

Estonian Melges 24 Class Association

2014

Estonian Melges 24 Class Association was established November, 2011. Before that Estonian boats sailed under the Finnish Class Association. The decision to start our own Class Association was made after reaching 6 boats in Estonia. Having a separate Estonian Class Association has made it possible to better promote the Melges 24 class in our country.

The Estonian Class Association is working very closely with the Finnish Association to organize our joint ranking series. Estonian-Finnish ranking events are always very well organized and also characterized by great after sail programme.

In 2014 we had 3 Estonian-Finnish events
May, 24-25 Lahti Finland
June, 13-15 Finnish Nationals Helsinki Finland
September 12-14 Estonian Nationals Tallinn Estonia

In 2013 Estonia had 4 boats at the Europeans in Medemblik.

In 2014 we only had 2 boats at the Europeans in Balatonfüred.

The main reason for the low number of Estonian boats at the Europeans in 2014 was that the most important event of the season was so early in the season that many teams did not feel that they were ready for the competition.

We saw in 2014 that the fact that 4 major Melges 24 competitions were held during a short period of time – August 2013 to May 2014 - resulted in local Melges 24 sailors feeling that after May 2014 the season was over and there was not much motivation to sail and train the Melges 24. They chose to sail off-shore boats instead. A lot of Estonian Melges 24 sailors took part in the Kiel Worlds in August.

The Estonian Melges 24 Association is looking positively towards 2015. We will continue with the Estonian-Finnish ranking series. 2-3 boats will start early in the season with regattas in Europe. And already 3 Estonian boats have signed up for the Worlds in Denmark so far.

In order to boost up the northern European fleet and keep the sailors in this region committed to Melges 24, we feel that there is a need to host a major championship event (i.e. Worlds 2017) in the region. Having frequent European Sailing Series events in Northern Europe will keep the class attractive and hopefully attract new teams in region to sail Melges 24.