

SAILING Champions League Gets Ready to Rumble in Season Five

Hamburg, 3 May 2018 – SAILING Champions League 2018 kicks off at the end of this month with a semifinal contest in Porto Cervo, Sardinia. This was the venue for last year’s Final which was won by none other than Yacht Club Costa Smeralda, the host club for the event. Will the Italians prove unstoppable again on home waters? There are plenty of prestigious clubs looking to prove otherwise, with teams from 32 clubs representing 17 nations set to compete at the event which takes place from 31 May to 3 June.

Founder and organiser of SAILING Champions League, Oliver Schwall commented: “SAILING Champions League is reaching a level of maturity in its fifth season, but we are always looking to make improvements and to innovate wherever possible. We listened to the feedback from the sailors and increased the number of racing days to four per regatta instead of a practice day before competition.”

“This is also the first season that we have introduced two new Leagues, 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 our sponsors and commercial partners. And for 2018 we are delighted to welcome the watch brand Breitling as a new event partner for the Final in St. Moritz.”

As with all SAILING Champions League events, the semifinal in Porto Cervo will be live broadcasted by SAP and *SailTracks* for the final two days of competition. Eight out of 18 different National Sailing Leagues also use SAP Sailing Analytics for expert analysis and live broadcasting.

You can follow the racing live on Saturday and Sunday at 12:00hrs (CEST) on 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!

Among those taking part in SAILING Champions League for the first time are Yacht Club de Monaco and a first-ever entrant from the USA, Portland Yacht Club Maine, who will be competing at the second semifinal in St. Petersburg, Russia. The Russian event will take place from 3 to 6 August, just a few weeks before the 2018 Final which will be hosted for the first time by Segel-Club St. Moritz, high up in the Swiss Alps (30 August to 2 September).

Watch the teaser of SAILING Champions League 2018: youtu.be/wV-ssnS2lw8

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The clubs competing in the first semifinal at Porto Cervo are:

1	Austria	Burgenländischer Yacht Club
2	Austria	Yacht Club Bregenz
3	Czech Republic	Yacht Club Neratovice
4	Czech Republic	Truc Jachtklub Plzen
5	Denmark	Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub
6	Denmark	Hellerup Sejlklub
7	Finland	Åländska Segelsällskapet
8	Finland	Nyländska Jaktklubben
9	France	Club de Voiles Saint-Aubin Elbeuf
10	France	Société des Régates d'Antibes
11	Germany	Segel- und Motorboot Club Überlingen
12	Germany	Wassersportverein Hemelingen
13	Great Britain	Wessex Sailing Club
14	Italy	Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (host club)
15	Italy	Circolo della Veta Bari
16	Italy	Società Canottieri Garda Salò
17	Lithuania	GVK/Platu 25 Association
18	Lithuania	tbc
19	Monaco	Royal Yacht Club Monaco (wild card)
20	Netherlands	Jachtclub Schevenigen
21	Netherlands	WSV Giesbeek
22	Norway	Moss Seilforening
23	Poland	Jacht Klub Kamień Pomorski
24	Poland	MOS Ilawa
25	Russia	Lord of the Sail – Europe
26	Slovenia	JK Aurora
27	Slovenia	AJK FPP
28	Slovenia	JK MIPC
29	Sweden	Malmö Segelsällskapet
30	Sweden	Cape Crow Yacht Club
31	Switzerland	Regattaclub Bodensee
32	Switzerland	Regattaclub Oberhofen

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.