

## Youth SAILING Champions League 2026:

### Tactical Showdown in Split

**Split, September 3, 2026.** *From September 4 to 6, the elite of international youth sailing will gather on the Croatian coast. The hosting JK Mornar in Split — a renowned club with extensive experience in organizing international regattas and a history of producing top Olympic sailors — invites the best 18 youth teams from the national sailing leagues to the ultimate showdown.*

The decisive athletic hurdle this year lies in the equipment. While most of the qualified teams compete on J/70s or RS21s in their domestic leagues, this event will be raced on the agile Melges 20. This abrupt change of class will push the three- to four-person crews to their limits. With only Thursday available for on-water training, victory won't just come down to league experience, but to raw boat handling. In these short, crisp races, the edge goes to the crew with the best instinct for mastering a new keelboat in record time.

All participating clubs have qualified as the strongest representatives of their respective countries. A look at the fleet promises a highly competitive event: The Norddeutscher Regatta Verein (Germany) arrives as defending champions, but is fielding a completely newly formed crew this year. The San Francisco Yacht Club (USA) narrowly missed the win last year and is now gunning for the title after a second-place finish. Segelclub Stäfa (Switzerland) is aiming for the very top after securing third place at the YSCL three years in a row. Team Sejlcenter Nivå (Denmark) enters as an all-female team ready to challenge the predominantly mixed crews. The Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club (Australia) confidently secured their ticket via the Asia Pacific SCL Qualifier. From Norway, Åsgårdstrand Seilforening is attacking the podium again after finishing fifth last year, accompanied by Soon Seilforening. The high-caliber lineup is completed by local co-favorites Team Mornar and Ploče Sailing (Croatia), Union Yachtclub Wolfgangsee (Austria), Club Náutico de Altea (Spain), Bocholter Yacht Club (Germany), WSV Giesbeek (Netherlands), UKZ Lamelka Kartuzy and Yacht Club Gdansk (Poland), Centre d'Entrainement à la Regatte and Yacht Club Bielersee (Switzerland), as well as GKSS Gothenburg (Sweden).

The meteorological forecast promises a tactical light-wind thriller that will demand iron patience from the crews. Friday kicks off with a gentle breeze between four and eight knots and midsummer temperatures of 31°C. The rest of the weekend remains equally challenging: Following a steady, light five to six knots on Saturday, the wind will briefly pick up to nine knots on Sunday morning before dropping to a flat three knots in the afternoon. However, under these high-pressure conditions, the waters off Split are known for strong thermals: sudden local wind systems could completely shuffle the deck on the racecourse at any moment.

*"We are incredibly proud to host the Youth SAILING Champions League World Final for the first time," emphasizes Luka Bonačić, Secretary of the hosting JK Mornar. "Finding the rhythm on a Melges 20 in five knots of wind proves true boat feel. Our waters demand absolute concentration and flawless maneuvers in this light thermal breeze. We are incredibly excited to see which of these top teams adapts the fastest."*

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

Pictures per club/country:

<https://konzeptwerft.smugmug.com/SAILINGChampionsLeague/2026/YSCL-04-06-September/PRESS-c-SAILING-ENERGY> (Credit: SAILING Champions League / Sailing Energy)

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