

Title Decided on a Tie-Break: Göteborgs Kungliga Segelsällskap Wins the Youth SAILING Champions League 2026

Split, September 6, 2026. *After three days of extreme racing off the Croatian coast, the new champion has been crowned. The crew from Göteborgs Kungliga Segelsällskap (Sweden) secured the Youth SAILING Champions League 2026 title in an incredibly tight leaderboard. Union Yachtclub Wolfgangsee (Austria) and San Francisco Yacht Club (USA) complete the podium after a dominant performance.*

The 18 best national youth teams faced a massive challenge at this year's Youth SAILING Champions League hosted by JK Mornar in Split. The abrupt switch from their usual league boats to the agile and demanding Melges 20 required pure feeling for the boat without a big preparation time. At the same time, the Adriatic Sea tested the sailors' nerves and physical endurance in every conceivable way with continuous extreme heat. While Friday was characterized by flat water and a light but steady thermal breeze, Saturday turned into a grueling test of patience. The breeze only stabilized at 4 PM for two flights before shutting down completely, forcing the race committee to call it a day early.

The final Sunday also pushed the teams to their limits. The hoped-for consistent morning breeze "Bora" did not materialize. Following an early start at 9 AM, only a single race could be completed before the sailors had to return ashore to wait for new wind. The breeze eventually returned later in the day, allowing for two final, decisive flights. Gothenburg, UYC Wolfgangsee, and San Francisco had relentlessly dictated the pace of the regatta from the first warning signal, but the medal allocation ultimately came down to the last flight and pure math.

The Swedes entered the crucial tenth race with a comfortable lead. However, a fifth-place finish in the final flight caused this buffer to completely melt away. UYC Wolfgangsee delivered an outstanding final push, confidently winning the last race to tie the Swedish leaders at exactly 21 points. The final decision was made by countback: a single additional second-place finish across the series narrowly secured the gold for Gothenburg. Austria celebrates a hard-fought silver medal.

"Thank you, Split! We had a fantastic time in Split and are extremely pleased with the result. Coming into the regatta, we did not know exactly what to expect, as this was our first experience sailing the Melges 20. Our main focus was to adapt as quickly as possible to the boat and the conditions, while developing our teamwork throughout the event. The regatta was highly competitive, with a strong fleet and many experienced teams, which made the victory particularly rewarding. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to Mornar Sailing Club, GKSS and our sponsors for providing us with this opportunity and for their continued support. We are very proud of what we achieved as a team and look forward to the challenges ahead." explained the whole team from Göteborgs Kungliga Segelsällskap after the Prize giving ceremony.

An identical picture emerged in the battle for bronze. The Polish Yacht Club Gdańsk crossed the finish line in second place in the last flight, tying exactly with the San Francisco Yacht



Club at 23 points. The tie-break rule applied here as well, deciding in favor of the Americans, while the strong-sailing Polish team recorded an excellent fourth place.

A massive thank you goes to JK Mornar, who provided the international youth elite with a perfect stage for an unforgettable event under the most demanding thermal conditions. The club proved to be not only highly professional on the water but, above all, an incredibly welcoming and helpful host, ensuring that all teams had a fantastic time on the Adriatic.

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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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