



## Beach Tennis Open SaarLouis 2017 Press Release, Munich August 21, 2017

The world's best Beach Tennis players are coming to the Saarland from August 24<sup>th</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> and will be bringing a unique urban beach atmosphere into the city center of SaarLouis. The reigning world champions from Italy, Luca Carli and Michele Cappelletti, will take center stage of the \$15,000 ITF tournament in SaarLouis. The list of participants is almost identical to the recently contested world championship in Cervia, Italy. There are currently eight players participating who are ranked in the world's top 10. In the women's competition there are even nine players ranked in the Top 10. The sports loving city of Saalouis will be the showcase for one of the most lucrative Beach Tennis Events in Europe with the \$15,000 tournament. Also taking place at the same time will be the German Beach Tennis championship held by the German Tennis Federation. Defending champions Benjamin and Manuel Ringlstetter will be the center of attention here. A special feature will be the so-called open courts, where everyone can give Beach Tennis a try daily after the official game: Everyone is welcome to come along, watch and join in. There will be live music provided by DJ Thomas to enhance the beach atmosphere.

From August 21<sup>st</sup> the Kleine Markt square in Saarlous will be completely converted into a beach setting with 400 tons of sand and grandstands built around the center court to accommodate 600 fans. "Finally it's going to happen: The Kleine Markt will be turned into the biggest sandbox in the whole state of Saarland. We welcome all athletes and spectators to SaarLouis and are looking forward to the exciting games and celebrations," said Marion Jost, the enthusiastic mayor of SaarLouis in the run-up to the event. Klaus Boillon is also full of enthusiasm for the upcoming event: "Beach Tennis is still a young sport, but it's a fascinating sport. As the sports minister of the Saarland, I'm delighted to take over the patronage of the Beach Tennis Open SaarLouis 2017. I'm sure that spectators will be treated to a high-class sporting action at the \$15,000 ITF tournament and the German championship featuring exciting matches and a fabulous atmosphere at the Kleine Markt in middle of the center of SaarLouis."

The defending champion will naturally not want to miss this highlight. It is not only the high prize money of the ITF \$15,000 tournament at stake, which motivate the players, but also the coveted world championship points. Before the first ball was hit at the Kleine Markt in SaarLouis, the Italian world champion Luca Carli declared: "I want to win the tournament of SaarLouis". His toughest competition will be Carli's compatriots and vice-world champions Luca Cramarossa/Marco Burmaki as well as the Russian-Italian combination Nikita Burmakin/Tommaso Giovannini. Aksel Samardzic of the Carribean Island Aruba and his Brasilian partner Thales Santo are the outsiders to have a chance of winning as well the Italian Dorian Beccacioli and Davide Benussi.

Beach Tennis is a sport widely regarded as having a growth potential. The German Tennis Federation is well aware of this and is looking forward to German championships. "We want to show with the German championship in SaarLouis that Beach Tennis can be also attractive for sport cities. The rapidly growing beach sport is young, dynamic and thrilling to watch for people of all ages as well as to play yourself. We are very happy to welcome athletes from all German federal states to the Saarland to SaarLouis," says Reiner Beushausen, vice president of the German Tennis Federation.

The focus is also on Benjamin and Manuel Ringlstetter, who are the best German players. "I am excited and looking forward to the German championships especially because of the unique location in the city center of SaarLouis. You can't find an environment like this even in the international tournaments. I think our chances of winning the title are very good," said an optimistic Benjamin Ringlstetter

Mareike Biglmaier represents die best German female player in Saarland. The German Beach Tennis standout and recently crowned vice world champion in the Mixed category showed everyone with her victory in French Royan with her partner Mathilda Hoarao that she has not forgotten how to win. After an almost one year break from the game due to injury, the 30 year old Berlin woman is clearly in top shape again as she celebrated her triumphant comeback.



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Querschied is the location for the youth and senior competitions of the German championships: "We at the Tennisclub Querschied, as organiser of the German championships in the area of the youth U14 and U18 and the gentlemen of Ü40, are proud to present and host this unique Beach Tennis experience," said Michael Vogelpoth, chairman of TC 67 Querschied club.

Alongside the athletic celebrities, famous politicians are also expected to attend. Not only Klaus Bouillon, minister of the interior and sport, as well patron of the event will be on hand but also the federal minister of Justice Heiko Maas and Mecklenburg-Vorpommern state premier Manuela Schweswig, who want to launch the tournament with the Amateur Cup of the city of Saarlouis by participating themselves. As partners they will have none other but Benjamin und Manuel Ringlstetter by their side.

The Kleine Markt in Saarlouis will be almost unrecognizable when Maas and Schwesig enter the Center Court on Thursday afternoon on August 24. Some 400 tons of sand, grandstands for 600 fans, fantastic catering, a players lounge, a colourful expo and DJ Thomas should guarantee a relaxed and colourful beach environment.

The first day of the tournament is reserved for hobby players and children. The motto of the Amateur Cup of the city Saarlouis, which starts at 4pm, is called "Fun and Games for everyone". Everyone interested in the sport can join in because Beach Tennis is easy to learn and previous experience is not necessary. The participation is free. Rackets will be provided. There are prizes for the winners. The games are played by twosome teams: men's double, women's double, or mixed. Participants can also register spontaneously on-site. If someone doesn't have a game partner, can also sign in individually. Among all the players of the Amateur Cup, there will be a raffle prize to be won two one-week stays at Chiari Hotel in the Beach Tennis Mecca Cervia.

Before that, from 9 until 12, the kids are in charge. At "Beach Tennis for Kids" the students from the schools of Saarlouis will have the opportunity to experience and play Beach Tennis. Benjamin and Manuel Ringlstetter will show the kids in the afternoon how this fascinating sport works. School classes can be registered until Wednesday August 23 by the individual classroom teachers.

The preliminary games for the German Beach Tennis championship start on Friday August 25. On Saturday, the international stars battle it out in the sand for important world ranking points. The semi-finals will take place on Sunday morning followed by German championship and the ITF world ranking tournament.

"As the promoters, we would like to sincerely thank the Saarland and the two cities Saarlouis and Querschied for the opportunity to organise this event there and we are delighted to reach and enthrall the people of the Saarland for Beach Tennis with help of the regional clubs TSV Ford Steinrausch and TC 67 Querschied," said Christian Stephan, chairman of PLAN B event company GmbH.

All information as well as the current program schedule can be seen at [www.beachtennis-saarlouis.com](http://www.beachtennis-saarlouis.com)

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