Swiss Sailing League Association
Talgutzentrum 27 | CH-3063 Ittigen

President's Annual Report 2026

Season 01.11.2025 – 31.10.2026; for the ordinary General Assembly of 28 November 2026, Bern

Translation. The German version is the original; in case of any discrepancy in wording, the German version prevails.

1. Review and Handover of Office

At the ordinary General Assembly of 22 November 2025 in Bern (Welle7), Markus Blaesi, President of the Swiss Sailing League Association from 2022 to 2025, was bid farewell with great thanks for his many years of commitment. The Assembly elected me, Fabian Meier, as his successor as President for a term of two years. At the same time, Marlène Rump and Hubert Telfser were confirmed on the Board, and Andreas Gantenbein and Nello Widmer were newly elected to the Board. On the Advisory Board, Bruno Zeltner, Morgane Emery and Lea Rüegg were confirmed and Claudia Vogt was newly elected.

The 2025/2026 financial year is thus my first full year as President – and also the first year in which the new statutes adopted at the 2025 GA were applied.

2. Season 2026 at a Glance

Of 24 planned regattas, 18 took place (17 events plus the Heidi Cup on 16–18.10.). Six events had to be cancelled: Promotion & Youth League West (ACT 1 and ACT 3), Promotion & Youth League East (ACT 3), both 2K team racing events and the Master Cup. The 16 ORM events held (15 series events and the Youth Cup) counted 223 team entries and 936 sailor entries (around 585 individuals). Of five planned training camps, three took place (Punat, Brissago, Neuchâtel); both Davos camps were cancelled.

In the debriefing with the Advisory Board, the main reason given for the cancellations was the overloaded schedule of the 2026 season. The Super League season, the hub concept (which eases organisation, including for the clubs) and the Youth Cup, with which the young sailors were satisfied, were positively acknowledged.

Overall, it was a very successful first season with the new Board line-up. We were aware that we would have a lot to learn during the season and that not everything would run optimally. In retrospect, however, the season went very well. In February, the calendar had to be replanned because the plan, drawn up very early in the previous year, had assumed more teams than eventually registered. The planning nevertheless allowed for a positive season and laid the foundation for the main goal "Guarantee financial stability".

The Heidi Cup (16–18.10., Spiez) was a very positive conclusion: three days of exciting racing in very good wind conditions, good cooperation between the organising committee, the host club and the umpires, as well as highly appreciated debriefings and training for the sailors. The event is to be repeated.

Key figure	**2026**	**2025 (previous year)**
Number of regattas	17 held (+ Heidi Cup); 6 of 24 planned cancelled	23
Number of racing days	40 planned (43 incl. Heidi Cup)	54
Number of flights (umpired fleet racing)	153 (16 events, excl. Sea Challenger/Heidi Cup)	174

Number of races (umpired team racing / 2K)	0 (2K events cancelled)	34
Number of schooling camps	3 held, 2 cancelled (Davos)	4
Schooling days	18 (4 event coaching days)	23 (7 event coaching days)
Team entries (series, ORM)	223 (16 events)	–
Sailor entries at regattas	936 (16 events); approx. 585 individuals; Heidi Cup 57 entries	1'152
Camp participants	30 registrations (Punat 8, Brissago 11, Neuchâtel 11) – probably incomplete	105
Number of umpires (individuals) / umpiring assignments (days)	as per the report of the Principal Chief Umpire at the GA	88 / 206

3. Sporting Highlights

Winners of the Acts and Finals held:

League	**ACT winners**	**Overall Winner**
Super League	ACT1 SRS, ACT2 CNV, ACT3 CNM, ACT4 Final CNM	CNM
Challenge League	ACT1 DRCS, ACT2 CER, ACT3 SVT, ACT4 Final YCL	CER
Promotion League	ACT1 SRS II, ACT2 SRS II, ACT3 Final YCL II	YCB / SRS II
Women Super League	ACT1 TYC, ACT2 Final TYC	TYC
Women Challenge League	ACT1 CNV, ACT2 Final YCL	CNV
Youth Cup	–	CVVI

League	**Promotion 2027 (places 1–3)**	**Relegation 2027**
Super League (annual winner CNM)	– (Top 3: CNM, RCB, SCC)	TYC, CVL, YCC
Challenge League	CER, SVT, CNP	YCZ, CVVT, SCF
Promotion League	SCH, YCR, CVN (only clubs not already sailing in a higher league)	–
Women Super League (annual winner TYC)	– (Top 3: TYC, RCB, RCO)	BT, CVV
Women Challenge League	CNV, YCL	–

I congratulate all teams on their performances – particularly noteworthy is that of CNV: they were unable to defend last year's title, which, however, somewhat distorts the picture: they won the Sailing Champions League, as the first Swiss team. The SSLA is very proud of the team and of the success in Europe.

4. Women's Sailing

All four events of the Women Sailing Series took place. The Women Super League started with 11 teams (ACT 1, Final), the Women Challenge League with 10 teams (ACT 1, Final); in total 193 female sailor entries were counted, corresponding to around 140 individual women.

Overall, the atmosphere at the women's events was very positive. A few minor questions about the application of the rules arose because crew composition options are somewhat broader at the women's events. Women's sailing deserves particular praise: it gives women room to gain a

foothold in the sport and in some cases opens up access to positions on the boat that would otherwise be out of reach.

5. Youth

The Youth Cup took place on 12/13 September in Biel with 12 teams and 50 sailor entries. The three Promotion & Youth League events (West ACT 1, West ACT 3, East ACT 3) had to be cancelled due to insufficient participation.

The abolition of the planned Youth & Promotion League as a mixed league meant that many farm teams in the Promotion League consisted entirely of juniors. The juniors performed outstandingly in the Promotion League; the format will therefore be retained.

6. Schooling and Camps

Three of the five planned training camps took place: the J/70 Season Starter Camp in Punat (23–25.03.), the J/70 Boathandling Camp in Brissago (21–24.04.) and the UFR Tactics & Rules Camp in Neuchâtel (01/02.07.). The two Davos camps (UFR Tactics & Rules Camp, 19–21.08., and J/70 Women's Camp, 24–27.08.) were cancelled.

The schooling offers were greatly appreciated, although demand for the individual camps varied considerably. The programme will be pursued and optimised by Livia.

7. Season-End Survey 2026 – Feedback from the Sailors

In 2025, a structured online survey was sent to all participants after the end of the season for the first time. We repeated this in 2026 and can thereby identify trends. By the time of evaluation, 64 responses had been received, mostly between 27 and 31 October 2026. On average, respondents rated their participation at around 4–7 event days.

Overall satisfaction with the league averages around 8.3 out of 10 points, with clear differences between the sub-leagues (highest in the Open Challenge League, lowest in the Promotion League). The host clubs (infrastructure and comfort) and the social atmosphere were rated best; umpiring and communication after the events were assessed most critically.

Area	**Ø rating (approx., 0–10)**	**Remark**
League overall	~8.3	averaged across all participants/leagues
Social / atmosphere	~8.6	consistently rated highly
Race Committee	~8.5	consistently rated highly
Host clubs (infrastructure/comfort)	~8.7	consistently rated highly
Boats / sails	~7.8	individual boats criticised as being in poor condition
Umpiring	~7.0	lowest score, wide variation between events
Communication before the event	~8.1	
Communication during the event	~7.5–9.4	varies strongly by event
Communication after the event	~5.5–6.8	weakest area: amount of post-event information

Positive feedback

- Highly appreciated Q&A rules discussions (debriefings) after the races.

- Outstanding catering at the Heidi Cup.
- Patient, helpful boat crews.
- Generally appreciated organisation, hospitality of the clubs and team spirit.

Criticism and suggestions for improvement

- Some boats in poor condition – maintenance is mentioned as an issue.
- Unclear instructions for boat transport/packing, especially for less experienced sailors – request for clear instructions or videos.
- Umpiring decisions perceived as inconsistent between events; positioning/wake of the umpire boats occasionally perceived as disturbing.
- Information gaps after the events (the amount of post-event communication is rated lowest).
- Suggestion: electronic race tracking (e.g. a TracTrac-like system).
- Suggestion: clearer, more consistent umpiring standards and improved communication after the races.

8. Umpiring / Race Management

Umpiring shapes the character of the SSLA; the debriefings, too, are of great benefit to the individual sailors. Thanks to the commitment of the umpires, it was a very successful season. It is normal that individual sailors assess umpires' decisions differently. Important: the umpires only enforce the rules, they do not write them. The rules to be applied are set by the SSLA, i.e. the member clubs at the General Assembly. A rule change is possible within the framework set by World Sailing and Swiss Sailing; a motion to this effect can be addressed to the President at any time. Further information, including on umpire numbers and days of deployment, can be provided by Adrian Bauder at the General Assembly.

At the workshops in Bern and Olten, various rule changes for 2027 were discussed, including the number of sailors per event, temporary licences if a sailor drops out, sitting on the lifelines, and point deductions for missed registration deadlines. Options for action were identified and will be presented at the GA.

9. Equipment, Logistics and Transport

For its age, the J/70 fleet is in very good condition and is serviced on a rotating basis as in previous years. Thanks to a very good offer, the fleet of robotic marks could be renewed and equipped with a new control system; after initial difficulties, it is ready for the next season. Nello will provide further details at the GA.

The experience of the 2026 season shows that an improved transport concept should be developed for 2027. Greater shared responsibility of the participating clubs and teams is also to be examined. The Board or the General Assembly will decide on the further course of action.

10. Members

As of the 2025 GA, the SSLA had 41 active members. Regata Club Lago Maggiore (RCLM) resigned effective 26 October 2025; the new Zürich International Sailing Club Racing (ZISCR) was admitted effective 28 October 2025.

In 2026 there were no resignations and no new members were recruited; the number of 41 active members remains unchanged.

11. Governance and Statutes

The 2025 ordinary General Assembly adopted four amendments to the statutes with the required two-thirds majority, which were applied for the first time in the 2026 season:

- Gender quota of 40% on the Board (in line with the recommendation of Swiss Olympic).
- Maximum term of office of a Board member of 10 years.
- New rule on conflicts of interest: duty of disclosure, no participation in affected projects, abstention in related votes.
- New chapter "Data protection and data security", which governs the handling of member data and thus makes a separate data protection policy unnecessary.

The background was, among other things, the new Swiss Olympic sector standard, which has been binding since 1 January 2026 also for the SSLA and its member clubs (fair play, ethics and prevention).

No changes to the statutes are planned for this year.

12. Strategic Topics 2027 – Outlook

The following strategic topics will be in focus for the 2027 season:

Board organisation and succession

- A new Board portfolio "Sponsoring" is planned for the 2027 GA; the search for active sponsoring commitment will be a priority.
- Sabine Ultsch is stepping down; Dileija Dirren is available for "Communication".
- Marlene Rump is stepping down. A successor is sought for the "Women Sailing" portfolio.
- Livia Naef is stepping down in autumn 2027. A successor is sought for the "Schooling" portfolio.

Programme and calendar 2027

- Feedback from the 2026 season (debriefing): good feedback on the Super League, the hub concept eases organisation, young sailors satisfied with the Youth Cup; criticism of the overloaded 2026 schedule (a contributing reason for the cancellations) and of the situation of Promotion League teams with sailors from different playing levels.
- For 2027: reintroduction of the SSL Cup; discontinuation of the separate Youth League in favour of one to two pure junior Youth Cups depending on demand; discontinuation of the 2K series, with the topic "Inclusion Sailing" moving to Swiss Sailing.
- Women's League 2027: two scenarios under review – Scenario 1 (Super League plus a more open Challenge League) and Scenario 2 (joint league with 16–21 teams); binding registration by 31.12.2026, format decision by 15.01.2027.

Transport, budget and other topics

- Transport concept 2027 with possible shared responsibility of the clubs (see chapter 9).
- Budget 2027: currently being prepared; investment needs for equipment.
- EUROSAF Sailing Champions League: The EUROSAF Sailing Champions League will become an official EUROSAF European Championship – as of 01.11.2026, 4 Swiss clubs are eligible to take part – selected by the SSLA.

13. Finances 2026

According to the minutes of the 2025 GA, financial year 2025 (01.11.2024–31.10.2025) closed with an operating loss of CHF 20'860.86 and equity of CHF 37'185.78 as at 31.10.2025 – the first year without a main sponsor, with higher hotel costs, an unforeseen purchase of motors and additional costs for the 10-year anniversary.

A profit is expected for financial year 2026 (01.11.2025–31.10.2026). The 2026 annual accounts will be published on the General Assembly website by 19 November 2026; the 2027 budget will be dealt with under agenda item 15.

14. Thanks

I thank the entire Board, the Advisory Board, our auditors, all umpires, boat crews, race officers, the organising clubs and all volunteers for their great commitment this season. Special thanks go to my predecessor Markus Blaesi for the handover and his many years of commitment, and to all sailors for their active participation and the constructive feedback from the Season-End Survey.

15. Outlook 2027

The 2027 season will be shaped by the introduction of the new transport concept, the clarification of the Women's League formats, the reintroduction of the SSL Cup and a new Open Cup, the restructuring of the youth offering and the further development of the Board organisation. The Board will put the corresponding motions to a vote at the General Assembly of 28 November 2026.

Ittigen, 05.11.2026 / Fabian Meier, President