

The logo for the Professional Windsurfers Association (PWA) is centered on the page. It features the letters 'PWA' in a stylized, outlined font. The letters are white and set against a dark background. The 'P' is a simple outline, while the 'W' and 'A' have more complex, rounded shapes. The logo is partially overlaid by a white outline of a windsurfer's sail, which is positioned behind the text and extends to the right and bottom of the frame.

2019 Update

PROFESSIONAL WINDSURFERS ASSOCIATION

2019

members update

Dear Friends

2018 was a year of mixed fortunes, benefiting from some great events with superb conditions. Our event live streaming was in full 1080p for the first time from most events and increased use of technology, such as live feed drones, helped boost our media and social media reach to the highest levels we have seen.

Since we put the lid on 2018 back at Sylt, crowning some very worthy World Champions at the same time, there has been a lot going on behind the scenes to bring everything into place for the 2019 season according to the wishes of the sailors and industry, and the outlook is a positive one.

Changes

The first major change is in the staffing of the association. Vivienne Masters is no longer on the staff. Vivienne has been a key member of the team since the current PWA was formed in 2001 and a valuable asset to the PWA over the last 18 years. Her experience and knowledge will be sorely missed and we thank her and wish her all the best for the future.

Vivienne will not be replaced directly, instead, many of the tasks she has performed for us over the years are in the process of being automated. Eventually this will include an online system for updating sailor profiles so that any competitor can update their own information as they need to, but primarily, the main change that will impact competitors is a new web based entry system for events.

Event Entry

The new web based system is expected to be online for entries for Bonaire and France and full details of how to set up user access and submit entries will be sent out separately as soon as we are ready. Once up and running, all entries will be handled this way. Sailors requiring wildcards will also apply in the same way, through an online form.





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Social Media

We continue to enjoy growth in our social media following and content. The off season between events has never usually been a time of growth for us for obvious reasons, but through adjustment to our output, we have actually seen reasonably steady growth on Instagram particularly. In order to start taking PWA social media to the next level this year, we will be welcoming a new member of the team to focus specifically on social media, as well as providing other marketing support services in between events. We will not just be looking to increase output, but to better coordinate all PWA social media activity to create a comprehensive and coordinated stream of content, particularly during events, to ensure maximum reach. We will be introducing our new team member more formally to you in the near future.

Calendar

Despite the recent postponement of Portugal to 2020, we still have a positive calendar and the welcome return of some old favourites. Bonaire, Klitmoller and Maui will be back on after a few years off, as well as Hvide Sande which has had a one year break. New Caledonia is expected to return for its regular slot as it does every 2 years in November. The new event at Marignane in France is a welcome addition too and promises to be a superb racing venue.

Foil

Foil will be run as a full individual discipline in 2019, with equivalent standards to slalom. Costa Brava will be the first stand alone foil event, but there are a few aspects of foiling that will change at all events for 2019.



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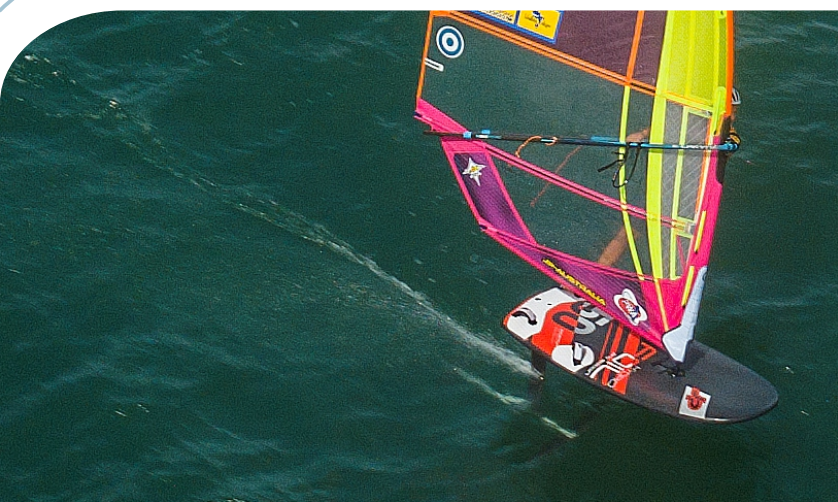
sailor update

Foil will use production equipment for the first time and competitors must register and use boards, sails and foils from the PWA registered equipment lists in the same way they do for slalom. The deadline for production foil equipment registration for manufacturers was 1st March 2019, and we will publish lists of production equipment registered for foil soon.

Manufacturers of foils do not necessarily need to be members of the PWA to have their equipment registered for 2019 and used on tour, but only brands in membership will be permitted branding on boards and sails, as well as getting the other benefits of membership. If you are a foil manufacturer, or a sailor with a new foil sponsor or supplier, and would like to know more about membership, then please contact info@pwaworldtour.com.

For foil only events, sailors may register 1 board, 3 sails and 1 set of foils, comprising 1 mast, 2 fuselage and 2 sets of wings (2 x front, 2 x back). These must come from either the PWA registered foil or slalom equipment lists, and all foil components must come from the same manufacturer and be designed to work together. No mix and match foils will be permitted. The board, sails and foil must be registered at the first event of the year and will be used for the remainder of the year. Foil equipment may not be used for slalom and only equipment from the PWA registered slalom production board and sail lists may be used for slalom.

Looking ahead to 2020, after considerable communication with the industry and sailor committees, equipment specifications have been decided for next year's season. For 2020, equipment sizes will remain the same for boards, with a max width of 91 cm, but the maximum sail size will be reduced to a maximum of 9m. The aim is to continue to reduce sails sizes incrementally, but without increasing wind minimums, to stimulate development of rigs that work in lower wind strengths, to improve the availability of rigs that can work in very light winds for the consumer, without the need for massive sails.





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Combined events

For combined foil and slalom events, a total amount of 4 boards and 7 sails may be registered. These must be made up from the sails and boards that have already been registered for the individual discipline events, meaning a maximum of 6 sails from a competitor's registered slalom sails, and a maximum of 3 sails from the sails they have registered for foil. These will be registered at the first event and will remain the same for the entire season.

During combined events, competitors may only use boards and sails registered for slalom, in the slalom discipline, and must use their registered foil board for foil. They must register at least one sail from their registered foil sails, but they may choose sails registered for either foil or slalom, for the remaining 2 sails used for the foil discipline.

Competitors participating in only one discipline will use the same equipment that they would at a single discipline event.

Freestyle

As announced at the start of the 2018 season, the EFPT is now the official qualifying series for the PWA Freestyle Tour. 2019 will be the first full year utilising the benefits of the qualifying system and for the 2019 season, the usual process of wildcard applications for entry into individual events will no longer exist. All PWA wildcards are now allocated for the entire year, and are based on the results of the EFPT events in 2018. There is still one local organiser wildcard and one for the National Association of the host nation, but other than these, there will not normally be any additional wildcards allocated by the PWA at each event. In some cases, if one of the existing annual wildcard sailors is unable to attend an event, then there may be additional wildcard places available, so sailors are still encouraged to apply, but please be aware that there will not necessarily be any wildcards available through PWA.

All freestylers who do not qualify or who are looking to join the tour for the first time should be aware now that they have to qualify through the EFPT. To qualify for 2020, the qualifying ranking will be taken from the best 4 results from 2019 EFPT events of €10,000 prize money or over, which will go to make up the FQS (freestyle qualifying series) ranking.

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**Slalom**

Following in the footsteps of the successful qualifying system in freestyle, we will have our first Slalom Qualifier events during 2019. The first event will take place at Zoo Station in Croatia in July, alongside PWA Youth and Junior categories, and we are keen to add more events to the qualifier program. If you are interested in organising a Slalom Qualifier, or know someone who may be, then please contact info@pwaworldtour.com for more information.

Wave

The 2019 wave tour will be boosted heavily by the return of Klitmoller, Maui and the continued efforts of Daida and Iballa Moreno in securing equal prize money for the women's division at Pozo. We expect to be able to publish more news soon on all events but currently everything looks good for a busier season, rounding off in style at Ho'okipa.



The collaboration with the IWT continues to develop and the relationship between the 2 organisations is forming a very positive environment for growth in the sport at either end of the spectrum. We are continuing to develop a qualifying structure with the IWT and working together to build all aspects of the sport, and hopefully be able to raise some of the IWT wave events to be part of the PWA World Cup series. The Maui event will once again be a collaboration with IWT as it has been in the past and we expect that collaboration to bring the event to new heights.

Those are all the updates we have for you now, but look out for more information coming soon on a few of the subjects above.

See you on the water.

Kind regards

The PWA Team

