

League Sailing goes Downunder

Hamburg, 22 February 2019 - The SAILING Champions League expands its territory. From 25 to 28 April, the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron will host the Oceania Final. Up to 24 yacht clubs from Australia and New Zealand will compete in six Elliot 7 one-design boats. In the future, 21 national sailing leagues will fight for victory in the premier class of club sailors. They will sail against each other in the format already established in Europe, as practised in the National Sailing Leagues (NSL) and the SAILING Champions League: in 45 races of around 12-15 minutes each. The clubs compete in an open class as well as in a women's and a youth competition.

In the open class competition the clubs fight for a ticket for the SAILING Champions League (SCL) final in St. Moritz (Switzerland) thanks to the SCL committee granting two wild cards for the newly established league – one for Australia and one for New Zealand/Oceania. The two best youth teams will start in the Youth SAILING Champions League in Kiel (Germany) this June.

The new National League was founded on the initiative of Olympic sailing champion Mark Turnbull and boat manufacturer Howard Elliott who wanted to bring the already proven concept to Australia.

"In future we plan to run NSL qualifying leagues and events at state or regional level," said Mark Turnbull. "As well as the open division we are keen to create separate youth and female events, or possibly even standalone leagues, to foster both areas of the sport." Turnbull believes that this club vs. club model will be as appealing downunder as it has proven in the northern hemisphere.

In Europe, the NSL - with the SAILING Champions League as the premier class - is a successful concept that is still growing. More than 500 clubs in 21 National Sailing Leagues are now competing for the title. This year for the first time there will be three qualification events for the final of the SAILING Champions League, in which the best club in Europe will be determined for the sixth time in August in St. Moritz.

Live broadcasting by SAP

Did you miss the races of Youth 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!

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Background Notes for Editors

PAST WINNERS OF SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2018: Circolo della Vela Bari, Italy
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