

32 Clubs From 12 Nations Are Ready for SAILING Champions League Final in St. Moritz

St Petersburg, 06 August 2018 – Norddeutscher Regatta Verein has won the second Semifinal of the SAILING Champions League 2018 in St Petersburg, Russia after four days of challenging racing. Norddeutscher Regatta Verein only just beat fellow Germans Deutscher Touring Yacht Club by 2.8 points, with Russia’s Navigator Sailing Team in third overall. Now, 32 clubs from 12 nations are qualified for the big Final of SAILING Champions League in St. Moritz from 30 August to 2 September.

Norddeutscher Regatta Verein (NRV) mastered the most challenging of river-racing conditions in St Petersburg to win the 24-team Semifinal #2 of the SAILING Champions League 2018. It’s a repeat victory for the German club which won in Russia a year ago. Across the four days of competition, Navigator Sailing Team from Russia managed six race wins across 16 races, an impressive number of bullets. However, no one could match the consistency of NRV which scored five bullets but also never scored worse than 5th in any of the races, each of which was an eight-boat short-course windward-leeward contest.

Florian Haufe, helmsman of NRV, commented: "We are very happy to have qualified for the final in St. Moritz and even more with the overall win here in St Petersburg. Today, every single manoeuvre counted. We made a few mistakes less than the other teams. With the 3-knot current we tried to sail a bit more conservative than normally. It worked – we played our cards well."

While last year’s wind came from every quarter and every day brought a very different race course, 2018 was blessed with four days of westerly winds. Two days with lighter winds, two days with stronger winds, but always sun and the summer conditions drew big crowds of spectators to the banks of the river where they enjoyed world-class racing right in front of the historic Peter and Paul Fortress.

Boathandling was critical on the final day, with the winds gusting close to 30 knots and many crews unable to control the boats through manoeuvres, often resulting in some spectacular wipe-outs and broaches. The shoreside spectators loved the show, as did those who tuned in from around the world to enjoy the live broadcast by SAP.

In total, 16 of the 24 teams in St Petersburg have qualified for the SAILING Champions League Final in St Moritz a few weeks from now. The 16 clubs from Russia will join the final’s host club Segel-Club St. Moritz, the SCL champion from 2017 Yacht Club Costa Smeralda and the 14 clubs who qualified from Semifinal #1 in Porto Cervo back in June, making it 32 international clubs from 12 nations who will be competing high up in the Swiss Alps for the title of “Best Sailing Club of the Year” from 30 August to 2 September.

The sailors were full of praise for the host organisation, St Petersburg Yacht Club, who was supported by its main partner Gazprom. Elena Solovyeva, project manager of SPBYC, explains: “One of the goals of St. Petersburg Yacht Club is the organisation of sailing events in our city, our country and it’s impossible to do it better than hosting an event right in the

heart of our amazing city. Citizens and visitors of our city are able to see this level of sailing. We had three days of perfect weather, wind, sun and almost no rain. We are very happy and I think it's the best solution for events like SAILING Champions League having venues like this sailing stadium."

Live broadcasting by SAP

Did you miss the races of SAILING Champions League? Just visit sapsailing.com and click through the SAP Sailing Analytics for replays of all races and different and interesting statistics about the action on water. You find the overall results on sapsailing.com!

The qualified clubs for the Final in St. Moritz are:

	Nation	Club
1	Austria	Union Yacht Club Wolfgangsee
2	Austria	Union Yacht Club Wörthersee
3	Austria	Yacht Club Bregenz
4	Denmark	Frederikshavn Sejlklub
5	Denmark	Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub
6	Finland	Åländska Segelsällskapet
7	Finland	Mariehamns Seglarförening
8	France	APCC Nantes
9	France	Club de Voile Saint-Aubin Elbeuf
10	Germany	Deutscher Touring Yacht-Club
11	Germany	Norddeutscher Regatta Verein
12	Germany	Segel- und Motorboot Club Überlingen
13	Germany	Segelkameradschaft "Wappen von Bremen"
14	Germany	Wassersportverein Hemelingen
15	Italy	Circolo della Vela Bari
16	Italy	Società Canottieri Garda Salò
17	Italy	Yacht Club Costa Smeralda (SCL champion)
18	Monaco	Yacht Club Monaco
19	Netherlands	Jachtclub Scheveningen
20	Netherlands	VWDTP Groningen
21	Norway	Åsgardstrand Seilforening
22	Russia	Lord of the Sail - Asia
23	Russia	Lord of the Sail - Europe
24	Russia	Navigator Sailing Team
25	Russia	PIRogovo
26	Russia	St. Petersburg Yacht Club
27	Sweden	Cape Crow Yacht Club
28	Sweden	Kungliga Svenska Segelsällskapet
29	Switzerland	Regattaclub Bodensee
30	Switzerland	Regattaclub Oberhofen
31	Switzerland	Segel-Club St. Moritz (host club)
32	Switzerland	Société Nautique de Genève

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Background Notes for Editors

PAST WINNERS OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

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 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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