

PORTIMÃO FORMULA WINDSURFING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2008

Photo: Overpower Illustration: Steve Allen AUS 0



PORTIMÃO, ALVOR SEPTEMBER, 8TH TO 14TH

TECHNICAL SUPPORT



MEDIA PARTNERS



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PRESS KIT

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Press Release

Press Release 1
Hampshire, 11.01.2008

2008, Formula Windsurfing World Championships presented by IWA

The world presentation of the windsurfing official calendar took place in the beginning of the year, in Hampshire, United Kingdom, where the IWA [International Windsurfing Association] didn't spare compliments to the sublime conditions seen in Portimão, Portugal, for the welcoming of one of the most important international races of its calendar... **the 2008, Formula Windsurfing World Championships!**

Ceri Williams - Executive Secretary of IWA, pointed out: *...Portimão has a special place in our affections – having previously hosted two Grand Prix and an European Championship. It's entirely fair and appropriate that we return in 2008 in order to participate in the Formula Windsurfing World Championships.*

This ISAF [International Sailing Federation] event will visit the City of Portimão, from 6-14 September 2008, for the great annual gathering of all the best sailors in a global scale, selected from the Continental Championships that took place along the year. **The 2008 Formula Windsurfing World Championships** will give the 2008 World Champions title to the Men and Women Divisions and will count on a € 30,000.00 prize money.

Portugal was the country chosen to organize this great event thanks to the well structured application file presented by the Overpower Club acting as the LOA [Local Authority Organizer], à IWA [International Windsurfing Association], where in 2005, all the guarantees of a good organization of the race were assured.

About the spot where the event will take place - Portimão is one of the sites where some of the most important world sea events take place in our country. In the selection of this spot, were taken into consideration by the Sport Authorities not only its potential for the practice of high competition windsurfing, but also the capacity of its people to welcome everyone.

About the conditions of Portimão, in order to welcome the biggest event of the Class, José Guimarães – Chairman of the organizing club, comments: *...I hope the conditions we were offered in the 2007 Windsurfing Grand Prix 2007 may be present as well during the 2008 World Championships. [...] If so, we might as well be facing the best Class World Championship so far.*

The Municipality of Portimão, ExpoArade, EM and the Pestana Grop - Hotels & Resorts - are supporting the coming of this great event to Portugal. This is the pool of sponsors, traditionally committed in the set up of big events in this Region, being the main sponsors of the Portimão Formula Windsurfing World Championships 2008. Providing the technical backup, the FPV [Federação Portuguesa de Vela], acting as the main National Authority, will sanction this ISAF - Level 1 event.

The TV coverage, production and distribution will be the responsibility of Sail.TV, which will count on site with an extended team, with a huge expertise in this sport's whereabouts. The Portuguese web portal www.conquilha.com will make a direct coverage of the event from the beach.

Official sites: www.overpower.net; www.formulawindsurfing.org; www.internationalwindsurfing.com.

During the event, there will be available on a daily basis, pictures, image packages with professional video quality for TV and internet, that can be requested to the Press Office.





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ORGANIZATION



PORTIMÃO, ALVOR
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Formula - the Sport

Early planing boards and big sails...

Early planing boards and big sails... During the late 90's a whole new concept of boards and sails became available on the market. These early planing boards and big sails made it possible to have "funboard-type" competition in a wider range of wind speeds, with planing races from 7 knots.

The concept of Formula Windsurfing was born in France, who successfully pioneered competition in 1998.

On 24th March 1998, Brest, the first Formula Windsurfing contest was held with the top 20 french funboard sailors. During the 4 day competition ten races were held in winds of 6 > 12 knots. The event was won by Erik Thieme on a 2.75 m. board powered by a 10.0 sq.m.

A new class...

With the new designs it seemed logical to create a new class that could take advantage of the new technology to appeal to the grass roots windsurfer and allow more visually exciting competition. The new class was formed by joint effort of the IBSA [International Board Sailing Association] and the IFCA [International Funboard Class Association].

1999, first Worlds...

During 1999 many national funboard associations included Formula as a discipline in their national racing circuits. Four international Formula regattas were held, including the first Formula World Championships, in Belgium, won by Wojtek Brzozowski from Poland.

Olympic aspirations...

Formula won the support of the PWA [Professional Windsurfers Association], the major windsurfing industry brands, and the windsurfing press world-wide. Throughout 1999 and 2000 the class and its supporters campaigned for Olympic status. They failed in their bid, but since that time Formula Windsurfing has grown; developed into the largest global windsurfer racing Class.

The Future...

In 2008, the Australian Allison Shreeve - the World Champion for several times – is the face of the campaign that is already on the run for the integration of Formula Windsurfing - One Design in the Olympic Games 2012.





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Event's Site

Enjoy yourselves ...this is Portimão.

Portimão was, for centuries, a thriving trading post in the western Algarve, thanks to its excellent location at the mouth of the River Arade, where the river and the sea merge together. Today, the Portimão is regarded as Algarve's second City, where the spirit of innovation has kept in touch with the region's ancient traditions.

From the quiet, white villages where time seems to go slower as to better enjoy the moment, to the warm and lively nights, full of glamour and sophistication, the Council receives all visitors with the natural simplicity and the certainty of having done its best to meet the wishes of its many visitors.

For nature lovers, this region offers unique routes, through the natural environment, of scenic and ecological interest. For those interested, there is a wide variety of coastal tours, including sail or motorboat tours, dolphin spotting trips or travelling up the Arade River to Silves [the capital of the Algarve during the Moor occupation].

The exceptional climate, the warm and calm sea, the soft white sand, contrasting with the blue of the sea and the ocher of the cliffs make Portimão's beaches a focus of attraction. In addition to Praia da Rocha, one of the most famous beach resorts in Europe, there are other beaches to suit all tastes. The only difficulty you'll find is to choose from the miles long shores of Alvor, the small hidden coves, the calm family beaches or the extreme beauty of the recently renovated Praia da Rocha, an international beach resort during the day, and the centre of night life when the day ends.

Portimão has 8 kms of beach and over 3.000 hours of Sun. The wind conditions are side shore and side-onshore. The water temperature is of 22° C; the air temperature is of 25° C. It's located 67 kms away from Faro - where the closest International airport is located.

Between sea and land, there's a great many sports activities you can engage in or attend to in Portimão. A gentle climate, an exceptionally favourable geographic situation, a calm and warm sea and the enthusiasm and organisational skills of its people have earned the Council the participation in most of the greatest international competitions such as the Portugal Bicycle Tour, the Rhythmic Gymnastics World Cup, Beach Soccer 'Mundialito', International Jumping Competition, European Volleyball League, and many others. An Autodrome, homologated by the International Automobile Federation, is already prepared to receive the Formula 1 and the Moto Grand Prix.

But it's in the sea that Portimão is really at home, and offers its best. That's why you can find Portimão as part of most of the most important nautical competitions, such as Portimão Formula Windsurfing World Championships, F1 World Championship, the Kitesurf Kit Master World Tour 2007, the Med Cup Trophy, the Powerboat P1 World Championship, the Big Fishing International Championship, among others.

Land of Fishermen, Portimão is a paradise for fish and seafood lovers. Starting with Grilled Sardines as the top specialty, the City's gastronomy has a much wider offer of tasteful food, ranging from fresh fish to traditional and delicious desserts. In the Algarve, it's easy to find a good meal in any restaurant, even in small villages; the smallest tavern offers various dishes, mostly prepared with fish, as the coast is very rich in innumerable species.

Portimão's night-life will allow you to choose between a peaceful romantic night or a more lively and social time. Walk along Portimão's beautiful coastal street, go to the casino, to a concert, an exhibition, a bar or nightclub; there is a myriad of choices.

For more details, please: www.cm-portimao.pt





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Arrival at the Event's Site

By Plane

The doorway to the 2008, Portimão - Formula Windsurfing World Championships is through Faro's airport, which is 67 kms away from the event's site.

For more details, please contact Faro Airport: www.ana-aeroportos.pt

Aeroporto de Faro

8001-701 Faro
Tel: + 351 289 800 800

Overpower Club, as usual, will have a transfer service from the airport to Portimão and back to the airport.

By Road

From Europe and Africa there are good roads. Overpower Club, with the support of the Michelin Guide, offers information about the best routes to get to Alvor, Portimão, in official website - www.overpower.net

For more details, please contact:

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Tel: +351 919 583 043

Overpower Club
Rua Coelho da Rocha, 20A
1250-088 Lisboa, Portugal

Official Travel Agency

Tropical Club is the Agency that will do the incoming of the entire the 2008, Portimão - Formula Windsurfing World Championships caravan. Pedro Serra, who everybody knows, will be available to get the best options for your trip.

Please, contact:

Pedro Serra

E-mail: pedro.serra@tropicalclube.webside.pt
Tel: + 351 213 928 990

Tropical Club
Rua Coelho da Rocha, 14
1250-088 Lisboa, Portugal





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Greetings...

Message from the Mayor of Portimão

After the organizational and competitive successes that have been present at the several Windsurfing events occurred in Portimão, it's with great honour that the Municipality joins this year the organization of the 2008 Formula Windsurfing World Championships.

To the unmatched natural conditions - the completeness of the river Arade and the Atlantic Ocean - we've added equipments and infrastructures which provide for the practice of the most diverse water sports at a high competition level.

The achievement of this World Championships is faced by the Municipality as a strategic bet which aims at welcoming not only sportive events of reference, but also with a strong mediatic impact which promote the image of Algarve as a high quality international touristic destination and which streamline the economic and social frame of this region.

I wish the Overpower Club all the happiness and success in the world, and I will look forward to help them achieve entirely all their expectations in this World Championships.

I welcome all the participants in this race and I wish that a sportive event of great quality may be provided.

Dr. Manuel da Luz
[Mayor of Portimão]

Greetings once again from the International Formula Windsurfing Class and the International Windsurfing Association.

Portugal has a long tradition for hosting well organised and memorable Formula Championships and major international events.

Portimão has a special place in our affections - having previously hosted two Grand Prix's and a European Championship. It is only right and proper that we return in 2008 to participate in the Formula Windsurfing World Championships.

Portimão is truly the Capital of the Formula World!

Portimão offers great facilities, on land and on sea, with a wonderful climate, clear seas, steady winds; hotels and restaurants in abundance, friendly people and great hospitality.

We congratulate Overpower Club for their continued dedication and enthusiasm; they are organisers we can rely on.

Special thanks to Portimão City Hall, all the co-sponsors and the citizens of the Portimão, for their support and commitment towards excellence in sport

I look forward to renewing old acquaintances, and see you all in Portimão in September

Ceri Williams
[Formula Class Chairman - IWA Executive Secretary]





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Welcome to the Formula World Championships!

The Overpower Club is proud that the IWA [International Windsurfing Association] has trusted them the organization of one of its most important events of the 2008 Formula Windsurfing World Championships. We assure we will do all our best in order to provide for its success!

We wish that, far beyond a great sportive journey, this event may also be an excellent reason to build a healthy intercourse between the sailors, regatta officials and followers, who will come a bit from everywhere in the world, in this special spot that everybody is fond of.

This spirit is also shared by the main race sponsors: Municipality of Portimão, ExpoArade, EM and Pestana - Hotels & Resorts will do their best in order to guarantee the success of the passage of all the 2008 Formula World Championships' participants through this city.

According to the words of Ceri Williams – IWA Executive Secretary: *Portimão is really the Formula World Capital!* ...the Overpower Club is happy to contribute so that this status of Portimão can be a reality today.

In behalf of the Club I represent, I wish that the regattas scenery in Portimão will become a promising arena to a great competition and fair-play, so that everyone who wishes to follow this event can enjoy a good show.

Thanks everyone!

We will gather in Portimão! ...until then, good waves & good winds,

José Guimarães

[Chairman of the Overpower Club]





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The 2007 Winner's

The 2007, Portimão Formula Windsurfing Grand Prix Winners

MEN

1	Australia		Steve Allen AUS-0 <i>Benzacne, Gaastra, Tabou, Deboichet, Billabong</i>
2	Argentina		Gonzalo Costa Hoevel ARG-3 <i>F2, Neil Pryde, F2 Clothing</i>
3	Brazil		Fabio Melo BRA-74 <i>Gaastra, Starboard, Katanka.com.br</i>
4	Italy		Alberto Menegatti ITA-456 <i>Quiksilver, Trentingrana, F2, Deboichet, North Sails, Deemeed</i>
5	Brazil		Wilhelm Schurmann BRA-999 <i>Starboard, Neil Pryde, Oakley, www.schurmann.com</i>

MASTERS

1	Estonia		Martin Ervin EST-202 <i>Sailing Club Pomorie</i>
2	Germany		Andy Abendroth GER-66 <i>Loft Sails, Starboard</i>
3	Poland		Ryszard Pikul POL-40 <i>Starboard, Neil Pryde</i>
4	Latvia		Romualds Zelcs LAT-25 <i>Extreme Sport</i>
5	Portugal		Rui Silva POR-11 <i>Starboard, Neil Pryde, C. N Cascais</i>

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The Favourits 2008

All the famous names of world windsurfing will be present at the competition...

All the famous names of world windsurfing will be present at the Formula Windsurfing World Championships, where they will have the opportunity to test against their rivals [old and new], the benefits of the latest innovations in what concerns boards and sails. The list of pre-registered competitors shows the elite that will be present in this event.

Steve Allen, from Australia - 2006, Formula World Champion, 2007, Grand Prix World Tour winner and 2007, Vice Formula World Champion, say: *...I am very excited to come back to Portimao for the Formula Windsurfing World Championships after having such a great contest there in 2007, with perfect conditions and loads of racing. The organization is always great there. Lets hope for similar weather conditions to last year and we will have another great contest in the perfect location of Portimao. Friendly hospitality, warm weather, beautiful beaches and crystal blue water always make a pleasure to be there!*

Gonzalo Costa Hoevel, from Argentina - Leading the world ranking and winner of the first 2008 Grand Prix in Sines, Portugal, say: *...I am really looking forward to come to Portimao for the worlds this year. I know that we will have great racing conditions and the organization is always superb. It's gonna be one to remember!*

Ross Williams, from United Kingdom - 2006 Formula European Champion, say: *...I have been coming to Portugal to compete in formula events since 2002 and I have always enjoyed my visits. The climate and sailing conditions are perfect. The Overpower team always prepare a very well organised regatta; and as a professional racer i really appreciate the "professional" service they deliver. 2006 was my most successful visit to date. I hope i can maintain my form - right up to the Worlds in September 2008!*

Jesper Vesterstrom, from Denmark - yet to win a major title , but always near the top of the rankings and focused on formula - could this be his year ?
I am looking forward once again to return to Portugal and participate at the World Championships. So far all events held by Overpower have been great and successful and I cant wait to come down and fight for the world title in Portimao. ...I missed out on that location last year, but I heard from all other sailors who sailed there, that it was great. Can wait to come, See you there!

Allison Shreeve, from Australia - 3 times and current World Champion, will be back to defend her title, after spending the first half of 2008 touring the world to promote Formula as the equipment choice for 2012 Olympics.
Ainda na divisão feminina, a nova estrela da Polónia, Agnieszka Pietrasik [POL 19] dará que fazer à sua compatriota Jozefina Rudzinska [POL 1381], Sarah Herbert representing Armenia will also be a name to lookout for.

But be aware of the spot competitors, as Bruno Bértholo [POR 28] - Light Weight Masters World Champion, Miguel Martinho [POR 5] - Light Weight Senior Class Champion, Vasco Chaveca [POR 6], Rui Silva [POR 11] and Pedro Soares [POR 23] always strong candidates, specially in the location, their own training waters... and these are only a few of the Portuguese stars that will shine at Portimao.

In this regatta, we can see in action: Wojtek Brzozowski [POL 10] - with several nominations of World Champion, Wilhelm Schurmann [BRA 999] - Pan-American Champion, Maris Birzulis [LAT 11], Fernando Martinez del Cerro [ESP 71], Andy Abendroth [GER 66] - National Champions in the respective countries.





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The Local Organizer

Overpower Club. ...the crew greets you!

As a result of a leading movement in the universe of the leisure windsurfing, the Overpower Club was born in Portugal, Costa de Caparica, more than two decades ago, and developed itself simultaneously with the new concepts of this sport in the world.

The inexistence of a sportive structure in the area of national funboard caused the club to engage itself, back in 1984, in the organization of the first windsurfing slalom race, in our country, which would become the awakening of a new windsurfers movement.

Since then, the Club has been organizing, on an yearly basis, the Overpower Race, in the funboard discipline, the great race that puts it directly in the leading role of organizing the most important national and international events of this sport.

In the scope of tourism/adventure, the Overpower Club organizes several national and international surf trips, hot journeys side by side with lots of waves and wind. Every year, the Club schedules sports vacations, with training in windsurfing, canoeing, mountain biking, and climbing, developing a series of programmes that lead to the advanced practice of this sport.

In 1988, it establishes and creates the first Official Surf School in Portugal. With an advanced pedagogical programme, recognized by the ISA [International Surfing Association], the school received the most overwhelming compliments from Dr. Couto dos Santos – Portuguese Minister of Education, at the time.

In 1991, it launches the Tabela de Marés 100%surF (100% surf Tide Table), a publication that reaches an enormous success, due to the extreme accuracy of its information and to the guide to the hot spots appropriate to the practice of nautical sports. Currently, it has a brilliant pulling of 330,000 copies.

In 1992, it develops the Overpower Triathlon Project, where "tradition isn't what it used to be!" ...a radical action in the evasion sports area, which rapidly won thousands of fans. In addition to the counter-clock fight, the participants also had to struggle against the elements: ...to reach the top of the mountain, to watch the sea in order to get a correct reading of its indicators, and when riding a bike, to improvise a driving adequate to the surprises the terrain may bring.

It gets involved in the conceptual process of the Iberian Circuit of the sport, in 1995, developing a strong cooperation with PBA [Spain], with which co-organizes the 1st Windsurfing Ibero-Atlantic Circuit, a circuit which contributed decisively to the world recognition of some of the best Portuguese and Spanish spots.

In 200, it organizes a very prestigious event - the IFCA Wave World Championship, one of the most important events of the world funboard calendar. The assignment of this event to Portugal had, as a reference, the efforts developed by the Overpower Club during the last decade of the previous century.

In the same year, it organizes an important national competition, with the original format of Formula 42 and introduces the Formula Windsurfing in Portugal, a discipline that struggles currently to be a part of the Olympic Games.

In the following years, it organizes the Formula Windsurfing Europe Championships and several stages of the Europe Cup in this discipline, in Cascais, Oeiras, Portimão and Porto Santo.





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At the same time, the Club was also responsible for the organization of the Formula Experience Europe Championships – an event that had the presence of the best global scale riders who had olympic ambitions, as well as the Wave and Free-style Europe Championships, which gathered “la crème de la crème” of wave riding.

Thanks to its history, in 2004, IWA [International Windsurfing Association] and IFCA [International Funboard Class Association] elected the Overpower Club as its main representative for Portugal and gave it the responsibility of its most important competition – the Wave World Championships.

In 2005, after a long interval, the Overpower Club helps to get the professional windsurf back to our country. It organizes the Wave World Cup, in Guincho, under epic conditions, strengthening the image of Portugal in the world panorama of this sport, a competition that keeps on occurring here year after year.

In 2006, the Club organizes the Formula Windsurfing Europe Championships, in Portimão. Already in 2007, it organizes three major international Events: PWA Wave World Cup, Slalom Europe Cup and Formula Windsurfing Grand Prix, the latter being a preparation for the Formula Windsurfing World Championships, which will take place in Portimão, in the current year.

In syntony with the World Authorities for Sport, in 2008, another Olympic year, the Overpower Club, with its activities, and according to its own goals, wants to strengthen the image of Portugal to a global scale, as one of the most trusted destinations to the practice of high competition and leisure, windsurfing.

To the Overpower Club, the Ocean is the limit for the development of its Projects!

Keep surfing!

Overpower Team

www.overpower.net/portimao_worldchamps08





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Official Program

Official Schedule

September 6th, 7th
Arrival & Training

September 8th
09:00 am :: Check-In
10:00 am :: Registration & Measurement

September 9th
09:00 am :: Opening of the Race Office
09:00 am :: Registration & Measurement
03:00 pm :: Beginning of the Competition
05:30 pm :: Last Possible Start
07:00 pm :: Opening Ceremony & Cocktail
10:00 pm :: Social Activities

September 10th, 11th, 12th, 13th
09:00 am :: Opening of the Race Office
10:00 am :: Opening of the VIP Area
10:00 am :: First possible Start
05:30 pm :: Last Possible Start
10:00 pm :: Social Activities

September 14th
09:00 am :: Opening of the Race Office
09:00 am :: First possible Start
05:30 pm :: Last possible start
07:00 pm :: Prize Giving Ceremony
09:00 pm :: Dinner & Party
10:00 pm :: Departures

ORGANIZATION



PORTIMÃO, ALVOR
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