MELGES 24 ITALIAN CLASS REPORT FOR AGM 2026

13 November 2026

1. Membership

The Melges 24 Italian Class currently counts 30 members: 5 Associate Members, 6 Professional (Pro) Members and 19 Full Members. Of the Full Members, 9 compete in the Overall division and 10 in the Corinthian division.
In 2025, the Class counted 48 members (14 Associate, 7 Pro and 27 Full). The decrease of 18 members, or 37.5%, was partly expected after the exceptional momentum generated by the 2025 World Championship in Trieste.
Nevertheless, it highlights the challenge of maintaining participation in an increasingly competitive sailing environment.

2. Racing Season 2026

The Melges 24 Italian Series – Trofeo Gaudì 2026 included two European Sailing Series events: Trieste, with 18 boats, and Riva del Garda, with 30 boats.
One of the highlights of the 2026 season was undoubtedly The Reunion, held in Riva del Garda in cooperation with the Melges 15 Class.
The event brought together the Melges 24 and Melges 15 fleets, with the presence on Lake Garda of the new relationships within the Melges community, bringing together sailors and the new ownership of the Melges boatyard.
More importantly, this collaboration generated significant synergies in terms of organizational costs, allowing us to share resources and deliver a high-quality event while maintaining financial efficiency.
With approximately 100 sailors competing throughout the event, The Reunion demonstrated that combining different classes can be a successful organizational model.
The racing programme maintained high standards, with the sporting aspects of the event remaining an absolute priority. At the same time, the event offered an excellent onshore programme, which was widely appreciated by participants and contributed to creating a welcoming and engaging atmosphere.
The presence of new Melges boat owners on Lake Garda was particularly positive, strengthening connections within the wider Melges community and increasing the attractiveness of the event.
We strongly believe that this format could represent an important opportunity for the future of our Class, allowing us to reduce organizational costs, attract a broader range of participants, and deliver more appealing events without compromising the quality of racing.
The Reunion demonstrated that cooperation between classes can generate both economic and sporting benefits, and our objective is to replicate this format in 2027.
The choice of venues was strongly influenced by the indications of the International Class. Although we continue to believe that venue rotation is important to maintain interest in the circuit, we followed these directions and worked, as always, to deliver both events to the best possible standard.
Unfortunately, the third event planned for the Italian circuit was cancelled. The main reason was due to the fact that being the world championship early in the year in Croatia, boats preferred to “stay close”. This was disappointing both for the fleet and for the financial sustainability of the National Class but could be used as a point of reflection remarking the importance of holding, when possible, the World and Continental championships as final events of the season.

3. Financial Management

Financial sustainability remains a priority. We have consistently sought to contain costs and avoid increasing membership fees and regatta entry fees for owners, particularly given the competition from other classes and the limited willingness of participants to absorb additional costs.
The Italian Class continued to focus on cost control and affordable membership and event fees (no increase in events / membership in the past 3 years), the Trieste Worlds Championship had a very low entry fee compared to the ones on the markets, and we are negotiating to have also a very competitive one for the 2028 Europeans with YCCS.
During 2026, we faced some extra expenses related to the Vakaros system. Thanks to the dialogue with the International Class, we helped secure a shared European system rather than separate purchases by each National Class, reducing overall costs.

4. Synergies in Media Coverage

In this context of dialogue, we believe that a balanced and proactive collaboration between our National Classes and the International Class is fundamental to the successful planning and execution of our events, creating synergies that otherwise cannot be found.
In these past few years, the Italian Class has invested a lot in its social media resources, and, in this spirit, has always made them fully available to the International Class during its events, including the 2025 World Championship in Trieste. We are convinced that this has complemented very well the support we received from the International Class in the space of more traditional media, thereby directly and meaningfully contributing to the visibility of our Class. We hope that this fruitful collaboration will continue.

5. European Championship 2028

During 2026, we put forward Yacht Club Costa Smeralda as a candidate to host the 2028 Melges 24 European Championship. Discussions with the Yacht Club are ongoing.
Also in this case, our strong opinion is that a balanced and proactive collaboration between the Yacht Club, the Italian National Class and the International Class as Organisational Authorities is essential to the best execution of the event, replicating the model that led to the highly successful 2025 World Championships in Trieste. This is also due to the fact that the Italian National Class is responsible for managing relations with the Italian Sailing Federation (FIV), along with the proven organisational experience it brings.

6. Future Objectives

The Italian Class remains committed to an attractive, competitive and affordable one-design circuit. We believe it would be important to consider the increase of the number of European Sailing Series (ESS) events allocated to each nation, strengthening national circuits, encouraging participation and helping organizers achieve greater financial sustainability.

7. Board Elections

Elections were held on 4 November 2027. The newly elected Board of Directors will serve for the next three years and consists of:
Marcello Caldonazzo Arvedi
Paolo Brescia
Mirco Pittatello
Andrea Rachelli
Giacomo Fossati

Best regards,
Marcello Caldonazzo Arvedi
President
Italian Melges 24 Class Association