a passion for inter-club competition that hadn't previously existed. This enthusiasm not only caught the attention of the nationwide sailing community but also regional and nationwide media.

With a TV live stream as well as in-depth race analysis provided by SAP Sailing Analytics, fans and indeed anyone interested in sailing can follow each race of the National Sailing Leagues in real time on the internet. A panel of sailing experts and professional TV presenters bring all the action and excitement directly to people's homes and sailing clubs around the country

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