

22 September, 2026

Favourites take early control after heavy-air opening to Snipe Worlds

Alfredo González and Cristian Sánchez lead defending champions Julio Alsogaray and Malena Sciarra after two races sailed in winds close to 20 knots off Mahón



The leading contenders moved swiftly into position on the opening day of the Snipe World Championship. Canary Islanders **Alfredo González** and **Cristian Sánchez** top the provisional standings after the first two races off Mahón, with defending champions **Julio Alsogaray** and **Malena Sciarra** in second place.

The championship began in heavy air, with the wind hovering around 20 knots throughout the day. Most sailors returning ashore, however, identified the steep, confused sea as the greater challenge.

González and Sánchez, the 2022 world champions representing Real Club Náutico de Arrecife, lead on three points after scoring a second and a race win. Argentina's Alsogaray and Sciarra, from Club Náutico San Pedro and Yacht Club Olivos, are two points behind following a first and a fourth. **José María Guerrero** and **Nahuel Rodríguez**, of Real Club Mediterráneo de Málaga, lie third on ten points with a fourth and a sixth.

“A SPECTACULAR DAY”

“It has been a spectacular day for us,” González said. “We had set the boat up for light airs and instead found very demanding conditions, with strong wind and a big sea. We scored a second and a first, so we are delighted.

“There are still four days to go and this is a very strong fleet, but we have come through the day that concerned us most. We now need to stay focused and trust the preparation we have done.”

Sciarra was equally satisfied with the defending champions’ start. “We won the first race and finished fourth in the second. It was a spectacular and physically demanding day, with plenty of wind and waves. We could not have asked for more.”

The Argentinian identified the leaders as two of their principal rivals. “Alfredo and Cristian look very strong, but we have come here with the aim of defending our world title.”

Guerrero said the priority had been to negotiate what is expected to be the toughest day of the championship without serious damage.

“These were the strongest winds forecast for the entire week,” he said. “Our approach was to get through the day, avoid breaking anything or capsizing, remain consistent and gain places in each race. We managed that, but there is still a long way to go. Experience tells us that nothing is won on the opening day.”

Gustavo del Castillo and **Rafael del Castillo**, of Real Club Náutico de Gran Canaria, are fourth on 12 points. Mahón sailors **Jordi Triay** and **Lluís Mas** complete the top five. The reigning European champions, representing Club Marítimo de Mahón, posted an eighth and a seventh to become the leading local crew on 15 points.

“You cannot win the championship on the first day, but you can lose it,” Mas said. The local sailor believes a conservative approach is essential during the early stages.

“We are fifth overall, so we have to be pleased, although we are also exhausted. It was a very difficult day because the Snipe class limit is 23 knots and we came close to it. Our mast inverted, so we will have to replace it tomorrow.”

TRIANGULAR COURSE FOR HEAVY AIR

The Race Committee followed the Snipe class guidelines for heavy-air racing and set a triangular course. The opening day tested both crews and equipment, with several boats suffering damage.

Among them were **Leonardo Armas Lasso** and **Miguel Bethencourt**, of Real Club Náutico de Arrecife, who were forced to return to shore during the first race after breaking their rudder fittings.

There were also notable performances further down the standings. Americans **Ernesto Rodríguez** and **Taylor Scheuermann** finished second in race two and lie eighth overall. Brazil's **Felipe Rondina** and **João Pedro Herrlein** took third in the same race and are 11th. **Damián Borrás** and **Javier Magro**, of Club Marítimo de Mahón, recovered from 33rd in the opener to finish eighth and move up to 21st overall.

Among the fleet's other leading names, Brazil's **Alexandre Paradedda**, the 2001 world champion, is 13th, while reigning junior world champion **Justin Callahan**, of the United States, lies 14th.

TWO FULL-FLEET STARTS

The Vakaros Atlas2 system made its World Championship debut and enabled the Race Committee to run two full-fleet starts for the 88 boats representing 21 countries.

The units fitted to every boat record their position and identify premature starters. The technology removes the need to split the fleet into groups and reduces the likelihood of general recalls when the Race Committee cannot identify every boat over the line. Its introduction is one of the main innovations at the Mahón Worlds.

Racing continues on Wednesday with the second day of the championship. The first warning signal is scheduled for 11.30am, with two further races planned if conditions allow.

23 September, 2026

Del Castillo brothers take Snipe Worlds lead after light-air shake-up

Only one race is completed as a shifty four-to-six-knot breeze reshuffles the standings off Mahón and leaves several leading contenders counting heavy scores



Light and unstable breeze has transformed the standings at the Snipe World Championship hosted by Club Marítimo de Mahón. Brothers Gustavo and Rafael del Castillo, of Real Club Náutico de Gran Canaria, are the new leaders after only one race could be completed on the second day. A fourth place takes them to the top of the table on 16 points, ahead of several pre-event favourites who had occupied the leading positions overnight.

Wednesday's conditions off Mahón bore little resemblance to the opening day, when a steady northerly had taken the fleet close to the Snipe class wind limit during two races. Principal Race Officer Ariane Mainemare said the Race Committee needed at least five knots to begin the starting sequence.

"We made one attempt, but the breeze dropped to three knots during the sequence and we had to postpone again," she said. "Eventually we managed to complete one race in four to

six knots. There was no margin for a second because we risked the wind disappearing altogether.”

Thursday’s forecast currently suggests even lighter conditions, although the Race Committee will wait for the latest weather models before making any decisions.

Gustavo del Castillo agreed that it had been a demanding day. “It was a very long wait because the wind never really filled in,” he said. “In the end, we managed to race in acceptable but marginal conditions. There was pressure in some areas and no wind in others, so we had to be in the right place at the right time and maintain good boatspeed.”

The new leader remained cautious with four days still to come. “The standard is extremely high and today we saw some leading crews post big scores. The same could happen to us tomorrow. We have to take it race by race and try to stay inside the top ten or 15. We will see where that leaves us on the final day.”

Americans Ernesto Rodríguez and Taylor Scheuermann climbed from eighth to second after finishing fifth and now have 24 points. Belgian crew Manu Hens and Alexandre Tinoco are level on points after a seventh lifted them from seventh to third overall. Murcia sailors Francisco Sánchez Ferrer and Marina Sánchez Ferrer produced one of the day’s biggest gains near the top of the standings, moving from 16th to fourth after finishing second.

AN ELEMENT OF LUCK

Rodríguez acknowledged that fortune had played its part in a race marked by light wind and large variations in pressure.

“We waited a long time for the breeze to settle and probably raced in around six knots on average,” he said. “The conditions were completely different from yesterday and we had a little luck today. If we are second, we are very happy.”

The American hopes conditions will improve towards the end of the championship.

“Tomorrow’s forecast does not look promising, but Friday and Saturday may bring a little more wind. Hopefully we can race. We came here to compete and nobody wants to remain ashore.”

Local sailors Damián Borrás and Javier Magro, of Club Marítimo de Mahón, also made substantial progress on a day when every mistake or unfavourable tactical choice proved expensive. Their sixth place moved them 12 positions, from 21st to ninth overall on 47 points. They are the leading all-Menorcan crew in the provisional standings.

FAVOURITES LOSE GROUND

The overnight leaders were among those caught out by the unstable breeze. Alfredo González and Cristian Sánchez finished 31st and dropped from first to sixth overall on 34 points.

Defending champions Julio Alsogaray and Malena Sciarra posted a 35th and fell from second to eighth. José Manuel Guerrero and Nahuel Rodríguez, third at the start of the day, slipped to 14th after finishing 51st.

The most significant setback among the leading local contenders came for Jordi Triay and Lluís Mas. The reigning European champions, fifth after the opening two races, recorded a 68th and now lie 22nd.

The championship remains wide open after three races, with the first discard coming into effect once six races have been completed. The Del Castillo brothers lead Rodríguez and Scheuermann, and Hens and Tinoco, by eight points. Only 18 points separate the leaders from González and Sánchez in sixth.

NORWEGIAN RACE WIN

Norwegians Reidar Berthelsen and Lise Gehrken won the only race of the day. Their victory was not enough to move them towards the front of the championship because they did not complete either of Tuesday's races and remain 64th overall.

Francisco and Marina Sánchez Ferrer crossed the line second, with Brazilians Felipe Linhares and Andreis Castro third. The new leaders, Gustavo and Rafael del Castillo, followed in fourth, ahead of Ernesto Rodríguez and Taylor Scheuermann.

The World Championship continues on Thursday with the third day of racing. The first warning signal is scheduled for 11.30am, with two races planned if conditions allow.

24 September, 2026

Unstable breeze leaves Snipe Worlds fleet without a race

Gustavo and Rafael del Castillo retain the overall lead after three races, with improved conditions forecast for the final two days in Mahón



The overriding question on day three of the Snipe World Championship was whether the race committee could complete even a single race. The forecast was poor — worse than Wednesday’s — although some models suggested a possible window at around 1400, when a six-to-seven-knot breeze might settle over the course. The most optimistic scenario never materialised.

To spare the fleet an unnecessarily long wait afloat, the boats remained ashore until 1230. The race committee made several attempts to get racing under way, but the breeze never delivered the strength or stability required for a fair World Championship race. By 1545, the first Snipes were being towed back to Moll de Llevant, opposite the Club Marítimo de Mahón. One familiar maxim could be heard among the resigned sailors: “No wind, no race.” Tomorrow is another day.

Gustavo and Rafael del Castillo, representing Real Club Náutico de Gran Canaria, remain at the top of the overall standings after three races — half the number originally scheduled by this stage of the championship. Without the two light-air interruptions, the discard would already have come into play after race five.

Forecasts indicate around ten knots from 1100, with a marked shift from westerly to north-westerly and the possibility of the breeze building to Force 4 as the day progresses.

Principal race officer Ariane Mainemare said the fleet had been sent out because the conditions initially observed offshore matched the more favourable end of the forecast.

“When the boats launched, the wind dropped to three or four knots,” she said. “It then appeared to fill in again and we had five or six knots for a while, so we laid the course and set the start line.”

The committee began a starting sequence but was forced to postpone during the closing minutes. “We had set the first mark at 010 degrees, but the wind was shifting towards 030. A 20-degree difference was too much. It then remained very unstable, moving between north and 040 degrees and ranging from three to six knots, without providing the five-knot average we require to start.”

The time of day and the usual local wind pattern eventually removed any realistic prospect of racing. “We knew nothing further was likely to develop during the afternoon, so we decided to call it a day and try again tomorrow,” Mainemare added.

Víctor Pérez, representing Club Marítimo San Antonio de la Playa, backed the committee’s decision after returning ashore. “We waited while the wind rose and fell. I think they were right not to hold a race without the minimum conditions required by the class,” said the Mallorcan sailor. “They tried, but we hope to have better conditions tomorrow and on Saturday.”

Brazil’s Eric Lineburger agreed. “The forecast indicated very light winds and the possibility of no racing. It is frustrating to wait on the water and return without competing, but the committee made the right decision. Racing with so many changes in wind direction would have been extremely difficult.”

With three races completed, the championship has already met the minimum requirement for a valid series. Two days remain to recover part of the delayed programme, and the forecast suggests there should be opportunities for further changes in a closely fought leaderboard on Friday and Saturday.

This year's World Championship at Club Marítimo de Mahón has brought together 88 crews from 21 countries — 176 sailors representing 92 clubs and sailing organisations. The fleet comprises 58 open-category teams and 30 mixed crews.

25 September, 2026

Rondina and Herrlein surge into the lead in Mahón

The Brazilian crew are tied on 39 points with Rodríguez and Scheuermann as the Snipe Worlds head into a final day of three scheduled races and a potentially decisive discard



The Snipe World Championship went from a complete standstill to its busiest day of racing. The lack of wind that prevented a single race from being sailed yesterday gave way to three races today, reshaping the standings and putting Brazil's **Felipe Rondina and João Pedro Herrlein** at the top of the leaderboard. The race committee completed the day's scheduled programme and recovered one of the three outstanding races in the kind of conditions that make people fall in love with sailing, with a well-established Force 4 breeze.

Rondina and Herrlein, 11th at the start of the day, scored a first, a third and a second to finish on 39 points. The Brazilian crew are level at the top with Americans **Ernesto Rodríguez and Taylor Scheuermann**, who posted an eighth, a second and a fifth. Belgium's **Manu Hens and Alexandre Tinoco** remain third on 51 points after an 18th, a first and an eighth.

The new leaders described a “very physical” day in which their speed and strong starts proved decisive. “We achieved three very good results and we are extremely happy,” Rondina said. “It is our first time sailing in Menorca and we love the venue, the wind and the waves.”

The Brazilian crew will approach the decider without looking too far ahead. “We will think about race seven first. Once that is finished, we will focus on the next one, and only then will we see what happens in the third. It will be a very long day, many things can happen and the standard of the fleet is extremely high. Tomorrow we will give it everything.”

The three race wins were shared between two countries. **Rondina and Herrlein** won the opening race, **Hens and Tinoco** took the second, and fellow Belgians **Sam Vandormael and Daan Vandormael** ended the day with victory in the third. Combined with their earlier sixth and fifth places, the result lifted them to seventh overall.

Defending world champions **Julio Alsogaray and Malena Sciarra** moved up to fourth. The Argentine pair scored a 13th and two fourths to reach 61 points. **Alfredo González and Cristian Sánchez**, world champions in 2022, lie fifth on 62 after recording a 12th, a ninth and a seventh. Only 23 points separate first and fifth before the discard comes into effect.

FINAL SPRINT

González and Sánchez, the leading Spanish crew, believe they have achieved their aim of reaching the final day with a chance of winning. “We went out intending to put together three solid races, and we managed that,” **Alfredo González** said. “We are fifth, very close to the front, and we believe six boats have a genuine chance of winning the World Championship. We are one of them.”

The Canary Islands crew avoided unnecessary risks and remained near the front throughout the day. “This is like a marathon. We wanted to reach the final day with enough strength left for the sprint.”

The day proved costly for fellow Canary Islanders **Gustavo and Rafael del Castillo**, who began as overall leaders but slipped to eighth after scoring a 36th, a 13th and a 16th. America’s **Justin Callahan**, the reigning Junior World Champion, climbed to ninth with three results inside the top seven.

Damián Borrás and Javier Magro, representing Club Marítimo de Mahón, are tenth and remain the leading crew from the host club. Reigning European champions **Jordi Triay and Lluís Mas** gained six places to reach 16th after ending the day with a third.

ACCUMULATED FATIGUE

Borrás admitted that the three consecutive races had taken their toll. “It was a very hard day. The first two races went extremely well for us, but in the third my body had had enough. I think I made my best start and sailed the best opening part of a beat that I have managed all week, but then we became caught in congestion at the mark and dropped into the thirties. We recovered as much as we could, although sailing back through the fleet means pushing at your limit all the time.”

The Menorcan sailor considered the day every bit as demanding as the opening day, despite the different conditions. “When you are operating at 100 per cent and your heart rate is very high, it makes little difference whether there are 16 or 20 knots. It becomes a long championship because the five days of competition come after another seven or eight days of preparation.”

Race seven will bring the discard into effect, although its final influence will also depend on the results of any subsequent races. Rondina and Herrlein currently have a 21st as their highest score; Rodríguez and Scheuermann a 17th; Hens and Tinoco an 18th; González and Sánchez a 31st; and Alsogaray and Sciarra a 35th. Removing those scores would provide a clearer initial picture of the title race, but every further result could change which score each crew discards and force the contenders to adjust their strategy.

Joint leader **Ernesto Rodríguez**, who sails with **Taylor Scheuermann**, believes the discard will broaden the group of genuine title contenders. “We will have to see how the standings look because three, four or perhaps five crews may have a chance of winning,” he said. “Being one of them means we have to be pleased with our results so far.”

Rodríguez plans to retain the same approach that has left the American crew level with the Brazilians. “We will try to start well, execute the tactics we have planned and see what happens.”

EARLIER WARNING SIGNAL

The race committee intends to complete the remaining three races tomorrow and finish the full nine-race programme. The first warning signal has been brought forward from 1230 to 1130, while the 1500 deadline for starting a race remains unchanged. Forecasts indicate conditions similar to today, with a northerly breeze of between 10 and 15 knots.

The Vakaros system, which identifies boats that are over the line at the start, has so far prevented general recalls and gives the race committee grounds for optimism ahead of the deciding day. The ability to run three starting sequences without major delays will be crucial if the outstanding races are to be recovered and the World Championship completed as though the light-air interruptions had never happened.

26 September, 2026

Rodríguez and Scheuermann claim the Snipe world crown in Mahón

Alsogaray and Sciarra take silver and González and Sánchez bronze as an 88-boat championship confirms Club Marítimo de Mahón's organisational credentials



Ernesto Rodríguez and Taylor Scheuermann are the new Snipe world champions. The American pair secured the title in Mahón after winning the opening race of the final day and holding off defending champions **Julio Alsogaray and Malena Sciarra**, who took silver. **Alfredo González and Cristian Sánchez** claimed bronze for Spain by winning the last race of a championship that showcased both the strength of the international Snipe fleet and Club Marítimo de Mahón's ability to stage a major event.

The regatta brought together 88 boats, 176 sailors from 21 countries and representatives of 92 yacht clubs and sailing organisations. Accommodating such a fleet required an unprecedented logistical operation for a sporting event held in Mahón harbour, Menorca's main port.

The title was decided over three races in a Force 4 northerly, allowing nine of the ten scheduled races to be completed. Rodríguez and Scheuermann opened the day with a first

and a second, building enough of an advantage to withstand a seventh place in the final race. Alsogaray and Sciarra, the 2024 world champions, climbed from fourth to second after finishing all three races inside the top four. González and Sánchez gained two places and secured bronze with victory in the championship decider.

The overall result was also reflected in the mixed division. Rodríguez and Scheuermann won both classifications and were crowned world champions twice over.

The discard came into effect with the seventh race and rewarded the crews that had shown the greatest consistency throughout the week. Rodríguez and Scheuermann dropped a 17th, Alsogaray and Sciarra a 35th, and González and Sánchez a 31st. Brazil's **Felipe Rondina and João Pedro Herrlein**, who led going into the final day, slipped to fifth after posting their weakest set of results of the championship. Belgians **Manu Hens and Alexandre Tinoco** finished fourth.

Rodríguez described the deciding day as “a very tough battle”, with a moderate breeze and a demanding sea state. “We had very good speed and two strong starts in the first two races. Those results put us in a good position going into the last one,” said the new world champion.

Scheuermann dedicated the title to those who had supported the crew. “I don’t have the words to thank our team, everyone who has helped us and Ernesto for being there for me throughout. I’m extremely grateful and very happy to be here.”

The winners also praised the venue and the organisers. “Mahón is spectacular. We have been here twice and have enjoyed everything about it: the people, the food and the surroundings. The organisation has been first-class.” Rodríguez thanked **Damián Borrás** and the team assembled by Club Marítimo de Mahón for their work in delivering the championship.

Alsogaray said the number of points available on the final day left the defending champions with no margin for error. “The key was not to have a bad race, and we sailed all three very well. We scored 4-4-2 and came very close,” he said, before acknowledging the performance of the new champions. “Ernesto sailed extremely well and had a fantastic week. He deserved it. Finishing as world runners-up is no small achievement and we are very happy.”

The Argentinian helm is already looking towards the next opportunity. “Sailing always gives you another chance: at the next event, at the next World Championship. That is one of the beautiful things about it.”

Sciarra admitted that the pair had wanted to retain their title but accepted the outcome. “We wanted to win, of course, but we are happy with silver. They were better and we have to recognise that.” She also praised Mahón and the host club. “The venue is beautiful and the organisation has been faultless. Everything has been excellent, and we leave with many new friends, which is the most important thing.”

González admitted that a set-up error in the second race of the day had reduced their chances, although victory in the final contest allowed the 2022 world champions to finish with bronze. “It is slightly bittersweet because we were in contention, but Ernesto is a worthy winner. We are still winning races and we have also taken the trophy awarded to the winner of the final race,” said the Spanish helm.

The 88 crews faced markedly different conditions over the five days of racing. The opening day brought a northerly of close to 20 knots and a steep, confused sea, prompting the Race Committee to use the triangular course prescribed by the class for heavy weather. Only one race could be completed on the second day, in four to six knots, with shifts of around 30 degrees and large patches of very little pressure. Insufficient strength and stability in the breeze prevented any racing on Thursday.

The wind returned for the final two days. Three races were completed on Friday in 10 to 14 knots and a short, technical sea, followed by three more on Saturday in a Force 4 northerly. Vakaros Atlas2 devices, used for the first time at a Snipe World Championship, identified boats that were over the line and allowed the entire 88-boat fleet to remain in a single group.

Club Marítimo de Mahón completed nine of the ten scheduled races in a championship involving 176 sailors from 21 countries and 92 clubs and sailing organisations. The event fulfilled what Borrás described as “a childhood dream come true”: bringing the elite of the class in which he grew up to Menorca.

Club president **Basilio Ferrer** recalled before the championship that the Snipe has formed part of the history of both the harbour and the club since the 1930s. Nine decades after the first wooden boats appeared in Mahón, the town became the centre of the Snipe world for a week. Ferrer described it as “a great honour which, from today, forms part of our club’s legacy”.