

Three Continents, One Goal: The World's Top All-Female Crews Gather in Kiel

Kiel, 5 August 2026. *Flawless boat handling, razor-sharp tactical instincts, and the ability to make split-second decisions under pressure. From 7 to 9 August, the Women's SAILING Champions League (WSCL) takes place in Kiel, hosted at Hotel Kieler Yacht Club. The world's premier all-female sailing clubs gather on the Kiel Fjord to battle for the ultimate international league title in fast-paced J/70.*

A total of 18 teams representing nine nations take to the starting line, with entries from Germany, Denmark, Norway, Finland, Switzerland, Poland, United Kingdom, the USA, and Australia. The fleet comprises ambitious crews who earned their spots through their respective National Sailing Leagues. Returning contenders include last year's champions from Deutscher Touring Yacht-Club (GER), alongside former winners Hellerup Sejlklub (DEN, 2018) and Hamburger Segel-Club (GER, 2023).

This year's edition features two overseas entries that mark significant milestones for the league. The US American Sailing League, established in 2024, sends its first-ever all-female crew to an SCL event after the team secured its berth at the West Coast Championship in San Francisco this past May. Similarly, the Australian squad qualified through the Asia Pacific League and now aims for the global title in Kiel.

Racing takes place directly in the inner Kiel Fjord, a venue demanding maximum precision from every sailor. Kiel's role as host is a natural fit: operating under the Kiel.Sailing.City brand, the port city recently reclaimed its place among Germany's top ten strongest city brands, reinforcing its standing as a premier destination for international elite sports. The tight racecourse, combined with commercial ship traffic and massive cruise liners, creates wind shadows and unpredictable shifts. At the same time, the close-to-shore layout offers prime spectating along the Kiellinie promenade. The historic Hotel Kieler Yacht Club serves as the official event headquarters and basecamp for the teams.

Cutting-edge technology ensures maximum fairness on the water. For the first time in the women's event, the SCL deploys the RTK tracking system developed by Velocitek and TracTrac. Following a successful trial at last year's Youth SAILING Champions League, this marks only the second deployment of the system anywhere in Europe. Borrowed from professional events such as the America's Cup, the technology tracks boat positions to within 1.8 centimetres, delivering fully automated, real-time OCS (early start) calls and instant feedback to crews onboard.

Official practice sessions on Thursday give teams their first opportunity to adapt to the venue's complex conditions. Forecasts point to variable weather, starting with heavy winds on Friday before tapering into lighter breezes and warm summer temperatures over the weekend, demanding immediate tactical versatility.



Beyond the intensity on the water, the event is defined by its unique camaraderie. Anke Nowak, Managing Director of SAILING Champions League GmbH, captures the spirit of the regatta:

“Of course, everyone wants to cross the finish line first. Out on the water, no team gives an inch, and these athletes push themselves to the absolute limit. But the atmosphere dockside afterwards is truly unique. That strong sense of togetherness and the good times they share across borders that is the real reward of the Women’s SAILING Champions League.”

Capturing the action throughout the weekend is the team from Sailing Energy, recognized among the premier photographers in international sailing, ensuring high-impact visual coverage from the fjord.

Follow all the action live: sailing-championsleague.com

About the SAILING Champions League: <https://sailing-championsleague.com/about/>

Pictures per club/country:

<https://konzeptwerft.smugmug.com/SAILINGChampionsLeague/2026/WSCL-HKYC-07-09-August/PRESS-c-SAILING-ENERGY> (Credit: SAILING Champions League / Sailing Energy)

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