

## **The Copa del Rey MAPFRE**

**Precursor to the Sandberg Estates  
J/70 World Championship 2024**



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# The Copa del Rey MAPFRE

## Precursor to the Sandberg Estates J/70 World Championship 2024



The first week of August saw a J/70 fleet of 31 teams, one of the classes competing at the Copa del Rey MAPFRE, which served as the precursor to the Sandberg Estates J/70 World Championship. From 14<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September, the Real Club Náutico de Palma will once again be hosting a prime international event with the 2024 World Championship.

A total of 12 races, eight as classifiers (with coefficient 1) and the last four finals (with a coefficient 1.5 points) demonstrated the high level of competition of the J/70 fleet as can be seen by the results of the final podium: [RESULTS](#)

### **The greatness of the Copa del Rey MAPFRE**

The *Copa* has always been referential as an event for many competitors, and several participants highlighted the greatness of the competition held on the Bay of Palma,

“This is the most competitive J/70 class there has ever been in the Copa del Rey MAPFRE,” expressed Joan Cardona, a crew member of the RCNP’s *Patakín*, who on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2024 celebrated three years since their historical bronze medal won in the Olympic Finn class for Spain.

Moreover, with the World Championship for the J/70 Class being held in the Bay of Palma, the ‘normal’ fleet competing at the Copa del Rey MAPFRE regatta increased this year to a total of 31, 20 of them international teams.

Among the teams aiming to explore the different race areas and discover the *Copa*, Martin Dent’s British team *Jelvis* arrived in Palma, fresh from their victory as winners of the J/70 class in Cowes Week. This year they are out to improve on their 31<sup>st</sup> place in the World Championship 2023 in Saint Petersburg and their 11<sup>th</sup> place in Monaco 2022.



Before beginning the Copa del Rey MAP-FRE, Henry Weatherell, crew member on board *Jelvis* admitted, "It will be a tougher fleet than in Cowes. This is our first time at the Copa del Rey together, although I have sailed on the Bay of Palma when I competed in the Finn class. We have come here because there are many very high-level teams in the J/70 Class racing in the Bay of Palma. We will do one or two training camps, probably 10 days or so before returning for the Worlds."

After 12 races and the best team on the last day with a second and first place, they finally finished in eighth position, with almost double the points of the winner, Luis Bugallo's *Kimpton Hoteles-LesRoches*, who as final champions at the end of the Copa, declared, "This Copa del Rey has proven to us that the Worlds are going to be extremely challenging because this racecourse provides many opportunities, and doors can both open and close."

### **Marnatura favourite candidate for the podium**

Bugallo will race at the World Championship with Enrique Freire and his J/70 *Marnatura*, and was quick to emphasise the level of competition awaiting the teams, "The level is higher than ever, and it is extremely challenging to give a regular performance over the week, as can be seen in the classification. Even with the podium position results, there was a lot of irregularity. We must stay competitive in all conditions so that we don't have bad days. It is very clear that the world title is open to over 20 very competitive teams."





Ahead of the Copa del Rey MAPFRE, Will Felder from Chicago, competing with *Empeira*, admitted, “We have come here early to get to know the surroundings. We don’t have a great deal of experience in Palma, so we are here to learn. This will be our first World Championship abroad, although we have competed together as a team in the United States. I won the Worlds in 2018 with *Africa*. As a team, our best result has been an eighth position. We have previously been in the hunt in the World Championship until the very last day, so we hope to break the spell, and this time achieve a podium finish in Palma. We love it here – it is hot, but it is also beautiful, the best place we have been so far, no better place to sail. We would really love to be on the podium.”

Finally, the team achieved their objective and proclaimed themselves runners-up in an extremely valuable win, considering the very high quality of racing at the Copa del Rey MAPFRE and the steep learning curve ahead of the Worlds.

### **The J/70s, a three-year commitment for the RCN de Palma**

The Real Club Náutico de Palma is beginning to prepare for the great logistics and sporting challenge posed by the Sandberg Estates J/70 World Championship, which gathers close to 100 teams representing 25 countries.

Their aim is for this world-class event in 2024, held for the most numerous one-design class in the world, to be the best to date.

“It will be one of the great events in 2024 for the club,” said Director Manu Fraga, who explained further, “In 2024 we will host seven great events, all first-class and prime international competitions. In the case of the J/70 Class, it was a three-year commitment to organize the World Championship and for it to be held in September. It is going to be a challenge because the fleet is highly competitive with very particular Rule specifications. For example, to manage the racecourse with 100 teams on the start line is challenging to say the least.”

The Real Club Náutico de Palma director, concluded, “This will be a historical Championship for the Class, not only because of the high level of the participants, but because of where it is being held. The Bay of Palma and the club itself will be very much prepared to host such a highly reputable competition. We will be extremely good hosts, and this competition will go down in people’s memories for the magnificent conditions that we are used to enjoying on the Bay of Palma.”

For more information on the Sandberg Estates J/70 World Championship, visit: <https://www.rcnp.es/j70worlds/>



# J/70 SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONSHIP

November 16 th – 23rd 2024

 Punta del Este, Uruguay



YACHT CLUB | PUNTA DEL ESTE

Great expectation is building toward the next South American Championship to be raced November 16-23 in Punta del Este, Uruguay's renowned beach resort. Between 30 and 40 boats from Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay are expected to show up.

This year marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Yacht Club Punta del Este and the J/70 Class' 10th. Therefore, the host club is planning for a Championship to be remembered for the Class it introduced in the South Atlantic region in 2015.

Three open and three Corinthian crews will get their "ticket" there for the 2025 World Championship

in Buenos Aires, the first ever to be raced in the Southern Hemisphere. The usually varied but guaranteed and enjoyable wind and sea conditions of Punta del Este will get the best from the crews, in an event that promises to be very competitive.

If you are interested to come and charter a boat or bring your own from the Northern Hemisphere, please contact me at [pgarra@gmail.com](mailto:pgarra@gmail.com).

See you there!

Pedro Garra, Vice President J/70 International Class, President J/70 Class Uruguay



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Photo courtesy of Christopher Howell

# Cascais, Portugal to Host the First-Ever J/70 Corinthian European Championship in Spring 2025

The J/70 International Class has decided to award the hosting of the first-ever Corinthian J/70 European Championship to Cascais, Portugal in 2025. The event will take place between the 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of April 2025, and will be hosted by Clube Naval de Cascais (CNC).

Worldwide-recognized Clube Naval de Cascais, in its 86<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, has a wealth of experience in organizing prime international regattas, and was already nominated last year to host the 2026 J/70 World Championship.

The J/70 is the fastest growing one-design sailing class in the world with almost 2,000 boats built and competing around the globe. The Class already organized two Corinthian World Championships that were a huge success—last year in Garda with 90 participants and this year in Copenhagen 110 teams.

As the third edition of the Corinthian Worlds is going to be held in the USA next year, a major continental Corinthian event in Europe is critical to keep the momentum of this important division for the J/70 Class in the region. The event in Cascais will have two days for registration, inspection and a practice race, and four days of racing, and will be capped at 90 entries.

“We promptly embraced the proposal from the Portuguese J/70 Class to organize this new format with Clube Naval Cascais. We see it as an excellent opportunity to offer the J/70 community another international

Corinthian racing at a world-renowned sailing venue such as Cascais. This new event is a great way to start the 2025 J/70 sailing and racing season,” said Vittorio Di Mauro, President of the J/70 International Class.

“What the J/70 Class has done in the Corinthian division is impressive,” commented Francisco Brito e Abreu, President of Clube Naval de Cascais. “The vast majority of sailors around the world are amateurs so for us it is a great honor and opportunity to work together with the J/70 Class to keep the Corinthian competitive spirit alive.”

“We are super stoked that the first-ever J/70 Corinthian Europeans will be held in our home waters of Cascais next year. The numbers in the two first Corinthian Worlds were spectacular, and this event will help to feed the Corinthian movement,” commented Vasco Serpa, founder of SailCascais, promoter of J/70 sailing in Cascais. “There are many reasons to come sailing in Cascais this next winter. The J/70 Corinthian European Championship is one more, a big one!” he concluded.

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Photo courtesy of Christopher Howell



# Introducing THE FIRST MIXED-PLUS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP



## **Mixed-Plus events provide more opportunities for:**

- Women crew
- Women teams
- Youth crew
- Youth teams

The original intent of Mixed-Plus events was to promote more opportunities for women in sailing, but the J/70 Mixed-Plus Class Rule was written to allow families and young sailors to also compete. In short, the only limit is no more than two men over the age of 18. This allows Class members to build whatever team is best for them.

The event will be held June 26-29, 2025 at Circolo Vela Torbole on Lake Garda in Italy.

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LAKE GARDA ITALY

## By Mark Foster

International Technical Chair

*We are continuing to improve the inspection and racing so we can spend less time getting ready to go sailing and more time on the water racing. To that end, I am excited to announce that the IJ70CA has entered into an agreement with Vakaros to use RaceSense as a standard for race management at major regattas. RaceSense will be used at the 2024 J/70 Worlds in Palma. You can visit <https://vakaros.com/pages/racesense> to learn more about RaceSense. Just a few things that RaceSense does for you: eliminates pinging, immediate OCS calls, two-boat starting line, reduces or eliminates starting line penalty flags and finishes the fleet. As a PRO and competitor, I am excited to see the improvement with our time on the water spent racing. Look for it at your upcoming events.*

### TO REPEAT A BIT OF MY LAST REPORT...

Please note the [link](#) that will take you to our standard compliance form. You can find the form on the International Class site under Documents, then Resources. This is a standard form but can be modified at different Championships to better fit the needs of that specific Championship. If you are attending a regatta, look for this form to be required which will speed up the Inspection process. Please take a moment to review the form and make sure you have all the necessary Class equipment, and the equipment satisfies the Class Rules.

As always, J/70 Class Rules are closed, which means if it doesn't say specifically you can by the Class Rules, you cannot. This includes how you fair the center seam, and the things you can do within the Rules for the keel, keel wedges and rudder.

With the new Rule book coming into effect on January 1, we will be updating the templates used for organizing races.

### LOOKING AHEAD

Members of the Technical Committee will be present at the 2024 World Championship in Palma Spain, the 2024 US National Championship at Ft. Worth Boat Club in Texas USA and the 2024 South American Championship at the Yacht Club Punta del Este, Uruguay.

I am enjoying the small challenges that are being presented. I am honored as I travel to work with the talented Measurers and members of the IJ70CA Technical Committee to make our Class even better. It is in great shape with all the work the Technical Committee has already put in to get us to this point. Anyone with questions or comments should contact me ([mfoster1053@gmail.com](mailto:mfoster1053@gmail.com)) and/or the Class Executive Chris Howell ([howell@j70office.com](mailto:howell@j70office.com)). I look forward to seeing you at the next regatta.





# J/70 2024 - 26 CALENDAR

## 2024

September 4 - September 8  
**2024 J/70 Armenian Open Championship**  
Winds of Armenia Yacht Club, Armenia

September 14 - September 21  
**2024 J/70 World Championship**  
Real Club Nautico de Palma, Spain

October 3 - October 6  
**2024 J/70 German Championship**  
Deutscher Touring Yacht-Club Lake Starnbergersee, Germany

October 18 - October 20  
**J/Cup 2024 Event 4 / Italian Championship**  
Ligurian Sea, Italy

November 18 - November 24  
**2024 J/70 South American Championship**  
Yacht Club Punta del Este, Uruguay

December 14 - December 15  
**Bacardi Winter Series 1 of 3**  
Shake-A-Leg Miami, FL, United States

## 2025

January 24 - January 26  
**Bacardi Winter Series 2 of 3**  
Shake-A-Leg Miami, FL, United States

March 6 - March 8  
**Bacardi Winter Series 3 of 3**  
Shake-A-Leg Miami, FL, United States

March 27 - March 30  
**2025 J/70 Midwinter Championship**  
Shake-A-Leg Miami, FL, United States

April 1 - April 6  
**2025 J/70 Corinthian European Championship**  
Clube Naval de Cascais, Cascais, Portugal

May 2 - May 4  
**J/70 Cup 1<sup>st</sup> Event (2025)**  
Naval Academy of Livorno, Tuscany, Italy

June 6 - June 8  
**J/70 Cup 2nd Event (2025)**  
Fraglia Vela Malcesine, Lake Garda, Italy

June 26 - June 29  
**2025 J/70 Mixed Plus Championship**  
Circolo Vela Torbole, Italy

July 18 - July 20  
**J/70 Cup 3rd Event (2025)**  
Fraglia Vela Riva Riva del Garda, Italy

August 23 - August 30  
**2025 J/70 European Championship**  
Royal Swedish Yacht Club (KSSS) Saltsjöbaden, Sweden

September 22 - September 28  
**2025 J/70 Corinthian World Championship**  
Eastern Yacht Club Marblehead, MA, United States

September 25 - September 28  
**J/70 Cup 4th Event / Italian Championship 2025**  
Sardinia, Italy

October 24 - November 1  
**2025 J/70 World Championship**  
Yacht Club Argentino Buenos Aires, Argentina

December 1 - December 7  
**2025 J/70 North American Championship**  
Davis Island Yacht Club Tampa, FL, United States

## 2026

May 23 - May 30  
**2026 J/70 Corinthian World Championship**  
Union Nautique / Club La Pelle Marseilles, France

August 28 - September 5  
**2026 J/70 World Championship**  
Clube Naval de Cascais Cascais, Portugal

October 27 - November 1  
**2026 J/70 North American Championship**  
Annapolis Yacht Club Annapolis, MD, United States



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