

Royal class of sailing

International junior teams sail off Kiel for the Youth SAILING Champions League title

20 international junior teams from ten different countries will be sailing for the coveted Youth SAILING Champions League title on Kiel's inner fjord over the next three days. From Germany four clubs with their successful junior teams could qualify for the international championship of sailing clubs. For Bodensee Yacht-Club Überlingen it is all about defending the title

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From all over Europe and Australia, the top junior teams of the leading international sailing clubs have traveled to the Fjord for the "YSCL" finals and will fight for the crown of the Junior SAILING Champions League on uniform J/70 boats starting tomorrow.

"We are very happy that we can finally host the YSCL finals again after a long break of almost four years," says Anke Nowak, organizer of the YSCL. "As in 2019, when the finals were held off Schilksee as part of Kiel Week, there are again very strong international teams competing. Three teams from Australia alone impressively demonstrate the importance of this competition for the world's leading sailing clubs."

Four German clubs taking part

In addition to the defending YSCL champions, Bodensee Yacht-Club Überlingen, the junior teams from Hamburger Segel-Club (HSC), Bocholter Yacht-Club (BOH-YC) and Kieler Yacht-Club (KYC) will be competing under the German flag.

"The commitment of the clubs in the junior leagues and, if they qualify, in the Youth SAILING Champions League is important in order to consistently maintain our league pyramid, which is always strengthened by young sailors," clarifies Anke Nowak, referring to the numerous countries that have already established their own junior leagues. "This is the only way to succeed in maintaining a high international level as a club in the long term."

In addition to the three Australian teams from Sydney, Adelaide and North Haven, who already came to Kiel for training a few days ago, the experienced league manager believes that the Swiss sailors from the Regattaclub Oberhofen have a particularly good chance. "Unfortunately, a sailor from the second Finnish team from Esbo Segelförening broke his arm, so that now only 20 teams will start for the final," says Anke Nowak. "We are very happy to have so many nations at the start with participants from Germany, Austria, Norway, Sweden, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Finland, France, Australia and Spain Thus Kiel once again presents itself as one of the leading sailing cities in Europe and a guarantor for first-class regattas."

Defending champion Bodensee Yacht-Club Überlingen

The junior teams of the participating clubs have qualified via the national junior leagues and the Youth SAILING Champions League in spring 2023 in Vilamoura, Portugal. The junior teams

compete in teams of four or five and are aged between 13 and 23. A total of 15 women are competing for their clubs off Kiel, including four women helmsmen. Aleke Köhn is taking the tiller for the Kiel Yacht Club, while Merel Groenweg sailing for the Bocholter Yacht Club.

"The team from Bodensee Yacht-Club Überlingen, who won the Youth SAILING Champions League before 2018 and 2019, are hot to bring the title to Lake Constance for a third time," says Anke Nowak. "The junior teams are always subject to fluctuation in line with their age. With Jonathan Steidle, brother of coxswain Konstantin, who was successful four years ago, the Überlingen team at least has family consistency." Flensburger Segel-Club, which came second in 2019, will not be at the finals this time.

Races can be followed live from shore

The races will take place on the Kiel Fjord at the height of the sailing camp and can be easily followed from shore. On Saturday and Sunday there will be a live moderation for all spectators directly at the quay line. Our partner WeDotv will show in cooperation with SailTracks Saturday and Sunday each from 12 o'clock the races in the Livestream.

Photos of the SAILING Champions League, which may be used free of charge for editorial purposes provided that the copyright is mentioned, are available at [Link](#)

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About SAILING Champions League: The most successful National Sailing League clubs compete against each other in SAILING Champions League events. 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 standardized course and a competition between the most prestigious sailing clubs in the world – all these ingredients combine to guarantee sailing at its best. 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. After a brief hiatus, the Youth SCL is back in 2023 with two events in Vilamoura, Portugal and Kiel, Germany.