



## eSailing Nations League



A 14-strong South African team is currently taking part in the eSailing Nations League, which kicked off on 11 January – up against the best virtual sailors from around the world. One of SA's finest, Pedro De Mello Machado, explained: "We are drawn into a very tough and experienced Team Sailing group of countries and are excited to be part of this league to battle it out against the world's best eSailors, have fun and make new friends

"As eTeam Sailing is new to RSA we held two pre-tournament practice sessions with teams from the UAE and Spain to gain valuable experience and test the Discord communication platform which is paramount in any eTeam event.

"It's been a baptism of fire thus far as team sailing is so strategic and complex at times but where we are currently lacking experience we have copious amounts of spirit and revel at any challenge.

"So far we have team raced against two excellent world teams: USA1 and Portugal in the Nations League. We have lost but managed to draw and win a couple of races in the regattas.

"Team RSA has very strong individual team members but as a team we still need more time on the virtual water to become a well-oiled machine. In addition to good communication between players in live voice channels, aggression and applying the rules in split-second decisions are key to getting an advantage against experienced world teams.

"It is still a fun affair nonetheless as we broaden our local eSailing community. Next we meet Sweden and rest assured, Team RSA will be hungry to get their first scalp."