Press Release

Perfect Start into SAILING Champions League in Palma de Mallorca

Palma de Mallorca, 12 May 2019* – Norddeutscher Regatta Verein from Germany *took advantage of sensational sailing conditions in Palma de Mallorca to win the first of three qualifiers in season six of the SAILING Champions League. The top eight finishing clubs from Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Finland have secured a place at the Final in St Moritz later this summer.

It was the first time the SAILING Champions League has visited this beautiful Mediterranean island, a Mecca for grand prix sailing, and after enjoying stellar racing conditions in front of the hosting Club Nàutic s'Arenal the crews who represented 26 yacht clubs from 16 different nations will be hoping to come back here in future years.

Florian Haufe, who skippered Norddeutscher Regatta Verein to victory in sunny and breezy conditions, commented: "We just had four days with perfect sailing conditions, really close races and very tough competition. I have a great team to sail with. It was our goal to secure a place at the SAILNG Champions League Final in St Moritz this August and we made it."

The top eight finishing teams in Palma have secured a place at the Final in St Moritz from 15 to 18 August 2019. The eight qualified clubs are:

1 Norddeutscher Regatta Verein, Germany
2 Club Nautique de Versoix, Switzerland
3 Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub, Denmark
4 Société Nautique de Genève, Switzerland
5 Kaløvig Bådelaug, Denmark
6 WSV Almere Centraal, the Netherlands
7 Frederikshavn Sejlklub, Denmark
8 Brändö Seglare, Finland

The racing was hard fought all the way to the finish, with the 9th place finisher, Württembergischer Yacht-Club from Germany just missing out on a qualifying place by 1.6 points.

The Palma regatta was the first of three SAILING Champions League Qualifiers, with the second event due to be hosted by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda in Porto Cervo, Sardinia, from 23 to 26 May. A few weeks later it's on to St Petersburg, Russia, from 4 to 7 July for the third and concluding Qualifier before the grand final in August.

Results by SAP
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 scl2019-qualifier1.sapsailing.com!

For further information, please contact:
SAILING Champions League
Barbara Nüß
Phone: +49 172 233 74 97
E-mail: press@sailing-championsleague.com
Website: www.sailing-championsleague.com

Background Notes for Editors

PAST WINNERS OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
2018: Circolo della Vela Bari, Italy
2018: Youth SCL: Bodensee Yacht Club Überlingen, Germany
2018: Women's SCL: Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub, Denmark
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 saw 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