



## ***Circolo della Vela Bari Wins One Ocean SAILING Champions League in Porto Cervo***

**Porto Cervo, 26 May 2019 – Circolo della Vela Bari from Italy has won the second Qualifier of the 2019 season of the SAILING Champions League hosted by Yacht Club Costa Smeralda after an almost impeccable display of sportsboat tactics in Porto Cervo, Sardinia (23 to 26 May 2019). The top seven finishing clubs from Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Sweden, France and Austria earned their place for the Final in St Moritz later this summer.**

Out on the water, the 24 clubs enjoyed a variety of sailing conditions - windy on day one, light airs on day two, and moderate breeze for day three. Unfortunately a big storm over Sardinia brought rain and more than 25 knots of wind for Sunday, and the final races were unable to take place. However, the sailors from 16 nations had plenty of champagne sailing to enjoy over the previous three days.

Last August in St Moritz, helmsman Simone Ferrarese along with Valerio Galati, Leonardo Dinelli and Corrado Capece Minutolo, won the 2018 edition of the SAILING Champions League. The crew representing Circolo della Vela Bari returned to league competition in fine style, winning the Qualifier in Porto Cervo and securing their place at this summer's final which again is set to take place in St Moritz from 15 to 18 August.

Ferrarese, taking time out of his 49er campaign to represent Italy at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, was delighted to have won in Italian waters: "The racing was incredibly close. I have never seen so many boats going around the windward mark at the same time. There were lots of penalties and lots of place changing but we managed to come through and do well in most of the races."

The seven qualified clubs from Porto Cervo for the SAILING Champions League Final are:

- 1 Circolo della Vela Bari (Italy)
- 2 Regattaclub Bodensee (Switzerland)
- 3 Verein Seglerhaus am Wannsee (Germany)
- 4 Seglervereinigung Kreuzlingen (Switzerland)
- 5 Kungliga Svenska Segelsällskapet (Sweden)
- 6 Société des Régates Rochelaises (France)
- 7 Yacht Club Breitenbrunn (Austria)

Just over a month from now, the third and final Qualifier is set to take place in St Petersburg, Russia, from 4 to 7 July, when the last six clubs will earn their place at the final.

Aside from the hot competition on the water, this year's event was also aimed at drawing attention to the work of the One Ocean Foundation, which is supported by Audi as Main Partner.

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Founded in 2017 with Princess Zahra Aga Khan as President and YCCS Commodore Riccardo Bonadeo as Vice president, the One Ocean Foundation's mission is to promote safeguarding of the marine environment through a series of projects whose aim is to increase awareness among international leaders, institutions, companies and the public about the Blue Economy and a greater culture of sustainability

### **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 can look back through the races and find all the results on [sapsailing.com](http://sapsailing.com).

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### **One Ocean Foundation**

One Ocean Foundation (OOF), created in March 2018, is an Italian initiative of international importance for the safeguard of the oceans. With Princess Zahra Aga Khan as President and YCCS Commodore Riccardo Bonadeo as Vice president, the OOF stems from an idea promoted by the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (YCCS), which has a vested interest in the preservation of the marine environment.

The mission of the Foundation is to promote safeguarding of the marine environment through a series of projects, raising awareness among international leaders, institutions, companies and the public at large as regards the Blue Economy and a culture of sustainability.

The distinctive elements of the One Ocean Foundation are its network of partners and its scientific committee of the highest level, alongside its strong focus on educating in order to raise awareness and create constructive relationships between all stakeholders of different age groups engaged in marine preservation at various levels.

The Foundation was established following the success of the One Ocean Forum (2017), the first event organised in Italy on the theme of the safeguard of the sea. The event was created by the YCCS with the scientific support of the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO, the Italian National Research Council and SDA Bocconi.

At the conclusion of the Forum, the Charta Smeralda was presented, with the Yacht Club Costa Smeralda as the first signatory. It represents a code of ethics to guide individuals and organisations towards environmentally friendly behaviour.

Everyone can contribute to the preservation of the marine environment by signing the Charta Smeralda and committing to following the guidelines it contains by simply clicking on: [www.1ocean.org/charta-smeralda/](http://www.1ocean.org/charta-smeralda/).

The companies that already support the One Ocean Foundation and its projects are: Rolex, Audi, Allianz, Yamamay, Carpisa, Jaked, Perini Navi, Luxury Living Group, Pantecnica, Porto Cervo Marina & Shipyard, Intercos, Ferrarelle, Slam.

For further information, please visit the foundation's website: [www.1ocean.org](http://www.1ocean.org).

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## **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.

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### **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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