

# The National Sailing League

## League sailing hits Australian shores

In the northern hemisphere the [Sailing Champions League](#) is a winning concept, taking off from the start-up league in Germany in 2013 to involve 21 nations and more than 300 clubs in 2019. Now it's the southern hemisphere's turn.

Mark Turnbull OAM, gold medal winner in the 470 class at the Sydney 2000 Olympics, and Howard Elliott have teamed up to bring the national league concept of clubs fighting for the title of best sailing club of the year to Australian shores.

Invites to the inaugural National Sailing League – Oceania Final are with yacht clubs across Australia and New Zealand, and the response and number of follow-up enquiries bodes well for the opening final.

Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron, host club of the recent SailGP world premiere, is the launchpad for the first-ever NSL event April 25 – 28. The format is three days of one design keelboat racing using six Elliott 7s and a maximum 24 teams competing in 45 races of 12-15 minutes each to find the top two clubs in the women's, youth and open divisions.

The top Australian and New Zealand open teams automatically qualify for a spot at the Sailing Champions League (SCL) final at [St Moritz](#), Switzerland in **August**.

The top two youth teams will be eligible to compete at the SCL [Youth Event at Kiel](#) in June and the top two female team at the SCL Women's Final **in 2020**.

Turnbull explains the NSL's long-term strategy: "Over the next few years we plan to engage with the heart of our sport - the clubs – right across Oceania so the best sailors can represent their club in a fast and furious format using identical boats.

"They will race-off to be the best club in Oceania and ultimately represent on the world stage at the global SCL Final.

"In future we plan to run NSL qualifying leagues and events at state or regional level. As well as the open division we are keen to create separate youth and female events, or possibly even standalone leagues, to foster both areas of the sport," Turnbull added.

The Elliott 7 chosen for the first event in April will carry a maximum four crew, one of those female for the open division, and a maximum of five in the youth and women's division.

The regatta is a short-course umpired fleet racing event. At the end of the flight racing series the top four teams qualify for the final series, then it's the first boat to score two wins. The ultimate series winner is the victor in the deciding race.

"We believe this club vs club model will be very successful in this part of the world, not just creating a single NSL Final but multiple feeder and qualifier events, and making league sailing a regular part of the club sailing landscape," Turnbull concluded.

### How to Participate

Our club is seeking expressions of interest from teams wishing to participate in this event. To lodge your EOI please email [sailing@rsys.com.au](mailto:sailing@rsys.com.au). Your email must identify the helmsman and the other crew members

The club will be running practice events on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March and Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March with sailing from 5 until 7pm each day which will be free of charge.

If the number of EOI's RSYS receives exceeds the number of places NSL has allocated to the club, selection races will be held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March between 5 and 7pm.

The club will be partially subsidising one team in each of the 3 divisions. All selected RSYS team participants will pay \$175 entry fee. The rest of the entry fee will be covered by the club.

### Eligibility

Division	No of team members	Requirements
Youth	Max 5 (must include at least one female)	Under 22 (as at 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2019 ) All team members must be financial members of RSYS
Female	Max 5 (must be all female)	All team members must be financial members of RSYS
Open	Max 4 (must include at least one female)	All team members must be financial members of RSYS

### A few things to note:

1. There is no crew weight limit
2. There is no limit on pro sailors and there is no Corinthian division. Team members must only be RSYS members
3. Due to the format of the racing team members can only belong to ONE team irrespective of division. An individual cannot be in 2 teams.
4. Key dates
  - a. EOI's close – Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 5pm
  - b. Practice day 1 – Thursday March 21<sup>st</sup> 5 – 7pm
  - c. Practice day 2 and selection races (if necessary) – Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> 5 – 7pm
  - d. National Sailing League Regatta Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April

### Volunteers

The event is looking for both on water and off water volunteers to assist with the running of the event. If you are interested in volunteering for this event please email [sailing@rsys.com.au](mailto:sailing@rsys.com.au)

### How to follow the NSL - Oceania:

[Facebook](#)

[Website](#)

Instagram: @nsloceania

[YouTube](#): The core idea of league sailing