

Europe's Sailing Elite in Kiel.Sailing.City

27 Clubs Compete in SAILING Champions League Qualifier in Kiel

Hamburg/Kiel, 26 July 2021: For the first time, the city of Kiel in Germany will welcome the best European sailing clubs of the SAILING Champions League on the Inner Fjord in the city centre. From 29 July to 1 August 2021, 27 clubs from 15 nations will be competing to qualify for the final in October in Porto Cervo on Sardinia. A total of 15 starting places for the SAILING Champions League Final will be awarded at the qualifying regatta in Kiel.

It will be a sailing spectacle in the heart of the city of Kiel, where the best sailing clubs in Europe from the National Sailing Leagues will compete for four days to qualify for the final. The clubs are representing Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Kiel.Sailing.City and the organisers are planning 18 qualifying races for each club on nine one-design J/70 boats, known from many National Sailing Leagues, which will be changed after each race so no club can claim any advantage. After a total of 54 single races in the qualifying series, the best four clubs move on to the so-called "Final Four" and fight for the podium in up to four more races on Sunday afternoon.

The German club from ONEKiel finished as runner-up in the German Sailing League 2020 and is ready to win on their home waters and qualify for the final from 7 to 10 October 2021 in Porto Cervo. "We are happy to be part of the SAILING Champions League for the first time. To be sailing in our home town of Kiel right in the city centre next to the big cruise ships makes it even more exciting. Of course, our goal is to qualify for the final in Porto Cervo," explains helmsman Ole Nietiedt.

The organising clubs are the TSV Schilksee and the Segel-Club Baltic. Alexander Florinski, Head of the Sailing Department at TSV Schilksee, is looking forward to meeting Europe's sailing elite: "TSV Schilksee has been supporting the German Sailing League in staging the regattas in Kiel since 2018. The cooperation gives us a lot of pleasure. When the question came up about being involved in the SAILING Champions League, the decision was not difficult. Of course we will support this great event."

The races can be followed live on site in Kiel in designated spectator areas but also via live stream on Saturday and Sunday on YouTube.

The broadcasting times for the live stream:

Saturday, 31 July: 12:00 to 14:00hrs and 15:00 to 17:00hrs
Sunday, 1 August: 12:00 to 14:00hrs and 15:00 to 16:00hrs (final races)

For further information please contact:

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Background Information

WINNERS OF THE SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

2020: Segel- und Motorboot Club Überlingen, Germany

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 SAILING Champions League (SCL) is a format in which the best sailing clubs in the National Sailing Leagues compete against each other on an international level.

BACKGROUND

The cornerstone of the SCL was the founding of the Sailing National League in 2013 as a collaboration between the Hamburg-based consulting and investment company "Konzeptwert", the German Sailing Association and some of Germany's leading sailing clubs to create a sailing competition at club level for the first time. Within a very short time, the concept was adopted by other nations based on the German model. By 2021, 23 countries in Europe and Oceania were already operating a national sailing league.

Due to strong interest, the competition was brought up to the international level and the SCL has been held since 2014. As in other sports, the best clubs in each national league qualify. Clubs, sailors and fans can identify with this format. The enthusiasm not only attracted the attention of the international sailing community, but is also reflected in the strong media interest at the international level.

FORMAT

Clubs compete in a qualifying series consisting of several regattas spread throughout the season and a final. Each club forms a squad of the best sailors. Sailing is done in crews of four on J/70 class boats. In the races themselves, short races, one-design boats, a standardized course and sailing at the highest level characterize the SCL.

LIVE BROADCAST

The competitions will be broadcast by the SailTracks broadcasting company and can be followed live on YouTube, Facebook and www.sailing-championsleague.com. Experienced commentators will guide through the races and illustrate the action using detailed race analysis from SAP Sailing Analytics.

YOUTH AND WOMEN'S SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUES

Further competition series developed from the original SCL: The SCL for juniors, the Youth SCL, and a separate series for women's competitions, the Women's SCL. The establishment of both leagues is intended to make sailing more attractive and accessible to the target groups. In addition, a signal is set for the promotion of women in sailing as well as the support of young talents. The competitions of both leagues were held for the first time in 2018.

SAILING CHAMPIONS LEAGUE - ASIA PACIFIC

In 2020, the format expanded to the Asia Pacific region. In a separate qualifying series, the best sailing clubs can qualify for the SCL - Asia Pacific Final. The Asia Pacific region includes the countries in country groups I, J, K and L as defined by World Sailing. An overview can be found at www.sailing.org/mna. The three best clubs of the SCL - Asia Pacific Final qualify for the SCL Final in Europe.