

## **SAILING Champions League for the First Time in Germany: Season Opener at Lake Starnberg**

**Hamburg, 17 August 2020 - From 20 to 23 August the season opener of the SAILING Champions League (SCL) 2020 will take place in Tutzing at Lake Starnberg – at the Deutscher Touring Yacht-Club. It is the first qualifier in Germany since the SCL was launched in 2014 and after holding events in St. Petersburg, Palma de Mallorca, Porto Cervo and St. Moritz. This year's final will be held in Porto Cervo, Italy, from 15 to 18 October.**

24 clubs from 12 nations are going to start the SAILING Champions League in Tutzing this Thursday. "The enthusiasm among the athletes and sailing fans to finally start racing again is great. We are delighted that we have succeeded in getting the first SCL event in Germany off the ground," says Anke Lukosch, SCL Project Manager, looking forward to the event.

Premiere in Germany and corona-related postponements in the season schedule are not the only exceptions this year: In addition to the top finishers of the national leagues, clubs were able to apply for a wildcard. Anke Lukosch explains the decision: "Due to the current worldwide COVID-19 regulations and travel restrictions some teams had to withdraw their participation at short notice. With the awarding of wildcards, clubs that could not qualify for the SCL directly now have the unique opportunity to compete with the best sailing clubs in Europe".

In addition to fancied clubs such as the Norddeutscher Regatta Verein from Germany, the team from Hjuviks Båtklubb from Sweden and the Regatta Club Oberhofen from Switzerland, the host and winner of the year 2016 Deutscher Touring Yacht-Club, also wants to attack again in Tutzing.

The SCL Qualifier can be followed via livestream on Saturday, 22 August, and Sunday, 23 August, from 12:00 PM (CEST) on Facebook, YouTube and [segelbundesliga.de](http://segelbundesliga.de).

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## **Background information**

### **FORMER WINNERS OF THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

2019: Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, Australia

2019: Youth SCL: Bodensee-Yacht-Club Überlingen, Germany

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

### **THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

The most successful clubs in the national sailing leagues compete in four SAILING Champions League events, three qualifying regattas and one final. Short races, one-design boats, a standardised course and competition between the world's most renowned sailing clubs - all these ingredients guarantee sailing at the highest level.

### **THE IDEA BEHIND THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

It is a format that has worked well in football for years. Now we have clear proof that it also works in sailing: An international club competition with high media interest and a competition that clubs, sailors and fans can identify with.

The idea behind the SAILING Champions League is simple: It is the championship of national champions. The most successful clubs of the countries of the National Sailing Leagues compete against each other to become the winner of the SAILING Champions League.

### **SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – ASIA PACIFIC**

In the seventh year of the SAILING Champions League series with over 20 national sailing leagues in Central Europe, the USA and Australia, the format expanded into the Asia-Pacific region in 2020. The best sailing clubs in the Asia-Pacific region can qualify for the SAILING Champions League - Asia Pacific Final in a separate qualification series. The Asia Pacific region comprises the countries of the country groups I, J, K and L defined by World Sailing. An overview can be found at [www.sailing.org/mna](http://www.sailing.org/mna). The three best clubs of the SAILING Champions League - Asia Pacific Final qualify for the SAILING Champions League Final in Europe.

## **WHY NATIONAL SAILING LEAGUES?**

The SAILING Champions League is based on the same format of the National Sailing League. It all started with the foundation of the German Sailing League in 2013. The format was developed by the consulting and investment company "Konzeptwerft" in cooperation with some of the leading German sailing clubs and the German Sailing Association.

In 2014 Denmark was the first European country to adopt the format of a national sailing league based on the German model. By 2019, 21 countries in Europe and Oceania operated their own national sailing leagues. The logical conclusion from this trend? An international league for the national champions and the best of the national sailing leagues - the SAILING Champions League.

## **YOUTH AND WOMEN'S SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUES**

After the strong growth of the league format, leagues for youth and women's competitions were established. In 2018, for example, sailors competed in the Youth SAILING Champions League and Women's SAILING Champions League for the first time. The aim is to make league sailing as accessible and attractive as possible for a larger group of sailors and to make it more attractive for sponsors and business partners.

## **THE HISTORY OF THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE**

The Hamburg-based consulting and investment company "Konzeptwerft" has revolutionized sailing in Germany in 2013. For the first time the clubs competed directly against each other in a friendly competition called National Sailing League. The concept took up the centuries-old tradition of "club against club" and turned this friendly rivalry into a competition that immediately attracted the interest of sailors throughout the country. It ignited a passion for inter-club competition that had never been seen before. This enthusiasm not only attracted the attention of the national sailing community, but also the regional and national media.

Via a livestream as well as a detailed race analysis by SAP Sailing Analytics, fans and all those interested in sailing can follow the races of the SAILING Champions League in real time on YouTube, Facebook and [www.sailing-championsleague.com](http://www.sailing-championsleague.com).