

World's Best Sailing Clubs Head to Kiel for League Title

Kiel, October 1, 2026 – *It is the highlight of the international club sailing season. From October 2 to 4, the Kiel Inner Fjord will transform into the arena for the SAILING Champions League Final. Located directly at the promenade "Kiellinie", right in front of the Hotel Kieler Yacht-Club, 24 teams from 15 nations will face off. The ultimate goal: the most sought-after trophy in club sailing. The one-design format on J/70 boats demands everything from the crews: short, intense fleet races require tactical brilliance and flawless teamwork.*

The "competition of the best sailing clubs" focuses strictly on genuine club teams rather than assembled pro crews. The lineup reflects the event's strong international reach, bringing together clubs from 15 nations: Australia, Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Lithuania, New Caledonia, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, and the USA. Each club qualified either as a national champion or through the demanding Starnberg Qualifier in May. These teams are not racing for individual glory, but for their club's burgee and the home leagues they represent.

Athletically, the fleet is exceptionally strong. Established champions from recent years will clash with highly motivated new team combinations. The winner of the inaugural season and defending champion, Kongelig Dansk Yachtklub (Denmark, 2014, 2025), will have to hold their ground against former champions: Tønsberg Seilforening from Norway (2024), Åländska Segelsällskapet from Finland (2023), Norddeutscher Regatta Verein (2022), and the 2015 champions, Kongelig Norsk Seilforening, who arrive with strong momentum after already securing a victory at the Qualifier in May. The fleet is rounded out by ambitious crews like Göteborgs Kungliga Segelsällskap, who arrive with extra motivation following their youth crew's recent title win at the Youth SAILING Champions League. A special mention goes to the teams making the longest journeys: The Derwent Sailing Squadron (Australia), the Cercle Nautique Calédonien (New Caledonia), and the San Francisco Yacht Club (USA) are traveling across the globe to compete in this event.

On the water, a true tactical masterclass awaits the sailors. The Kiel Inner Fjord, bustling with passing cruise ships, is notorious for its highly shifting winds. The weather forecast promises extremely challenging conditions: Following Friday's start, the wind is expected to drop to a very light 2 to 3 knots, demanding immense sensitivity at the tiller. A gentle breeze of up to 7 knots will build on Saturday. Sunday is expected to deliver the most consistent conditions, bringing winds between 6 and 9 knots with gusts up to 13 knots.

"We have an incredibly strong fleet on the starting line, where experienced league winners meet hungry new team combinations," explains Anke Nowak, Managing Director of the SAILING Champions League GmbH. "The Kiel Inner Fjord forgives zero mistakes in these light, shifting winds."

Visually, the Final will once again be captured by the renowned photographers of Sailing Energy, bringing the on-water action to life.



For fans who cannot make it to the *Kiellinie* in person, comprehensive live tracking of the races and all the latest results will be available directly on the official SAILING Champions League website.

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/Final-HKYC-/PRESS-c-SAILING-ENERGY> (Credit: SAILING Champions League / Sailing Energy)

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