

National Sailing League Management Manual (Rule Book)

1. Introduction

This manual defines the standards and regulations for becoming a member of International Sailing League Association as a “National Sailing League” and managing the National Sailing League regattas. With the National Sailing League membership, which is exclusive to one selected entity per nation, the National Sailing League (“**NSL**”) has the exclusive right to organize national sailing league events with the ultimate objective to select the top national clubs qualifying for the SAILING Champions League.

2. ISLA

- ISLA (International Sailing League Association) is the world governing body for national league sailing. ISLA is responsible for the promotion, development and success of the national league sailing format as exemplified by the SAILING Champions League events held in Europe each year.
- ISLA is responsible for the Management Manual (Rule Book) of the national league sailing format.
- ISLA is together with SAILING Champions League GmbH the organizing authority of the SAILING Champions League.
- ISLA was established on 17 June 2016 to structure, organize and support national league sailing around the world.
- The mission of ISLA is to provide a framework for competitive and dynamic sail boat racing for all sailors across the entire sailing community in each nation: from the highly competitive first division competition for sailing looking for Olympic type competition to a more club like environment in the second division fleets.

3. Membership

It is mandatory for league sailing countries that “The National League” organisation has to be a member of ISLA in order to participate in SAILING Champions League. The ISLA board will determine the annual fee each year. For the 2017 season, ISLA has decided that the membership fee is €500 euro.

4. Background Information

League Sailing started 2013 in Germany. The interest of sailors, clubs, media and sponsors has been strong. Now, 15 nations have established a league. This manual is a guideline for all nations on how to implement a national sailing league in their country. In this document, “National Sailing League Association” (or “NSL”) refers to the organisation meeting the standards and regulations as stated in this document. Certain elements of this document are requirements for the NSL and other elements are recommendations. In each case, the relevant description is provided.

5. Organisational Structure of NSLs

5.1. League Organisation

- The league clubs should be organized in a non-profit “National Sailing League Association” with at least three elected representatives/board members. One official representative from each participating sailing club elects the board members.
- This organisation will be the holder of rights regarding the relevant NSL.
- All decisions of the NSL organisation should focus on the interests of the clubs and competitors. Therefore, it is recommended that the sailing clubs shall represent the majority of the NSL board.
- The relevant National Sailing Federation should be integrated in the organisation. (recommended).
- Based on the experience from already established NSL, it is not mandatory that any NSL be in 100% control of the relevant National Sailing Federation. It is more important, that the individual organisation does reflect the club majority in all decisions.
- Integrating a professional marketing and management company in the league structure is optional but recommended.
- A NSL should strive to achieve three key elements within its organization: the National Sailing Federation, the League Association with a majority of clubs represented and a professional marketing management company.

5.2. NSL Project Management

- It is recommended to outsource the project management and the marketing issues of a NSL to a professional company in order to take 100% care of the organisation, communication and marketing of the NSL.

6. Marketing and Media Activities

6.1. Public Relations (“PR”):

- PR is part of the NSL responsibility and is generally managed internally.
- NSL shall provide PR and media for each league event.
- It is recommended to have a photographer to provide suitable photographic material.
- For the purposes of communication and PR at the SAILING Champions League level, ISLA (or the entity appointed by ISLA) requests to be copied on all communication and news about the NSL. For contact information regarding communications, see attached Appendix A.
- The NSL shall assist ISLA, from time to time, in ISLA’s mission to bring the sailing league format around club sailing to all sailors and nations around the world.

6.2. Sponsoring:

6.2.1. General Recommendation regarding Sponsors and advertising at NSL Events:

- The involvement of the sponsors in the league events is an effective way to finance the launch and ongoing operational costs of the NSL.
- Sponsors have the opportunity to place their logos on boats, marks, flags, sails, at event locations as well as media space (online, offline, social media etc.).
- ISLA works directly with an agency specializing in selling the SAILING Champions League and ISLA can provide professional support based on long-term experience with league sailing as well as the relevant marketing and international networking. Key focus is to acquire partners and sponsors for the relevant National Sailing League. For more information about sponsoring support, please refer to Appendix A for contact information.
- It is advisable to avoid offering advertising to a sponsor on one exclusive boat. Sponsorship should be offered for the entire racing fleet. This also applies if it results in a smaller advertising space available. Allowing sponsor logos on the entire racing fleet avoids problems in fleet allocation as a boat may be damaged and replaced by another one.

6.3. Broadcasting of NSL Events:

- Broadcasting of NSL events is recommended and encouraged. The service spectrum ranges from small standard solutions (2D live tracking, one camera, one commentator, leader board, Race Management App) up to a full TV broadcasting set-up with a professional TV studio, 3D

tracking, professional moderation, public viewing area, media distribution, on-board audio and video and up to ten cameras including a drone.

- ISLA works directly with a firm providing these specialized services. For more information about Broadcasting NSL Events, please refer to Appendix A for contact information.

7. General Information for National Sailing League

This section of the Rule Book is divided into requirements, which are mandatory for each NSL and recommendations, which are non-mandatory.

7.1. General Requirements

- ISLA shall be informed regularly about relevant NSL information about the NSL as per article 6.1.

7.2. Format

Requirements:

- Fleet races with five to ten boats
- Short races of 12 to 20 minutes with a target time of 15 minutes

Recommendations:

- A NSL series consist of at least three events per year
- There are up to 48 races per league event (three days), defined in the race schedule and pairing list.

7.3. Modus

Requirements

- The composition of the teams and races are defined in the pairing list, drawn before each league event.

Recommendations

- The modus consists of 12-16 flights in total, with two or three races each and five to ten boats

7.4. Boat Park

Requirements:

- The boat park consists of six to eleven boats depending on the number of clubs.
- There should be one spare boat ready to use in case of damage, for easy and quick replacement.

- The boats should be close to identical as possible. The NSL shall make its best efforts to ensure that the boats are nearly identical. There shall be no advantage nor disadvantage because of different material from one boat to the next.
- The rigging and trim of all boats shall be as close to identical as possible (rig tension, mast position, etc.).
- An authorized technician by the organising authority (OA) shall verify the rigging and trim of all boats each morning before the racing starts to ensure that there is no advantage nor disadvantage.

Recommendations:

- As close to an identical condition as possible of the sails is also important. If the boats are used between league events, league racing sails should not be used.
- A repair service with a qualified person (boatswain) carrying a stock of spares and consumables should be available during events.
- Sets of spare sails should be available plus additional gennakers/spinnakers. These spare sails need to be rotated in turn with all the other sails so in case a spare sail is needed it doesn't come out of the bag as brand new. By complying with these guidelines, sails will be used only for league events and will be worn out in the same manner.
- A usage log for each sail marked shall be kept with a unique reference number for each sail.

7.5. Participating Clubs:

Requirements:

- Competitors need to be affiliated with their national sailing federation as per the terms of the World Sailing rules RRS 89.1.
- All sailors need to be full members of their competing club and must also have been members after rules defined in the national NOR. The membership has to be fully established before the National Sailing League starts its season. In the event that a sailor is a member of more than one club, this sailor must choose one club at the beginning of the NSL season and cannot sail for the other(s) club(s) for that season.
- Every affiliated club shall have the opportunity to participate in a qualifying NSL regatta.
- A NSL is required to have a minimum of twelve competing clubs.
- Hosting clubs should be "registered associations" defined in the terms of the federation (see RRS 89.1) and be participating clubs in the league.

7.6. Rules

Requirements:

- The ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing apply.
- Appendix Q for Umpired Fleet Racing applies.

Recommendations:

- Furthermore, there may be special rules regarding the handling of the boats as per the Sailing Instructions.

7.7. Adjudication - Umpires

Requirements:

- Umpire and Race Officers with at least a national status should be appointed at each event.

Recommendation:

- The umpire team should have at least five members to allow each umpire to have a break in between the races.
- Umpires should provide a Q&A session for the sailors before racing begins each day.

7.8. Scoring system:

Recommendation:

- ISLA's objective is to have one single results and scoring software tool. The majority of the NSLs use SAP Sailing Analytics and ISLA recommends using this software for all NSLs.
- For those NSL who do not have an agreement with SAP, please refer to Appendix A for further information on how to contact your local SAP organisation.

8. Events/Regatta Schedule Recommendations

8.1. Schedule

- It is recommended to start a NSL event on Friday and to finish on Sunday (3 days event). Or on Saturday to finish Sundays (2 days event).
- Each club should have the opportunity for an official practice session before the skippers' meeting.

8.2. Starter Package for NSLs:

- ISLA shall provide a "Starter Package" for NSLs wishing to join ISLA. This package includes all the necessary information to launch your NSL such as check lists, Notice of Race examples, Sailing Instructions examples and other relevant presentations.

9. SAILING Champions League

The SAILING Champions League (SCL) is the most important club competition in the world, where the best international sailing clubs per nation compete against each other. The overall winner after one SCL season is awarded “**Sailing Champion Club 2017**”

9.1. General information: ISLA and Sailing Champions League GmbH split the responsibilities along these lines:



9.2. Qualifications for NSLs to be a member of ISLA and participate at SCL events:

- Qualification for any given nation is the compliance with the requirements as defined in this manual and accepted by the NSL with the membership application form.
- Up to the top four clubs of each NSL are automatically qualified for the SAILING Champions League Series. In the event that more than 32 clubs qualify by this rule, ISLA shall decide how to modify the qualifying criteria.
- If there is no final ranking of any given NSL, the decision for the qualification is made upon the current ranking of the league.
- ISLA reserves the right to grant wild cards to outstanding clubs or countries, bias towards countries with NSL in development.

9.3. SCL events

- There are three SCL events planned each year. ISLA reserves the right to modify this schedule if deemed necessary.
- Every club around the world can apply to host a SAILING Champions League event.
- If an affiliated club wishes to organize an SCL event, please refer to Appendix A for contact information regarding the Request for Proposal process.
- SCL sponsors/partners shall be involved in the communication and branding of the SCL event.



9.4. Modus

- The modus for SCL events is the same as for NSL events as defined in this manual.
- ISLA may decide upon possible changes.

Appendix A

Contact information regarding:

- Article 6.1: Public Relations and Communication contact for sending your NSL news:
 - info@sailing-championsleague.com
- Article 6.2: Sponsoring support: info@sailing-championsleague.com
- Article 6.3: Broadcasting support:
 - <http://sailtracks.tv/>
 - Englische Planke 8, 20459 Hamburg, Germany
 - +49 (0) 40 22 63 164 – 13
- Article 7.8: SAP contact information:
 - Spengler, Lara-Marielle : l.spengler@sap.com
- Article 9.3 : Request for Proposal information about organizing a SCL event :
 - info@sailing-championsleague.com