Formula Windsurfing Report to ISAF Windsurfing Committee –Nov.05 Presented by Class Chairman ,Ceri Williams .

I am pleased to report another successful year of activity within the Formula Class . Membership of the Formula Class has been maintained , at nearly 40 countries from 5 continents .

Activity within many NWA continues to increase ,where formula racing constitutes the main fleet ; but has levelled off in some European countries , and a few have registered a slight decline .

The major innovation for 2005 was the introduction of the Ranking table and international calendar .It provided a much needed boost for national event organisers

There were 36 international events on the 2005 Ranking calendar.

Greatest increases have occurred in countries such as –Baltic and Balkan states in Europe ; both East and West AUS ; South America (eg over 100 fw racers at Brazilian National championships)

Regional series continue to develop racing within many areas –eg in Europe : Baltic Cup and Formula Super Cup (AUT ,HUN ,CRO,CZE)

Continental tours are developing in SA and Oceania ; the European tour (Euro Cup) has improved on last year with 4 events in 2005).

Unfortunately the PWA Tour moved away from formula racing events in 2005. Five Continental Championships took place (Oceanic- Melbourne ; Asians – Japan ; Europeans – Rhodes ; SA – Brazil ; NA- Canada).

Formula Festival , inc. Youth Worlds (following JYM format) –Christchurch ,GBR. The Formula AGM will be held at the Worlds –which will take place in Melbourne AUS, December.

Youth and Junior Policy ,amended in 2004, seemed to find favour with NWA (and especially sailors)- 65 competitors, from 12 countries and 2 continents; but still a long way to go to emulate Senior and Masters fleets.

There have been disappointments . PWA and Industry(some sectors) appear to be alienated towards the Class ; major equipment failures (primarily with Neil Pryde X9 masts) and industry reaction has focused attention, unconvincingly ,upon class rules. There are notable exceptions , and most companies support FW 100%. The FE class , instead of supporting 'formula' racing , appears to promote policies that compete with FW. However there is a willingness on behalf of a new chairman to introduce co-operation between the classes .

Heading towards 2006 the aims of the Class include : to establish racing in the African continent , with perhaps an open event in South Africa ; increase the number and skills of Measurers (equipment inspectors) and add Measurement Instructions to Class Rules; encourage more "international" race officers and "windsurf" orientated IJ's .

Furthermore to maximise impact the class racing has with Media and public by expanding the skills available to more event organisers ; and introducing new initiatives eg GPS tracking of races .

Womens racing still presents a formidable challenge for the class – How to increase participation in a limited 'marketplace', against formidable, and olympic, alternatives.

In Summary - continuity within Class Rules – whilst expanding the opportunity to race FORMULA and adapt to the ever increasing needs of sponsors, media , public ...and of course , windsurfers.