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# 2026 Epigen J/24 World Championship Melbourne, Australia

**INTERNATIONAL PULSE**



**The EPIGEN J/24 World Championships will be held at Sandringham Yacht Club in November 2026**

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## **IJCA Chair**

**David Cooper, Great Britain**

davidcooper4271@gmail.com

## **IJCA Vice Chair**

**Maike Hass, Germany**

maike.hass@hotmail.de

## **IJCA Finance Committee Chair**

**Dan Busch, USA**

dwbusch2013@gmail.com

## **IJCA Technical Committee Chair**

**Michael Peters, Germany**

michaelpeters1501@googlemail.com

## **IJCA Past Chair**

**Will Welles, USA**

will.welles@northsails.com

## **IJCA Council Member**

**Ramiro Clemente, Argentina**

tataequipodevela@gmail.com

## **IJCA Council Member**

**Mark Usher, Ireland**

ushermark67@gmail.com

## **IJCA Council Member**

**Aris Pallikaris, Greece**

apallik@gmail.com

## **IJCA Council Member**

**Keiji Kondo, Japan**

Kondo@konkin.co.jp

## **IJCA Council Member**

**Molly White, USA**

Molly@YouRegatta.com

## **IJCA Executive Director**

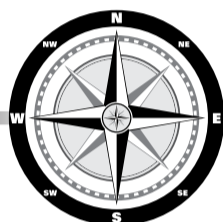
**Chris Howell**

1604 Ventana Dr.

Ruskin, FL 33573

director@J/24class.org

P: 440-796-3100



## IJCA Technical Committee

### **Michael Peters, Germany, Technical Committee Chair**

michaelpeters1501@googlemail.com

### **Michael Johnson, USA, Designer's Appointee**

mj\_3747@yahoo.com

### **Nancy Zangerle, USA**

nzangerle@yahoo.com

### **Gianpietro Pollesel, Italy**

gianpietropollesel@gmail.com

### **Alex Finsterbusch, Argentina**

alexfinsterbusch@gmail.com

### **Timothy Winger, USA**

timwingr@gmail.com

### **Nick McDonald, Great Britain**

osen.uk@googlemail.com

### **Finn Hadlock, USA**

wfinnhadlock@gmail.com

### **Hugo Ottaway, Australia**

insailawnings@hotmail.com

### **James Niblock, Canada**

james.w.niblock@gmail.com

## J/24 Builders

### **J/Boats Argentina**

España 1265 (1642)

San Isidro ARGENTINA

+54 11 4747 4162

roberto@jboats.com.ar

### **J/Boats Italy**

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# 2026 Epigen J/24 World Championship Melbourne, Australia



## The EPIGEN J/24 World Championships will be held at Sandringham Yacht Club in November 2026

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**Pre-Worlds** – two day Regatta:

Saturday 31 October - Sunday 1 November

### **J/24 World Championship**

Wednesday 4 - Friday 6 November, Registration and Measurement, with an invitation race on Friday afternoon.

### **Racing**

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# 2026 Epigen J/24 World Championship Melbourne, Australia



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The Epigen J/24 World Championship 2026 will take place at Sandringham Yacht Club in Melbourne, Australia, welcoming an international fleet of competitors to one of sailing's most respected and enduring one-design Classes. The J/24 is renowned for its highly competitive racing, tactical depth and accessibility, attracting a diverse mix of World Champions, Olympic sailors, Corinthian crews and passionate club racers.

Held on the waters of Port Phillip Bay, the Championship will deliver challenging and dynamic racing conditions, combined with a vibrant onshore atmosphere that reflects

Australia's strong sailing culture. Beyond the competition, the event offers a unique opportunity for international visitors to experience Melbourne — a city known for its sporting pedigree, coastal lifestyle and cultural appeal.

With teams travelling from across Europe, North America, Asia and Australasia, the regatta is expected to feature a highly competitive fleet and deliver compelling racing throughout the Championship series. The event also highlights the global strength of the J/24 Class and its continued relevance as one of the most popular keelboats in the world.



Foto: Rickard Roth

# J/24 European Championship 2026

## Welcome to Sweden!

### Hey J/24 sailors in Sweden, Europe and around the World

Summer is here, and once again it is time to meet our dear J/24 friends on the water! The Swedish J/24 Class Association is proud to be part of the global J/24 Family - a class known for fantastic One-Design racing and for its friendship, warmth and unique community spirit.

We are delighted to welcome you to the J/24 European Championship 2026, taking place 18–23 August 2026 in Trelleborg, Gislövs Läge, Sweden, hosted by Trelleborgs Båtsällskap (TBS).

#### Registration is OPEN and Notice of Race is now online!

**Event page:** <https://www.trelleborgsbs.se/j24-em-2026/>

**Notice of Race:** <https://www.trelleborgsbs.se/notice-of-race-2/>

**Entry form:** <https://www.trelleborgsbs.se/entry-form-j24-2026/>

Gislövs Läge is a charming harbour on the beautiful south coast of Sweden, just east of Trelleborg, offering excellent sailing conditions and a warm, welcoming atmosphere

both on and off the water. The Swedish J/24 fleet has sailed here before with great experiences, and TBS is known for its friendly and open spirit. We look forward to filling the harbour with J/24 boats, smiling sailors and the fantastic atmosphere of our international J/24 fleet.

The J/24 anthem is here! Created by JJDJ and dedicated to all J/24 sailors and the J/24 European Championship 2026 – and we LOVE it! Huge thanks to JJDJ for this amazing contribution to the J/24 class! Turn up the volume and enjoy! JJDJ will also perform during the regatta. Link to the J/24 anthem: <https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1HC2i395sh/>

Don't miss out – join us in Trelleborg for an unforgettable championship with exciting sailracing, strong sportsmanship, and the unique J/24 spirit that makes this class so special. It is you – the sailors – who make the J/24 class what it is. Thank you for your fantastic support. See you on the starting line!

**Warm welcome to Sweden – and fair winds at the J/24 European Championship 2026!**

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# Australia Report

By Hugo Ottaway

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Twilight race action with Class stalwart Angus McKechnie trimming on *Bruschetta VI*

It's Autumn in Australia. Despite the end of our summer sailing, there is plenty of action leading up to the next regattas: the Winter series, Sail Sandy, Pre Worlds and Epigen J/24 Worlds in November.

Following the National Championship and Worlds selection series (reported in the last edition) was the Hodges Sandringham Victorian Championship. Held at Sandringham Yacht Club, the regatta was sailed in predominantly 10 knot light conditions and attended by the majority of Australian qualifiers in the 2026 Worlds. Winning was Barney Walker sailing *Haywire*, second Brendan Lee in *Gatsby*, then Nick Chapman in *Wildfire* third. All three are past National J/24 Champions.

## THE HIGHLIGHTS WERE

- Barney changing the boat set up after race 2 to win the next four races (be good to know what they did)
- Brendan Lee's return to form, winning races 1 & 2
- Nick Chapman and Wayne Bates in Gridlock fourth, climbing the ladder
- *Bruschetta VI*'s rudder pintle snapped waiting for the start in 5 knots (end of that regatta!)
- excellent race management team headed up by Kate Goss using Vakaros RaceSense system



Photos courtesy of Marg's Yacht Photos

Other Club results for the year are: Adam Keys-Tilley in *Poker Face* winning the 2025 Winter series, Wayne Bates' *Gridlock* winning the 2025/2026 Hodges One-design Summer Series and Hugo Ottaway's *Bruschetta VI* winning the 2025/2026 Twilight Series.

# Australia Report

Regatta flags proudly on display at SYC

## Noteworthy performances and achievements from those who sailed and managed J/24s at SYC this season:

- Ben Lamb who crewed with Kurt Dammeier winning the J/24 National Championship, now the 2026 Etchells World Champion
- Wayne Bates as Musto Skiff 2026 Grand Master World Champion, also sailing the J/70 Corinthian World Championship in Marseille, then the Musto Skiff Worlds in Carnac
- James Sly's appointment as an International Race Officer by World Sailing

With the end of the season, the focus has shifted to the World Championship. Many of our members are either on committees or just helping out getting our Class and club ready to present a first-class experience for sailors and friends who come to the Epigen World Championship in November. Plans span from racecourse management to our welcoming logistics team headed by David Taylor, measurement team with Warren Slaters and post-race entertainment and social programs.



Photos courtesy of Marg's Yacht Photos



Twilight race action with Class stalwart Angus McKechnie trimming on *Bruschetta VI*

# Australia Report



Photo courtesy of Marg's Yacht Photos

Regatta winners Hugo Ottaway *Bruschetta VI* Twilight Series, Wayne Bates 2025/2026 J/24 Summer Series and Adam Keys-Tilley 2025 J/24 Winter Series

The excitement is building around the hardstand too, with rigs out being checked or replaced, keels and hulls being cleaned up and general maintenance to boats in time for the winter training series and Australian Women's Keelboat Championship in June.

The J/24 Worlds promotion banner and flags (shared with the 2027 ILCA Youth Worlds) are now proudly on display at the entry to the club adding to the excitement and build up to November.

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# IJCA Technical Report

by Michael Peters • michaelpeters1501@googlemail.com

## INFORMATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

With the start of the new sailing season in Europe, preparations for the upcoming international Championships are in full swing.

In August, the South American Championship will take place in Córdoba Argentina [CLUB NAUTICO CORDOBA – VILLA CARLOS PAZ](#), followed by the European Championship in Sweden [Om J/24](#), the North American Championship in Ontario [2026 J24 North American Championship - YachtScoring.com](#) and World Championship in Melbourne in November [Epigen J/24 World Championship 2026](#). For the World Championship, I will once again be supported by Nick McDonald. Together, we will apply the inspection procedure that has already proven effective at last year's event in Plymouth.

Over the course of the year, we have also addressed an interesting topic initiated by Finn Hadlock: the overall cost development within the J/24 Class. Particular attention was given to comparing the purchase cost of a used boat with the investment required for a complete new set of sails.

I have outlined the key arguments, including a detailed assessment of the advantages and disadvantages, in the section below. I would greatly appreciate your feedback and a constructive exchange of views on this topic.

Finally, I would like to thank Finn for bringing this topic forward, as well as Nick, Alex Finsterbusch and Hugo Ottaway for their valuable input.

### CLASS TECHNICAL COMMITTEE – RECOMMENDATION PAPER

**Subject:** Headsail Material Rule Proposal (Polyester vs Aramid/HPME)

**Status:** For Review – Not Yet for Adoption

#### 1. Executive Summary

The proposed shift away from aramid/HPME sail materials toward polyester-based laminates is **aligned with the Class objective** of reducing costs and simplifying equipment.

However, the proposal in its current form is **not sufficiently defined or validated** to ensure:

- Consistent enforcement
- True cost reduction at the campaign level
- Fair competition across the fleet

#### Recommendation:

The committee should **not adopt the rule at this time** but instead move the proposal into a structured **technical refinement and validation phase** prior to a final vote.

#### 2. Alignment with Class Objectives

The proposal is broadly consistent with Class philosophy:

- **Cost Control:** Reduced reliance on high-cost fibres (aramid/HPME)
- **Standardisation:** Movement toward more uniform sail construction
- **Durability Focus:** Intent to prioritise longevity over peak performance

Additionally, similar specifications are already in use in “club race” sails from major sailmakers, indicating that the concept is **practical and not technically radical**.

#### 3. Key Technical and Regulatory Risks

##### 3.1 Durability Uncertainty

- No conclusive data demonstrates that **polyester laminates provide longer usable life** than aramid-based sails
- Multiple inputs suggest **film degradation**, not fibre type, is the dominant failure mode
- Assumption that “heavier polyester = longer life” remains unproven

##### 3.2 Shape Retention and Competitive Cost Impact

- Polyester laminates are generally understood to **lose shape faster** than aramid alternatives
- This may lead to **increased sail replacement frequency**
- Resulting risk: **higher seasonal campaign costs**, despite lower initial purchase price

##### 3.3 Undefined Technical Terms

- The term “**abnormal distribution**” is currently not measurable or enforceable
- This creates:
  - Ambiguity in compliance

- ❑ Increased likelihood of protests
- ❑ Inconsistent interpretation across measurers

### 3.4 Strategic Behaviour Risk

- Likelihood of **pre-rule stockpiling** of existing sails
- Potential for **competitive imbalance during transition period**

### 3.5 Absence of Transition Framework (Critical)

- No defined:
  - ❑ Grandfathering period
  - ❑ End-of-life allowance
  - ❑ Cut-off or compliance timeline

This creates a high risk of:

- Disputes
- Unequal financial impact
- Enforcement inconsistency

## 4. Required Actions Before Adoption

### 4.1 Define Measurable Technical Standards

- Replace ambiguous terms with **quantifiable criteria**, for example:
  - ❑ Maximum percentage variation in material distribution
  - ❑ Window limits based on **total sail area**, not count
  - ❑ Consider adoption of a **thickness variation cap (e.g., 400% rule)**

### 4.2 Validate Performance and Cost Outcomes

Collect and review data from sailmakers, fabric producers and fleet usage:

- Comparative **durability studies** (polyester vs aramid/HPME)
- **Shape retention analysis** over time
- **Real-world seasonal cost data** (critical metric, not just purchase price)

### 4.3 Develop a Transition Framework

Adopt a clear and enforceable transition model, such as:

- **Fixed grandfather period** (e.g., 2–3 seasons), or
- **End-of-life usage allowance** with baseline measurement controls

Additionally:

- Assess need for **anti-stockpiling provisions**

### 4.4 Broaden Technical Consultation

- Engage not only sailmakers, but also **independent fabric manufacturers**
- Ensure material performance assumptions are **evidence-based and unbiased**

## 5. Proposed Path to Adoption

### Phase 1 – Definition

Establish clear, measurable rule language

### Phase 2 – Evidence Gathering

Validate durability, shape retention and seasonal cost impact

### Phase 3 – Transition Design

Implement fair and enforceable adoption framework

### Phase 4 – Final Proposal & Vote

Circulate refined rule with full supporting data

## 6. Recommendation to Committee

### Motion:

The committee agrees to **defer adoption** of the proposed headsail material rule and to initiate a structured **technical refinement and validation process** as outlined above.

### Rationale:

While the proposal direction is supported, adopting the rule in its current form presents significant risks of:

- Increased long-term costs
- Rule ambiguity and protest exposure
- Inequitable competitive outcomes

A staged approach ensures the final rule is **effective, enforceable and aligned with Class objectives**.

## 7. Conclusion

The proposal represents a **positive strategic direction** for the Class. However, it is **not yet ready for implementation**.

A disciplined, evidence-based development process will allow the Class to achieve its goals **without introducing unintended technical or economic consequences**.

Wishing everyone a successful start to the 2026 sailing season. I look forward to your feedback.

Fair winds and following seas!

Michael • J/24 ITC

# Greece Report

J/24



## Welcome to the 2026 season!

After months of planning and preparation, the Greek J/24 fleet is finally back on the water with an exciting start to the year, competitive racing and growing participation across our events. Traditionally, the spring races of the Greek J/24 fleet take place in the sailing waters of Athens, where the majority of the class gathers for the opening events of the year. So far, three regattas have been successfully completed, culminating with the A' phase of the National Championship held from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Opening Regatta – Nautical Club of Kalamaki

The season officially began on March 21–22 at the Nautical Club of Kalamaki, where nine boats lined up under sunny Mediterranean skies and steady northerly winds of 10–14 knots, delivering close and competitive racing throughout the weekend. The regatta was impeccably organized by the club and marked a fantastic start of the season.

### FINAL RESULTS:

**1<sup>st</sup> place:** J Mania (NOPF) skippered by Stelios Sotiriou and crew Christos Kyfidis, Kynthia Skotida, Rania Vergou, Kostas Tridimas.

**2<sup>nd</sup> place:** Team EYNIKI (IOAN) skippered by Dimitris Altsiadis and crew Anthimos Nikolaidis, Tasos Milionis, Thanasis Siouzos, Thodoris Alexas.

**3<sup>rd</sup> place:** June 22-IKAROS SHIPPING skippered by Michailos Karvelas and crew Andreas Tsadaris, Nikos Kalligeris, Ioannis Moniakis, Stella Gani.

The 4<sup>th</sup> place took the team Evnikill skippered by V. Loizos, the 5<sup>th</sup> place took the team Zouzouni skippered by N. Kozonakis, the 6<sup>th</sup> place took the team MINOANSPIRIT skippered by A. Pallikaris, the 7<sup>th</sup> place took the team Nostromo skippered by M. Sourligas, the 8<sup>th</sup> place took the team Minoan Wind skippered by St. Lenakaki and finally the 9<sup>th</sup> place took the team Kraker skippered by V.Kontanas.

# Greece Report

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Spring Regatta – Nautical club of Palaio Faliro

The second event of the season took place on April 18–19 at the Nautical club of Palaio Faliro (N.O.P.F.), reaffirming its renewed support for the class. Six races were completed over the weekend, delivering close and competitive racing throughout the fleet. The regatta kept all teams fully engaged from start to finish, with constant position changes and tight battles on the race course, ensuring an exciting and well-balanced series overall.

TEAM EVNIKI claimed victory (skipped by Dimitris Altsiadis and crew Anthimos Nikolaidis, Sotiris Kartalis, Thanasis Siouzos, Thodoris Alexas), followed by EVNIKI II (skipped by V. Loizos and crew A. Tsoulfa, N. Rodousakis, A. Manolakis, A. Papathanasiou) and JMANIA (skipped by M. Smirlis and crew Christos Kyfidis, Kynthia Skotida, Rania Vergou, Kostas Tridimas).

The 4<sup>th</sup> place took the team Nostromo skippered by M. Sourligas, the 5<sup>th</sup> place took the team MINOAN SPIRIT skippered by A. Pallikaris, the 6<sup>th</sup> place took the team Simera skippered by I. Moniakis, the 7<sup>th</sup> place took the team June 22-IKAROS SHIPPING skippered by M. Karvelas, the 8<sup>th</sup> place took the team Minoan Wind skippered by St. Lenakaki, the 9<sup>th</sup> place took the team Zouzoun is kippeded by N. Kozonakis and finally the 10<sup>th</sup> place took the team Kraker skippered by V. Kontanas.



# Greece Report



## A' Phase of National Championship - Nautical Club of Voula

The first phase of the 2026 Hellenic National Championship was hosted on May 1–3 by N.A.O.V. Eight races were completed by 11 boats, full of close battles and tactical racing throughout the fleet. On the first day, wind conditions varied between 0° and 20°, with 10 knots on average and gusts reaching up to 25 knots, creating challenging and highly dynamic racing. Similar conditions prevailed on the second day, with wind shifting between 350° and 10°. On the final day, the breeze increased to a steadier 15 knots, with gusts again exceeding 25 knots, delivering fast and demanding racing to conclude the series.

### FINAL RESULTS –A' PHASE:

**1<sup>st</sup> place:** Hellenic Police-Minoan Spirit (skipped by A. Tagaropoulos and crew N. Mavros, V. Stefanakis, A. Mirsiloglou, A. Sfiga)

**2<sup>nd</sup> place:** Team EVNIKI (skipped by D. Altsiadis and crew A.Nikolaidis, M.Gerontis, T. Siouzos, T. Alexas)

**3<sup>rd</sup> place:** JMANIA (skipped by S.Sotiriou and crew Chr. Kyfidis, K.Skotida, R.Vergou, K. Tridimas)

The 4<sup>th</sup> place took the team Evniki II skipped by V.Loizos, the 5<sup>th</sup> place took the team June22-IKAROS SHIPPING skipped by M. Karvelas, the 6<sup>th</sup> place took the team Minoan Spirit skipped by A. Pallikaris, the 7<sup>th</sup> place took the team Zouzouni skipped by N. Kozonakis, the 8<sup>th</sup> place took the team Simera skipped by I.Moniakis, the 9<sup>th</sup> place took the team Nostromo skipped by M. Surligas, the 10<sup>th</sup> place took the team Minoan Wind skipped by St. Lenakaki and finally the 11<sup>th</sup> place took the team Kraker skipped by V. Kontanas.

One of the most encouraging developments this season has been the arrival of two young crews, aged between 20 and 25, coming from Optimist and Laser classes. Their enthusiasm for J/24 racing has brought fresh energy to the fleet and highlighted the class as an exciting pathway for younger sailors transitioning into keelboat racing.

In one particularly memorable moment during the regatta weekend, the class celebrated the 20<sup>th</sup> birthday of one of the young sailors with a birthday cake at the club — a small but symbolic reminder that beyond competition, the class in Greece continues to grow as a close and welcoming sailing community.

The Hellenic J/24 Class Association would like to warmly thank all participating clubs, race committees, volunteers, sailors and supporters who contributed to a fantastic start to the 2026 season.

Special thanks are also extended to **ANEK LINES**, member of Attica Group, for their generous sponsorship and continued support in facilitating the transportation of boats and crews.

### European Championship - Athens 2027

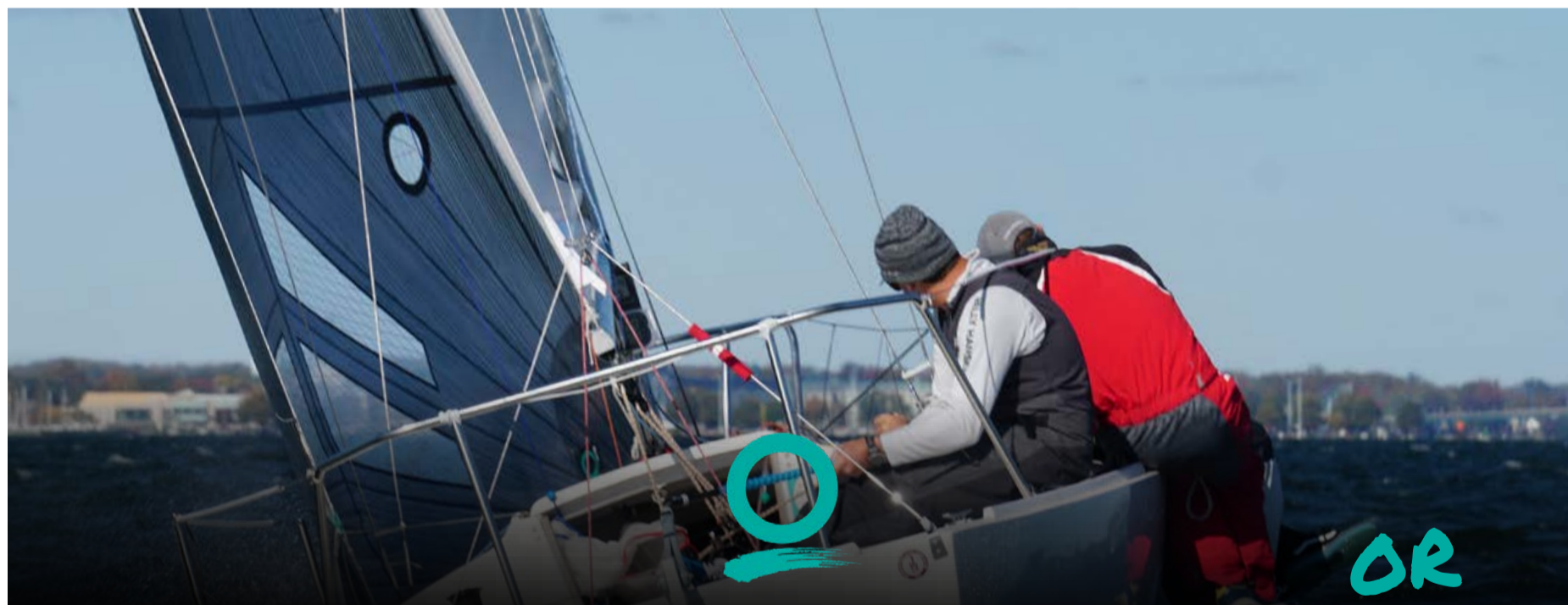
During the opening events of the season, the President of the Hellenic J/24 Class Association, **Michailos Karvelas**, officially announced that Athens will host the European Championship in April of 2027.

The announcement was welcomed with great excitement by the Greek fleet, as preparations and planning for the championship are already underway. With Athens offering excellent sailing conditions, strong race management experience and the unique hospitality of the Greek sailing community, the class looks forward to welcoming teams from across Europe.



# Looking for Vendors for Your J/24?

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# Cost Control for Championship Events

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By Nancy Zangerle

***The time commitment and costs of putting on a Championship event often stop great organizers from volunteering. Organizing a Championship event can seem to be an insurmountable task.***

Organizing and hosting a Championship event does not have to be expensive or overwhelming. It does require a change in thinking and a break in tradition.

Some J/24 Continental Championships have traditionally been 10 races, five days of racing, plus two days for check-in and inspection. There is nothing in the J/24 Class regulations that require this arrangement. North America has frequently held successful Continental Championships with fewer days of racing.

It is possible to have two to four races per day. While the standard has been 10 races for a championship event, it could be as few as four races.

As much as J/24 sailors like exclusive Class events, many Classes have recognized that their Championships do not have to be stand-alone events.

Look for existing multi-class regattas, particularly those that occur every year, as they often have the built-in framework for a regatta in popular locations. Those events with multiple racecourses have the personnel, equipment and Race Committee organized to set-up multiple race circles. They offer online registration, collection of fees, onshore parties, dockage and pre-arranged juries or protest committees.

All this can be a huge help in the planning for a J/24 Championship. If it's a planned two-day regatta, the J/24 fleet can ask if an extra day of racing for J/24s can be added to the program. If it is a Friday - Saturday - Sunday regatta, can your event start racing on Thursday? You may have to pay extra fees for the costs associated with that extra day on the water, which is reasonable and expected.

In discussions with the regatta event organizers, discuss whether your Championship event should have its own NoR or be incorporated as part of the regatta. The same goes for the Sailing Instructions. If the J/24s get their own course, then a separate Sailing Instruction document would work. If the J/24s have to share the racecourse with another Class(es), then work with the organizers to be incorporated into their existing SIs. Preference would be to have the first start for the Class on the course.

You don't have to rely on the pre-planned onshore events to make your Championship special. Plan one night offsite. This can be as simple as announcing that the J/24 fleet will meet at a certain location after racing with competitors paying for what they eat or drink to something as elaborate as a full sit-down dinner with ticket costs included in registration fees or by separate ticket sales.

For a Continental Championship, an International Jury is required. This is so the results of a protest cannot be appealed. When working within the framework of an existing multi-class regatta, it is important to ascertain that there will be enough IJs at the event to compose an International Jury. Big multi-class events may have multiple panels of judges. You can often communicate with the Chief Judge about the needs for any hearing requests from the J/24 Class. The benefit is you don't have to arrange for (and pay for) the costs of a stand-alone International Jury.

Another way to distinguish your Championship event is to arrange for your own awards and award ceremony. Many Class Championships have perpetual awards, as well as keeper trophies. You can ask the organizers to hold an award ceremony in a separate location or at a different time than their regatta awards. It does bring good attention to the J/24 Class if awards are incorporated as part of the larger regatta event.

The approach of capitalizing on an existing event can greatly ease the planning burden for the local organizing fleet. There is still work involved, but it is greatly reduced by utilizing the existing "infrastructure" of an existing regatta.



## Headcase Takes the Win as J/24 Western Championship Returns to Clew Bay

Fifteen J/24s gathered at Mayo Sailing Club for the 2026 J/24 Western Championship over the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May, marking the first event of the Irish J/24 season with an impressive turnout that underlines the growing momentum of the Class. The fleet's strength at home continues to build after 10 Irish boats competed at last year's J/24 World Championship in Plymouth, where *Headcase* claimed the world title.

It was *Headcase* who again proved the boat to beat, finishing the six-race series on just six points net to take the Gold Fleet title. Co-owned and crewed by Cillian Dickson, Sam O'Byrne, Ryan Glynn, Marcus Ryan and Louis Mulloy, with the latter two also doubling as the event's principal organisers at their home club.

Saturday brought testing conditions, with a strong and shifty breeze of 20 to 30 knots funneling off the land and keeping the entire fleet on small jibs for the day. Despite the flat water of Clew Bay, the gusty conditions made for demanding racing in what was the first competitive outing of the year for many crews. Three races were completed, one fewer than originally planned—a sensible call given the strength of the breeze.



Conor Houghton's *Jupiter* from Wicklow Sailing Club made the best of the opening race, picking the shifts well to take a well-deserved bullet. *Headcase* responded emphatically, winning Races 2 and 3 to establish a lead they would not relinquish. Martin Mahon's *Snoopy's J* from Courtown posted a strong second in Race 3, while Darragh McCormack's *Stouche* sailed consistently across all three races with a pair of thirds and a fourth.

Sunday saw the breeze moderate for the first two races, settling around 14 knots before building back above 20 knots and onto jibs again for the final race. The flat water and shifty offshore breeze remained, with Croagh Patrick providing a stunning backdrop throughout.

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*Headcase* wrapped up the championship in convincing fashion, taking wins in Races 4 and 6 and a second in Race 5 to finish with a scoreline of (2), 1, 1, 1, 2, 1. *Jupiter* held on for second overall on 11 points, with Haughton's crew of Johnny Flood, Garrett Kinnane, Louise Flood and Charles Heather sailing a consistent series. *Snoopy's J*, sailed by Martin Mahon, Brian Allen, Jonathan Sutton, Frances Corkery and David Switzer, took third on 16 points, coming alive on Sunday with two seconds and a third.

The stand-out performance of the final day came from Mark Usher's *Hedgehog*. After a tough Saturday that included a discarded 11<sup>th</sup> in Race 1, *Hedgehog* stormed to a bullet in Race 5, the best individual result from any boat outside the top three, and finished sixth overall.

In the Silver Fleet, *Yachtzee*, sailed by Dermot Clarke, Fionn McGibney, Diarmuid O'Donovan and Mike O'Dea, took the title with an impressive series that included a fourth place overall in Race 4 and saw the boat finish seventh in the combined fleet on 32 points, ahead of two Gold Fleet boats. Sophie Skinner's *Jana* took second in Silver.



# Ireland Report



The regatta was not without its drama. Finbarr Ryan's *Jelignite* suffered rig damage in Race 1 and was unable to continue for the remainder of the weekend. Despite the setback, Ryan and his crew remained in good spirits and were enthusiastic supporters of the racing from the shore.

Long-standing J/24 Class Race Officer Derek Bothwell, assisted by his wife Gaye, ran an efficient programme from Joe Corrigan's committee boat *Estel*. Setting well-positioned windward/leeward courses off Rosmoney, Bothwell made excellent use of the available wind to complete the full schedule of six races across the two days. Mark boat duties were handled by Eoin Quinn, Michael Mulloy and James Ryan.

Ashore, Mayo Sailing Club delivered hospitality to match the spectacular setting. Eoin Cunningham of Cunningham Civil and Marine provided the crane for an efficient lift-in on Friday, after which crews were treated to a welcome feast of fresh mussels and shellfish at the clubhouse. Saturday evening's dinner, catered by the Misunderstood Heron, kept the social side of the regatta in full swing, with many visiting crews describing Clew Bay as one of the finest sailing venues in Ireland.

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# Ireland Report



The prize-giving, held on the steps in front of the clubhouse overlooking the bay on Sunday afternoon, featured the beautiful perpetual bog oak trophies for the winners of the Gold and Silver Fleets. In a touch that captured the spirit of the event, the prizes for second and third in the Gold Fleet and second in the Silver Fleet were locally grown oak seedlings, potted with one for each crew member to take home or plant overlooking Clew Bay.

The event was organised by Louis Mulloy and Marcus Ryan of Mayo Sailing Club, who managed to combine running the event with racing on *Headcase*. Brian Raftery of *Hung Jury* summed up the weekend, "Big thanks to Mayo Sailing Club for a great weekend. Lovely grub, fantastic racing, and I suspect not many cobwebs left now."

The J/24 Class next heads to Lough Ree Yacht Club for the Eastern Championship.

Full results: [halsail.com](https://halsail.com)

Photos by Joe Corrigan

## Results

### Gold Fleet

Rank	Boat	Helm	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Net
1st	<i>Headcase</i>	Cillian Dickson	(2)	1	1	1	2	1	6
2nd	<i>Jupiter</i>	Conor Haughton	1	2	3	(6)	3	2	11
3rd	<i>Snoopy's J</i>	Martin Mahon	4	5	2	2	(6)	3	16
4th	<i>Stouche</i>	Darragh McCormack	3	3	4	(5)	5	4	19
5th	<i>Il Riccio</i>	JP McCaldin	6	4	5	3	4	(7)	22
6th	<i>Hedgehog</i>	Mark Usher	(11)	8	7	7	1	5	28
7th	<i>Hung Jury</i>	Brian Raftery	5	6	8	(9)	8	8	35
8th	<i>Crazy Horse</i>	Luke McBride	9	10	9	8	(11)	9	45

### Silver Fleet

Rank	Boat	Helm	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	Net
1st	<i>Yachtzee</i>	Diarmuid O'Donovan	7	9	6	4	(10)	6	32
2nd	<i>Jana</i>	Sophie Skinner	10	11	(DNF)	10	7	DNF	53
3rd	<i>Proud Mary</i>	Brian McConville	(12)	12	11	12	9	10	54
4th	<i>Jevan</i>	Ken Draper	8	7	10	(DNS)	DNS	DNS	55
5th	<i>Printfix.ie</i>	Owen Carton	(14)	14	12	11	13	11	61
6th	<i>Gossip</i>	Richard O'Boyle	(13)	13	13	13	12	12	63
7th	<i>Jelignite</i>	Finbarr Ryan	(DNF)	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	DNC	75





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Archives

## All J/24 Magazines Now Archived Online

The IJCA took on the project of scanning ALL the old Class magazines. Go to <http://J/24archives.com/> to view the editions dating back to 1978!

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [j24archives.com](http://j24archives.com). The page features the J/24 Archives logo and a navigation menu. Below the logo, a message reads: "Download times for publications vary, please be patient as your selected publication downloads." The main content is a grid of 20 magazine covers, each with a caption below it:

- 2005 Yearbook
- 2006 Yearbook
- 2007 Yearbook
- Class Rules 1988
- Class Rules April 1978
- News No. 01 May 1978
- News No. 02 January 1979
- News No. 03 June 1979
- Vol. 04 December 1979
- Vol. 05 May 1980
- Vol. 06 March 1981
- Vol. 07 October 1981
- Vol. 08 April 1982
- Vol. 09 October 1982
- Vol. 10 April 1983
- Vol. 11 October 1983
- Vol. 12 April 1984
- Vol. 13 October 1984
- Vol. 14 April 1985
- Vol. 15 October 1985



## The Italian J/24 Class focuses on young people: the National Under 25 Title is established at the 2026 Italian Championship in Gaeta.

*Gaeta 2026 will not be just an Italian Championship but a starting point. A new Under 25 title to create continuity, pass on experience and build the future of the Class starting from young people. An important initiative that looks ahead, concrete and strategic, which the Italian J/24 Class will also support by fully covering the entry fee for the Italian Championship. A strong and tangible sign of attention towards generational renewal, confirming the will of the Class—capable of putting established champions, emerging young sailors, mixed crews and entire generations of sailors on the water—to invest concretely in the future.*

**Gaeta.** The Italian J/24 Class, active, modern and inclusive, is increasingly looking to the future and decisively focusing on young people. On the occasion of the 45<sup>th</sup> Italian Open J/24 Championship, scheduled in Gaeta from May 19 to 24, the National Under 25 Title will in fact be established for the first time, reserved for crews mainly composed of young sailors. To compete for the new Under 25 national title, and to encourage real youth involvement, crews must include at least four Under 25 sailors.



The initiative, strongly supported by the Board of the Italian J/24 Class—composed of President Massimo Frigerio, Vice President Gianni Riccobono, Treasurer Pietro Diamanti and Councillors Marco Frulio and Mauro Benfatto—was created with the aim of encouraging the participation of younger generations in J/24 racing activities and fostering generational renewal within the Class.

“As further proof of the great attention given to this project, the Italian J/24 Class has decided to concretely support youth participation by fully covering the entry fee for the Italian Championship for all Under 25 crews

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admitted to the special ranking,” explained President Frigerio. “We want young people to find in the J/24 a true training ground for sailing, sport and personal growth, and we strongly believe that investing in Under 25s means ensuring the future, continuity and new energy for the entire movement. The initiative is already finding fertile ground in several Italian fleets particularly active on the youth front. The Romagna, Puglia and Gulf of Poets fleets have in fact been working for some time on forming Under 25 crews, promoting the involvement of young sailors through dedicated projects and activities shared with local clubs.”

With this new initiative, the Italian J/24 Class once again confirms its vitality and its desire to build the future of sailing starting from young people, keeping alive the spirit of a Class which, after almost fifty years of history, continues to be a reference point for one-design sailing in Italy and internationally.

In an ever-evolving sailing landscape, the J/24—the world’s most widespread fixed-keel one-design, designed in 1976 by Rod Johnstone—continues to demonstrate an extraordinary ability to renew itself without losing its identity and to be considered one of the best “schools” of competitive sailing, as it is a technical, well-balanced and highly formative boat, capable of enhancing teamwork, tactical preparation and the individual skills of the crews.

The setting for the 45<sup>th</sup> Italian Open J/24 Championship will be the Gulf of Gaeta, one of the most appreciated racing areas in the Mediterranean. The Championship will

be organized by the Yacht Club Gaeta E.V.S. under the authority of the Italian Sailing Federation, in collaboration with the Circolo Nautico Caposele and the Flavio Gioia Nautical Base.

Racing will take place from May 21 to 24 on windward-leeward courses, with a maximum of 10 valid races and up to three per day. The 2026 Italian title will be awarded with a minimum of four valid races completed.

The Championship program includes, on Tuesday May 19, the completion of registrations, measurement checks, crew weigh-ins and boat launching, operations that will continue the following day, when the practice race (2:00 pm) and the opening ceremony (6:00 pm) will also take place.

The final prize-giving is scheduled for Sunday May 24: in addition to the overall Italian title, the traditional Challenger Trophy and the new Under 25 title, a new special Trophy reserved for crews entirely composed of members of the Armed Forces will also be awarded.

The event, included in the “Sailing Events 2026” calendar with the patronage of the Lazio Region, will represent one of the most important moments of the national J/24 season and a great opportunity for comparison between experienced crews and new generations of sailors. (<https://www.yachtclubgaeta.it/regata/campionato-italiano-J24/>)





## The Italian J/24 Class presents the 2026 National Circuit

*The calendar for the upcoming season has been officially released: an exciting year full of events across Italy awaits J/24 crews. During the 45th Italian Open Championship, to be held in Gaeta, two new trophies dedicated to Under 25 crews and Armed Forces teams will also be awarded.*

Crews of the world's most popular keelboat one-design, designed by Rod Johnstone in 1976 yet still highly competitive today, have just concluded a season of great achievements. The Italian J/24 Class is already working intensively to organize the 2026 National Circuit, which will feature ten unmissable events in some of Italy's most beautiful sailing venues, from April to November. The Italian J/24 Class Executive Committee—President Massimo Frigerio, Vice President Gianni Riccobono, Treasurer Pietro Diamanti, and Board Members Marco Frulio and Mauro Benfatto—together with the Italian Sailing Federation, has finalized the 2026 calendar. As usual, the Circuit will award the Francesco Ciccolo Perpetual Challenge Trophy to the overall winner (counting all races without discards) and the J/24 Trophy to the best Owner-Helmsman, based on the best four results.

Following the winter break and the completion of the various Winter Championships involving all Italian J/24 fleets, the 2026 Circuit will kick off in Tuscany with the National Regatta Trofeo Nino Menchelli (coefficient 2), organized on April 18–19 by the Club Nautico Marina di Carrara and Fleet Captain Francesco Nucara. The second National Regatta (May 1–2, coefficient 2) will also take place in Tuscany, in Livorno, hosted by the

local section of the Italian Naval League as part of the International Naval Academy Sailing Week.

The third stage (May 9–10) will be held in Anzio, organized by Circolo della Vela Roma with the support of local clubs and Fleet Captain Paolo Rinaldi.

From May 19 to 24, all attention will turn to the season's highlight: the 45th Italian Open Championship (coefficient 3), organized by Yacht Club Gaeta in the Gulf of Gaeta. Two new trophies will be awarded during the event: one for Under 25 crews and one for Armed Forces teams, confirming the Class's strong commitment to youth.

In June, a new venue joins the circuit: Molfetta (June 13–14), organized by Circolo Vela Molfetta and Compagnia del Mare. Later that month (June 27–28), the fleet will race on Lake Caldonazzo.

Further confirmed events include Agropoli (September 12–13), Cervia (October 3–4), and Lecco (October 17–18), where the Italian Cup will also be awarded.

As tradition dictates, the Circuit will conclude in Sardinia, in Olbia (November 14–15).

A demanding and exciting calendar that continues to attract more crews and public interest. Once again, the primary goal of the Italian J/24 Class remains to engage younger sailors, confirming the vitality of a one-design that combines passion, fun, and competitiveness for both experienced sailors and newcomers.

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## A great start to the J/24 National Circuit for La Superba.

The Italian Navy's J/24 wins the opening stage of the 2026 J/24 Class Circuit in Marina di Carrara. After four hard-fought races, Bruschetta Guastafeste and Armageddon also made the podium.

After ten stages in the most beautiful Italian locations, the Circuit will award the two coveted trophies: the Francesco Ciccolo Trophy and the Best J/24 Owner-Helmsman Trophy. The opening event was organized by CNM Carrara together with J/24 Fleet Captain of the Gulf of Poets, Francesco Nucara.

Marina di Carrara. The first stage of the 2026 J/24 National Circuit, the National Regatta Trofeo Nino Menchelli, successfully organized last weekend—under FIV authority—by the Club Nautico Marina di Carrara, chaired by Carlo Andrea Simonelli, together with J/24 Fleet Captain of the Gulf of Poets Francesco Nucara, concluded with the victory of ITA 416 La Superba of the Italian Navy Sailing Section of Anzio, helmed by Ignazio Bonanno.

The reigning Italian champions led on the podium ITA 469 Bruschetta Guastafeste, owned by sisters Sonia and Alessia Ciceri together with Ancilla Scaccia and helmed by Pierluigi Puthod (LNI Mandello del Lario; 7 points; 1,2,8,4), and ITA 461 Armageddon of Fabio De Rossi (CN Brenzone; 11 points; 6,3,2,7).

Next came two J/24s from the organizing club: ITA 212 Jamaica, owned and helmed by Pietro Diamanti (12 points; 2,4,6,13), and ITA 483 Percinque of Antonio Criscuolo, helmed by Luca Macchiarini (3,14,7,6), tied on points (16) with ITA 496 Ninja of Fleet Captain Nucara (CVMare), helmed by Andrea Collina from Ravenna (CV Ravennate; 15,6,5,5). Tenth overall place went to the winners of the fourth and final race on Saturday, ITA Cucuia, helmed by Marco Giannini (AVASebino; 25 points; 11,13,18,1).



After four races regularly completed on Saturday by around twenty crews from several fleets, on the following day—despite numerous attempts by the Race Committee, chaired by Luigi D'Amico with First Member UdR Tiziano Menconi, Gigi Porchera, Vincenzo De Meo and measurer at sea Antonio Di Lieto—the wind, initially around 6 knots and then dropping below 3, did not allow the completion of the racing schedule, leaving the standings unchanged. The convivial dinner for all crews on Saturday evening was very much appreciated.



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“It was a very enjoyable experience for me as well,” added the President of the Italian J/24 Class, Massimo Frigerio, competing on his ITA 473 Magica Fata. “Having four very young sailors on board, aged between 14 and 23, was fantastic. I must thank, in order of age, Giovanni—the youngest—Eleonora, Edoardo and Nicolò, who already form a perfect team. Their determination, passion for the sea and for sailing are truly explosive. Now we just need many training sessions. I hope this experience has helped launch a new generation of J/24 sailors. A huge THANK YOU to Francesco Nucara for the initiative.”

“We started immediately with four good races on the first day; it’s a pity about the second, which unfortunately didn’t allow us to run even one race,” commented Fleet Captain Francesco Nucara. “It was great to have nearly 20 boats here for the opening stage... the level of the crews was extremely high and the racing very competitive—congratulations to the winners, as always very strong. The Under 25 sailors from Club Nautico Marina di Carrara did very well with Paco, as did those of Magica Fata with President Frigerio acting as coach. The younger sailors also had the chance to start learning how to prepare the boat for overland transport to the next stage. As always, it was exciting for me to witness this wonderful generational transition... young J/24 owners are growing for the future of the class! We will all meet again soon on the water in Livorno for the second round on the road to the Italian Championship to be held in Gaeta next month.”





## The J/24 La Superba also signs the second stage of the 2026 National Circuit in Livorno.

Six hard-fought races in the second leg organized by the local section of the Italian Naval League, within the International Sailing Week Accademia Navale and City of Livorno.

The J/24 Fleet is already ready for a new challenge: next weekend, May 9 and 10, the waters of Anzio will host the third stage of the National Circuit.

Livorno. After the first stage held in Marina di Carrara, the Italian Navy J/24 ITA 416 La Superba, helmed as always by Ignazio Bonanno with Simone Scontrino on the sheets, Francesco Linares central, Francesco Picaro bowman two, Alfredo Branciforte bowman, thanks to a set of daily victories over the six races sailed overall in the waters of Livorno, also won the overall victory in the second stage of the J/24 National Circuit, the National Regatta organized by LNI Livorno within the International Sailing Week Accademia Navale and City of Livorno, an event that combined sporting excellence with the oldest spirit of seamanship, involving multiple race courses from offshore to Olympic, youth and paralympic classes, offering complex tactical conditions that highlighted the solidity of each crew.

The multi-time Italian champion J/24 La Superba (Italian Navy Sailing Section; 6 points, 1,1,2,1,1,dns) preceded on the podium ITA 469 Bruschetta Guastafeste helmed by Pierluigi Puthod and owned by sisters Sonia and Alessia Ciceri together with Ancilla Scaccia (CV Tivano; 16 points; 4,5,3,6,2,2) and ITA 212 Jamaica owned and helmed by Class Councillor Pietro Diamanti, winner of the final race (CNMdc; 18 points; 6,4,4,5,4,1). Just off the podium ITA 507 Cucuia, protagonist of the third race on Friday (22 points; 8,9,1,2,6,5), which preceded by 1 point ITA 505 Jorè of the Errani brothers.

With the second of the ten stages scheduled from April to November in the most beautiful Italian locations, the 2026 edition of the J/24 National Circuit has continued regularly, awarding as always the Francesco Ciccolo Perpetual Challenge Trophy to the first overall without discards and the J/24 Trophy to the best Owner-Helmsman.

Just after completing this second leg, in which fifteen crews sailed three races on Friday and three on Saturday, the J/24 Fleet is already ready for a new challenge: next weekend, Saturday 9 and Sunday 10, the waters of Anzio will host the third stage of the 2026 National Circuit, thanks to Circolo della Vela Roma—with the collaboration of LNI Anzio section, RCC Tevere Remo and Italian Navy Sailing Section—and the Rome Fleet Captain, Paolo Rinaldi.

From May 19 to 24, the attention of all J/24 enthusiasts will instead be focused on the highlight event of the season, the 45th Italian Open Championship (coefficient 3) organized by Yacht Club Gaeta in the evocative waters of the Gulf. During the Italian Championship, two new trophies will also be awarded, reserved for crews made up of Under 25 sailors and for those composed exclusively of members of the Armed Forces, as proof of the great attention of the J/24 Class towards young people.





## **Pietro Diamanti with his Jamaica wins the J/24 Spring Championship in Marina di Carrara.**

*The event reserved for the J/24 Class and organized by the Club Nautico Marina di Carrara concluded after two competitive and enjoyable legs. In the middle of the standings the J/24 Paco with an Under 25 crew.*

Marina di Carrara. After eleven hard-fought and exciting races held over two weekends in the waters off Marina di Carrara by twelve determined crews representing numerous Fleets, the 2026 edition of the J/24 Open Spring Championship, divided into two legs and well organized by the Club Nautico Marina di Carrara under the aegis of FIV and in collaboration with the Italian J/24 Class Association and the J/24 Fleet of the Gulf of Poets, ended successfully.

On the top step of the podium, with 13 points, the owner-helmsman representing CNMC, Pietro Diamanti who, with his ITA 212 Jamaica and crew Antonio Lupo, Paolo Pezzica and Andrea Porchera (5,1,1,2,2,1,1,4,2,2,1 the partial results), preceded on the podium Pierluigi Puthod (CV Tivano) at the helm of ITA 469 Bruschetta Guastafeste owned by sisters Sonia and Alessia Ciceri together with Ancilla Scaccia (18 points; 1,4,2,1,3,2,3,1,1,4,dns).

Third place for the Fleet Captain of the Gulf of Poets, Francesco Nucara (Vela Mare) with his ITA 438 Ninja, helmed for the occasion by Andrea Collina from Ravenna (21 points; 4,2,4,3,1,3,2,2,3,1,8), crewed by Mauro Lugaresi, Paolo Boero and Francesco Vallicelli.

Just off the podium was the other home J/24, ITA 483 Percinque owned by Antonio Criscuolo and helmed by Luca Macchiarini (CNMdc; 39 points; 2,3,3,4,9,9,6,6,6,7,2), which preceded the deserving ITA 368 Paco helmed by the yellow-blue Pietro Scopsi, crewed by Yuri Galeotti, Eleonora Anta, Edoardo d'Achille, Andrea Galeotti, Giulio Cusimano and owned by Francesco Nucara, who made the hull available to the young sailors of Club Nautico Marina di Carrara—on the second weekend all Under 25—with the aim of bringing younger people closer to the Class (CV Lugano; 47 points; 6,6,5,5,4,8,5,dns,7,6,3). The main objective of the Italian J/24 Class Association,

also shared by CNMC, is in fact to bring more and more young people closer to the Class, confirming the vitality and versatility of a one-design that is always competitive, current and capable of combining passion, fun, emotion and adrenaline, perfect not only for the most experienced crews but also for those who simply want to have fun.

The weather and sea conditions ensured the running of the scheduled races and tested the crews especially on Saturday March 28 when the wind intensity increased, with formed waves, exceeding 20 knots.

The Race Committee, chaired by Admiral Luigi D'Amico, operated on board Braccio di Ferro commanded by UdR Gigi Porchera, with Tiziano Menconi and Vincenzo de' Meo.

"Never seen so many boats and such a high level at the Spring Championship. The Fleet Captain is working well!" commented Pietro Diamanti, J/24 Class Councillor. "The victory was in doubt until the last race. Knowledge of the race area ultimately favored us. On behalf of the Class I thank the Yacht Club for hosting the boats until the Menchelli Trophy on April 18–19. I also thank the 'non-local' crews for their presence at our championship."

"It was an exciting second weekend with as many as seven races," added the Fleet Captain of the Gulf of Poets, Nucara. "We had a lot of fun, battling up to the last mark. The young sailors made excellent starts and we are proud of their improvements; as soon as they find coordination in maneuvers it will be difficult to stay ahead of them. I again thank the Italian Navy for participating with its two boats Euterpe and La Possente, as well as the owners and sailors from the lakes present with their boats or crewing with our local ones together with new young owners. I look forward to meeting everyone again on the water for the start of the season with the first stage of the 2026 National Circuit, the National Regatta Trofeo Nino Menchelli, which will take place at Club Nautico Marina di Carrara on April 18 and 19, where I hope to exceed twenty boats thanks to the planned transfer route and stopovers from here to Livorno, then Anzio and finally Gaeta where we expect to finally see many young sailors thanks to the first Italian Under 25 trophy at stake!"

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## **The J/24 Jorè of the Errani brothers wins in Cervia the Winter Championship XX Memorial Stefano Pirini.**

*Also on the podium Joanna and Tuoni e Fulmini.*

*Also concluded the second leg of the classic event perfectly organized every year by the Circolo Nautico Amici della Vela of Cervia.*

Cervia. With the last races of the second leg—which brought the total number of races held from October 25, 2025 to March 29, 2026 to eighteen—and the final prize-giving, the 2026 edition of the Winter Championship XX Memorial Stefano Pirini, a classic event well organized under FIV authority by the Circolo Nautico Cervia Amici della Vela in the waters off the beach of Milano Marittima from October 25, 2025 to March 29, 2026, concluded successfully.

Winner of this well-attended edition, characterized by a lot of fun, competitive races and also some postponements due to adverse weather and sea conditions, the very consistent J/24 ITA 505 Jorè co-owned by brothers Alessandro and Alberto Errani (CNCAdV, 31 points), who finished in first position both in the second leg ranking—drawn up after 8 races and 1 discard—and in the overall ranking—after 18 races and 3 discards.

They are followed in both rankings by the winner of the previous edition ITA 271 Joanna owned by Fabrizio Dalla Casa and helmed by Andrea Collina (CNCAdV, 33), ITA 480 Tuoni e Fulmini of Massimo Magnani (CNCesenatico, 55), ITA 499 J Capitan Nemo co-owned by Domenico Brighi and helmed by Guido Guadagni (CV Ravennate, 57 points), and ITA 402 Kermesse of Marco Maccaferri (CNCAdV, 80).

“It was a long and exciting championship until the last race,” commented Alberto Errani. “We had a great second leg helped by some absences among our opponents.

I must thank our crew composed of Alessandro Errani, Marco Pantano, Marco Muraro, Giulia Prati and my son Lorenzo for always believing in the victory.”

“A winter championship that, despite the variable weather characterized by an alternation of truly extreme conditions, allowed the best running of 18 intense and hard-fought races,” explained the President of the Italian J/24 Class and Fleet Captain of Romagna, Massimo Frigerio. “Great satisfaction for the participation of two youth crews, the first composed of instructors from our club and the second composed of university students led by Alfredo Liverani, professor of the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Bologna, who on his own initiative managed to get them on the water. Praise to his important commitment for the entry of new young people on board the J/24 of the Circolo Nautico Cervia. Congratulations to Jorè who believed until the end in the possibility of victory. Now for the Class begins the moment in which all the best crews compete in the J/24 national circuit. First appointment in Marina di Carrara, followed by the Lega Navale Trophy of Livorno and then a stage in Anzio at the Circolo della Vela Roma. From May 20 to 24 a very important appointment at the prestigious Yacht Club Gaeta for the Italian Championship. In June the Puglia Fleet returns as protagonist and will host a National Regatta in Molfetta. Then the fleet will move to Caldonazzo for the Trophy dedicated to dear Fabio Apollonio to continue in Agropoli with the last regatta of the summer phase. In October appointment at CN Cervia to start the autumn phase and then Lake Como in Valmadrera before concluding with the last stage of the National Circuit in Olbia hosted by the Lega Navale. Therefore a full calendar that will engage owners and crews throughout the peninsula in support of the thesis that the J/24 is a LIVE Class that increasingly consolidates itself as a reference for one-design classes in Italy.”

## The J/24 La Superba wins the 51st Offshore and One Design Winter Championship of Anzio-Nettuno 2025–26.

*On the podium with the reigning Italian champions also Enjoy 2 and Pelle Rossa of the vice president of the Italian J/24 Class Gianni Riccobono, who wins the Lozzi Trophy—tied with Luca Silvestri. Next appointment for the J/24s at the Circolo della Vela di Roma is on May 9 and 10 with the National Regatta, third stage of the 2026 National Circuit.*

Anzio. With the completion of another 5 races characterized by light to medium and shifting wind conditions, the 51st edition of the Anzio and Nettuno Winter Championship concluded over the weekend. For the J/24s a total of 14 race days and as many as 27 races divided between 18 valid for the winter championship and 19 for the Lozzi Trophy.

The Anzio race course once again proved its reliability with ideal sailing conditions in all seasons.

In the J/24 class, out of fifteen boats at the start, with two victories and two second places, ITA 416 La Superba of the Italian Navy Sailing Section of Anzio, helmed by Ignazio Bonanno (23 points), consolidated first place overall.

An excellent weekend, with three firsts and one second place, allowed ITA 458 Enjoy 2 of Luca Silvestri of LNI Anzio, with 45 points, to secure a hard-fought second place, overtaking in the standings ITA 428 Pelle Rossa of the vice president of the Italian J/24 Class Gianni Riccobono (Circolo Vela Roma; 50 p).

Fourth place went to Arpione of the Italian Navy Sailing Section of Anzio with Michele Potenza at the helm (75 points—protagonist in the 3rd and 7th race) and fifth place to Avoltore of Massimo Mariotti (CNV Argentario, 81 points).

In the J/24 Lozzi Trophy, established in memory of the owner and helmsman of J/24 ITA 428 Kaster, who passed away prematurely fourteen years ago and held on Saturdays, after 9 races and two discards, ITA 428 Pelle Rossa of Gianni Riccobono of Circolo Vela Roma won on equal points (10) with Enjoy2 of Luca Silvestri of LNI Anzio, while Federico Miccio placed third with his ITA 216 Jumping Jack Flash (Circolo Vela Roma) with 17 points.

The Race Committee was led, as usual, by the tireless president Mario de Grenet, assisted by Enrico Maria Ragno and Alfredo Posillipo, together with the president of the Protest Committee Paolo Romano Barbera.

The prize-giving ceremony was attended by Cristiana Monina, who brought greetings from the FIV IV Zone Committee, and Luca Devoti, Olympic silver medalist in the Finn class.

The President of Circolo della Vela di Roma, Marco Buglielli, thanked all those who contributed to the excellent success of the Winter Championship, starting with the valuable organizational and logistical support of the Porto Turistico di Anzio and the Municipality of Anzio, continuing with the indispensable collaboration of the Reale Circolo Canottieri Tevere Remo and the Anzio section of the Italian Naval League, with the sailors of the three Clubs who with their great commitment ensure that launching and hauling operations take place in the best possible way, the Club Secretariat and the on-water assistance.

The Rome Fleet and Fleet Captain Paolo Rinaldi remind all J/24 Class crews of the appointment with the National Regatta, third stage of the 2026 National Circuit scheduled for May 9 and 10 at Circolo della Vela di Roma – Anzio ([www.cvroma.com](http://www.cvroma.com)).

Also on the calendar, on the same race course, the 40th Coppa Asteria – Trofeo Marina Spaccarelli Bulgari (June 6–7), among the longest-running offshore regattas in the Tyrrhenian Sea, and the traditional Palio di Anzio.

*The Apulian J/24 Fleet: full speed ahead! A steadily growing, dynamic reality increasingly focused on youth involvement, the Apulian J/24 fleet bases its success on promoting a culture of the sea, respect for the environment, cooperation among sailing clubs, and consistent commitment.*

*The Zonal Championship will begin in Brindisi on February 21–22, while Molfetta will host the National Regatta in June, valid as the fifth leg of the 2026 J/24 National Circuit.*

Puglia. A significant part of the Apulian fleet—one of the driving forces behind the steady growth of the J/24 Class in the region—is represented by ASD Compagnia del Mare, an association long committed to promoting





sailing activities and fostering a culture of the sea and environmental awareness. These values are fully embodied by the J/24 Class, a one-design boat that successfully combines competition, training, and team spirit.

Today, the association, led by President Francesco Mastropiero, is strongly focused on developing athletes and integrating new crews, with particular attention to younger generations.

“We are very attached to the J/24 Class,” said President Mastropiero. “Personally, every regatta I have taken part in, both nationally and internationally, represents a precious and enjoyable memory. I am sure the same applies to every sailor who has stepped aboard our boats. I truly appreciate the friendly, family-like atmosphere that characterizes this class—something not to be taken for granted and hard to find elsewhere. It is precisely this spirit that we strive to pass on through our association. For this reason, last year, during the Zonal Championship, we had the pleasure of inviting former President Pietro Diamanti to our waters—an invitation, of course, also extended to the new President Massimo Frigerio.”

At present, five boats are part of the association: Bucci di Banana (ITA 158), L’Emilio (ITA 439), Marbea (ITA 450), Peter Pan (ITA 78), and Santa Paziienza (ITA 83), all ready to compete in the Zonal Championship and the National event in Molfetta. In particular, L’Emilio and Marbea will also take part in the Italian Championship and the National event in Salerno organized by Fleet Captain Beppe Manganelli.

“We are working hard to bring in new sailors, especially those under 25,” Mastropiero continued. “We enthusiastically welcomed the Class’s proposal to establish a national trophy dedicated to them. Our team can rely on experienced sailors, many of whom are also certified instructors—their contribution is essential. We are confident that, already this year, we will be able to form at least one fully under-25 crew to compete with—and against.”

In closing, the President emphasized the importance of teamwork: “We strongly believe in cooperation, an essential element for the success of any activity. For this reason, we actively support local clubs such as Circolo della Vela Molfetta and Circolo Nautico Ippocampo, providing not only participation but also concrete assistance. In the past, our area—also thanks to the work of Fleet Captain Nino Soriano—was particularly active. Today we are working to bring it back to the level it deserves, and the results achieved so far are the outcome of this positive environment and the essential synergy between clubs and associations like ours, which play a key role in events such as the Zonal Championship and the National stage.”

“I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to all members and friends of the Apulian J/24 Fleet for the commitment and determination they have shown in recent years in bringing numerous J/24s back to their waters,” commented Italian J/24 Class President Massimo Frigerio. “I am truly pleased and grateful for the invitation I received, which I will gladly honor. My heartfelt thanks go to the entire fleet and especially to those who have dedicated time, passion, and energy to the growth and value of the J/24 Class.”

The 2026 racing season of the Apulian J/24 Fleet—an ever-growing, dynamic reality with a strong focus on youth involvement, and awarded one of the ten stages of the National Circuit (the fifth, scheduled in Molfetta on June 13–14)—will kick off on February 21–22 in Brindisi with the first leg of the 2026 Zonal Championship. It will then continue in Molfetta with the J-Spring Trophy promoted by CN Ippocampo, followed by the April 18–19 event in Bari Santo Spirito hosted by CN Il Maestrale, and again in Molfetta at Circolo della Vela on May 2–3. The championship will conclude in Santo Spirito on July 5 and October 4.

“Our 2026 Zonal Championship includes stages spread along the entire Adriatic coast in order to involve as many boats as possible from our wide area,” explained Fleet Captain Soriano.

# Italy Report

## In Puglia, Jebedee and its U25 crew lead the J/24 Zonal Championship

*The Apulian J/24 Zonal Championship continues to gain momentum, confirming the steady growth of a dynamic fleet increasingly focused on youth involvement. The series spans the entire Adriatic coastline, aiming to engage as many boats as possible across the region.*

Molfetta. The second leg of the Apulian J/24 Zonal Championship took place last weekend in Molfetta, once again drawing ten boats to the starting line following the season opener hosted by the Italian Naval League in Brindisi.

“Ten boats were on the water again, and we were honored to welcome Gianluca Fischetto, President of the Brindisi section, racing with his crew,” said Apulian Fleet Captain Nino Soriano. “This second event, also valid as the J-Spring Trophy, was organized by Circolo Nautico Ippocampo with Davide Gadaleta heading the Organizing Committee, supported by Circolo della Vela Molfetta, Circolo Nautico Il Maestrale and Compagnia del Mare.”

Variable weather conditions over the two days tested the fleet, where Jebedee, crewed almost entirely by Under 25 sailors, stood out alongside J-Gomm, which delivered strong performances, particularly on Sunday. The growing presence of young sailors and women on board reflects the ongoing work of local sailing schools and clubs, a positive sign for the future of the fleet.

After eight races (with one discard), ITA 427 Jebedee (8 points) leads the provisional standings ahead of ITA 373 J-Gomm (21 points). Tied in third place at 23 points are ITA 174 Fantasia and ITA 450 Marbea, followed by ITA 439 L’Emilio.

The next event is scheduled for April 18–19 in Bari Santo Spirito, followed by Molfetta on May 2–3, before the final stages in July and October.

## Jebedee: youth at the helm. Another win in Bari strengthens its lead

*The third leg of the Apulian J/24 Zonal Championship, hosted by Circolo Nautico Il Maestrale in Bari Santo Spirito, delivered five competitive races and confirmed the upward trend of a fast-growing fleet.*

Bari Santo Spirito. ITA 427 Jebedee, owned by Fleet Captain Nino Soriano and crewed by a young and talented team, dominated the weekend with four race wins and a second place.

This result secures Jebedee’s lead both in the event standings (4 points) and in the overall championship after 13 races (12 points). Behind it are ITA 174 Fantasia (30 points overall) and ITA 450 Marbea (33 points).

“Two great days of sailing with variable winds that kept all ten crews on their toes,” commented Soriano. “It’s especially rewarding to see so many young sailors involved, with some crews entirely made up of Under 23s. This is the result of consistent work by the clubs and regional sailing programs.”



Three races were completed on Saturday in a solid mistral breeze, while lighter and shifting conditions on Sunday allowed for two more races. The race management, led by Enrico Scalera, ensured smooth and competitive racing throughout.

The championship continues with events spread along the Adriatic coast, leading up to the National Regatta in Molfetta on June 13–14, the fifth leg of the 2026 J/24 National Circuit.

## Jebedee extends its lead in the Apulian J/24 Championship

*Another commanding performance for Jebedee, which claimed victory in the fourth leg of the Apulian J/24 Zonal Championship, further consolidating its position at the top of the standings.*

Molfetta. The fourth event, hosted by Circolo della Vela Molfetta, featured six well-fought races held in challenging conditions, especially on Saturday when fresh winds and rough seas tested the eight competing crews.

“All scheduled races were completed thanks to excellent race management,” said Fleet Captain Nino Soriano. “We’re seeing growing youth participation, including talented young sailors like Francesco Carrieri, a 2009-born athlete with an Optimist World Championship bronze medal and a WASZP national title.”

The championship continues to highlight the importance of youth development, with sailing schools playing a key role in transitioning sailors from dinghies to keelboats, ensuring continuity within the sport.

In the provisional standings, ITA 427 Jebedee leads with a perfect scoreline of six wins, followed closely by ITA 450 Marbea with six second-place finishes, and ITA 373 J-Gomm in third place.

The 2026 Apulian J/24 Zonal Championship—one of the most dynamic and fast-growing circuits in Italy—continues its journey along the Adriatic coast, supported by strong collaboration among local clubs and associations. The season will culminate with the final events in July and

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October, while attention is already turning to the National Regatta in Molfetta in June.

The J/24 Class activity can also be followed on the official website and through the Italian J/24 Class Association's Facebook and Instagram channels.

## Sardares wins opening round of Olbia J/24 Club Championship

*Olbia* – The 2026 J/24 season in Sardinia got underway in Olbia with Sardares claiming victory in the opening round of the Club Championship after three races sailed in light and variable conditions.

The fleet is racing under a new format that keeps all events based at the local Italian Naval League, simplifying logistics and reducing costs while ensuring consistent organization. The 2026 season is split into two phases: the Club Championship (February–May) and the Zonale Championship (October–November).

On the water, Botta Dritta and Vigne Surrau also showed strong form, with tight racing across all three heats. Despite grey skies and light rain early in the day, the race committee managed to complete the full program, with a steady southeast breeze of around 6 knots. Sardares leads the overall standings on 6 points, followed closely by Botta Dritta (7 points) and Vigne Surrau (9 points).

The next round is scheduled for March 15, with the Sardinian fleet continuing to demonstrate strong participation and growing enthusiasm, particularly among younger sailors.

## Botta Dritta takes the lead in Olbia J/24 Club Championship

*Olbia* – The Sardinian J/24 fleet continued its 2026 season with another successful race day in Olbia, where Botta Dritta moved into the overall lead after six races and one discard.

Racing took place in light winds of 6–12 knots, with three well-contested races sailed under efficient race management. Botta Dritta won the opening race of the day, while Vigne Surrau dominated the following two.

The updated standings see Botta Dritta on 7 points, ahead of Vigne Surrau (11) and Sardares (12), with Aria close behind.

The centralized format at the Italian Naval League in Olbia continues to prove successful, allowing teams to focus on racing while fostering a strong sense of community within the fleet. The next event is scheduled for April 12.



## Botta Dritta extends overall lead in Olbia

*Olbia* – Botta Dritta strengthened its grip on the 2026 J/24 Club Championship with another solid performance in the latest round sailed off Olbia.

Three races were completed in light winds around 5–7 knots, with Vigne Surrau taking two wins and Botta Dritta securing one. The racing once again highlighted the tactical skills of the crews, with frequent position changes driven by subtle wind shifts and pressure variations.

After nine races (one discard), Botta Dritta leads with 12 points, followed by Vigne Surrau (15) and Sardares and Aria tied on 24. The event also saw increased youth participation, including new young crews joining the fleet—further confirmation of the class's strong appeal as a training ground for developing sailors.

## The J/24 Botta Dritta of Mariolino Di Fraia wins the 2026 Club Championship in Olbia.

*In the lead for the entire Championship, the La Maddalena-based J/24 finished ahead on the podium of Vigne Surrau and Sardares. Having successfully concluded the first part of the 2026 season, the Sardinian J/24 Fleet will continue with the Zonale Championship (four race days between October and November) and with the National Regatta, the final leg of the J/24 National Circuit.*

**Olbia.** With the fourth and final round held over the weekend in the Gulf of Olbia, the 2026 edition of the J/24 Club Championship, which began last February, concluded successfully after a total of ten races sailed. On the top step of the podium the burgee of LNI La Maddalena, once again brought to the top of the standings by the island team of Ita 460 Botta Dritta, helmed by Mariolino Di Fraia with Camillo Di Fraia on the sheets, Ezio Diana in the cockpit, Filippo Morosi at the mast and Andrea Tiroto on the bow.

# Italy Report



Also on the podium Ita 405 Vigne Surrau (Aurelio Bini, Evero Nicolini, Pietro Alvisa, Danilo Deiana, Mauro Pisanu) and Ita 318 Sardares (Club Nautico Arzachena, Salvatore Orecchioni, Tonino Chessa, Luca Pirina, Massimo Cucciari, Alessio Stacconeddu), followed by Ita 443 Aria (LNI Olbia, Marco Frulio, Dario Marabini, Roberto Carzedda, Rachele Murgia, Marco Addis), Ita 396 Molara of Federico Manconi, Ita 404 12.1 helmed by Gianluca Manca, Ita 289 Glicerina with Nicola Usai at the helm and Ita 502 New Mollicona owned by Giorgio Spano but with a crew of six very young sailors (Edoardo Giò Spano, Nicola Usai, Luca Congiu, Tommaso Corso, Raffaele Murgia, Angelo Salis) at their first outing on a J/24 with which they began to familiarize themselves.

“The final day in Olbia forecast plenty of sunshine and strong wind, but no one could have imagined that the sirocco would become so strong during the morning,” explained Andrea Tiroto. “The Race Officer Salvatore Corda, assisted on the committee boat by Lorenzo Piazza, Marco Pizzimentu and the Vice President of LNI Olbia Alessandro Doveri, despite wind and waves, managed to set a perfect course thanks to the versatile Riccardo Pirina on marks, starting the first race of the day. Immediately ahead was Vigne Surrau, attacking from second place in the overall standings with the aim of reducing the gap of only 3 points to Botta Dritta, third at the first windward mark behind 12.1. Aurelio Bini and his crew mastered wind, waves and boat, stretching along the entire course to win unchallenged, demonstrating perfect control in strong wind that had meanwhile risen to 25 knots.

Behind, apart from a solid 12.1 helmed by Gianluca Manca (Antonio Soddu, Costantino Soddu, Andrea Manca, Fabrizio Garau the crew members), which held its own in the increasingly tough conditions, Aria of Fleet Captain Marco Frulio was forced to retire due to a broken boom, snapped during a demanding gybe. Aria’s exit gave relief to Botta Dritta, in difficulty on the first downwind without spinnaker, finishing third despite the breakage of the vang fitting and a genoa halyard lead. Concern for a crew member of Glicerina, victim of an accident with rib trauma, who returned early to port for a check at the emergency room, from where reassuring news later arrived despite the seriousness of the injury. All participants could only wish

their teammate a speedy recovery because if there is one thing that never fails in this fleet it is unity around values such as friendship and solidarity.

At the end of the first race the wind conditions worsened further and, as if that were not enough, despite determination and persistence, the Race Committee was unable to secure the committee boat on a solid anchorage that kept failing due to waves and strong wind. A wise decision was made to end the day of racing also in light of the damage and retirements, because safety always comes first. A sigh of relief for everyone, certainly, perhaps less so for the Vigne Surrau team ready for the final attack, denied by the weather conditions. A warm spaghetti meal accompanied by cold beer ultimately brought everyone together as usual, in a climate of great sportsmanship. Like that shown by the winner Botta Dritta which, through its helmsman Mariolino Di Fraia, after the customary thanks to the organizers, to the Lega Navale La Maddalena and to his crew, paid tribute to their friends of Vigne Surrau, expressing the pleasure of sharing first place with them. Club Nautico Arzachena also took home multiple prizes by occupying the third step of the podium with Sardares.”

The Sardinian J/24 Fleet Captain, Class Councillor and Vice President of III FIV Zone Marco Frulio then gave appointment to everyone in October for the Zonale Championship (four race days between October and November) and in November (14–15) for the National Circuit leg, again in Olbia, again hosted by the local section of the Italian Naval League, with the hope of seeing the fleet of ten J/24s on the water in full and more owners joining to increase participation.

“Because if there is one thing that the ten races sailed in this J/24 Club Championship have shown, it is that the Fleet and the Class are very much alive, made up of sailors of the highest level, always invited to be part of crews in all the other regattas around the island,” concluded Frulio and Tiroto. “A Class capable of bringing together generations of very young sailors and those with silver hair, proving to be technical, demanding and essential, despite an evolution that may have given wings to sailing, but the adrenaline that J/24 planing at 30 knots of wind can still deliver cannot be matched by any foil.”

# Calendar

## 2026

**June 20 - June 28**

**Kiel Week 2026**

Kieler Yacht Club Kiel, Germany

**June 25 - June 28**

**2026 J/24 Canadian Championship at Nepean One Design Regatta**

Nepean Sailing Club Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

**August 13 - August 17**

**2026 J/24 South American Championship**

Club Náutico Córdoba Córdoba, Argentina

**August 18 - August 23**

**2026 J/24 European Championship**

Trelleborgs Båtsällskap (TBS) Trelleborg, Gislövs Läge, Sweden

**September 30 - October 4**

**2026 J/24 North American Championship**

Port Credit Yacht Club Mississauga, Ontario, Canada

**November 4 - November 11**

**Epigen J/24 World Championship Melbourne 2026**

Sandringham Yacht Club Melbourne, Australia

## 2027

**March 10 - March 14**

**2027 J/24 Midwinter Championship**

Houston Yacht Club La Porte, TX, United States

**October 2 - October 9**

**2027 J/24 World Championship**

Rochester Yacht Club Rochester, NY, United States

[J/24class.org/events/](https://www.j24class.org/events/)

