



## ***Australia's Debut at Youth SAILING Champions League in Kiel***

**Hamburg, 18 June 2019 – The Youth SAILING Champions League (YSCL) is set to take place over three days of intense competition from 22 to 24 June. 21 clubs from nine nations, including Australia celebrating its first SAILING Champions League appearance, will be coming to the event which takes place during Kiel Week, the world's largest sailing event which attracts every kind of sailor, from weekend warriors to Olympic Champions.**

The 21 clubs taking part in the under-22 regatta are from Australia; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Italy; Norway; Portugal; Sweden; Switzerland. This is Australia's first participation in the SAILING Champions League, and Jack Littlechild, the helmsman from the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, said: "As the first Australian team to compete in a SAILING Champions League event we are extremely excited for the racing in Kiel and thankful for this amazing opportunity. We are also very proud to be representing our country and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron. We hope that through this event we can help build the National Sailing League at home as it is a great opportunity for all the sailing clubs in Australia and New Zealand to compete against each other in a really fun format of racing."

Last year's winner, Bodensee Yacht Club Überlingen (Germany), are back to defend their title. The 2018 YSCL event was also the first time for the four-boat final format to determine the winner. Konstantin Steidle, helmsman from Überlingen, was keen to repeat the club's winning ways: "Since March we have been training several weekends and we have also sailed the German Youth League in Starnberg with almost the same team composition. Of course we hope to win the Youth SAILING Champions League again, although we know that our national and international competitors will send strong and well trained teams."

### **Live Broadcasting & Results by SAP**

The regatta will have two slots in the live broadcast of Kiel Week on Saturday, 22 June, from 13:00hrs to 15:00hrs (CEST) and on Monday, 24 June, from 12:00hrs (CEST). The live broadcast is available on [sailing-championsleague.com](http://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](http://sapsailing.com)!

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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 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