

Palma Set to Open Season Six of SAILING Champions League

Hamburg, 7 May 2019 – The SAILING Champions League 2019 kicks off with the first qualifier event of the season in Palma de Mallorca. Now in its sixth season, this will be the first time the SAILING Champions League has visited this beautiful Mediterranean island, a Mecca for grand prix sailing.

The event takes place from 9th to 12th May and will be hosted by the Club Nàutic s’Arenal (CNA), which has a long history of running big sailing championships. “We are very proud to be welcoming sailors from all across Europe for such an important regatta,” said Ferran Muniesa, General Manager of CNA.

A total of 27 clubs from 16 nations will be contesting the regatta, including the Société Nautique de Genève from Switzerland, the runner-up from season 2018. The Swiss can expect fierce competition from a number of quarters. The 16 nations competing are: Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Lithuania, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

The Palma regatta is the first of three Qualifiers this summer, with the second event due in Porto Cervo, Sardinia, at the end of May. A few weeks later it’s on to St Petersburg, Russia, for the third and concluding Qualifier before the grand finale in August. The big showdown for the season takes place in St Moritz, high up in the Swiss Alps, from 15 to 18 August.

Founder and co-organiser of the SAILING Champions League, Oliver Schwall commented: “Opening the sixth season of SAILING Champions League in Palma de Mallorca is a very special moment in the history of this format. It’s not only the kick-off of the new season. It’s furthermore the kick-off of the first intercontinental championship in league sailing, as we are looking forward to welcome teams from Australia and New Zealand at this year’s final in St Moritz after those clubs qualified within the National Sailing League of Oceania.”

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 sapsailing.com!

For further information, please contact:

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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.



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