



WORLD HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION

PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

Bulletin Number 33

March 2013

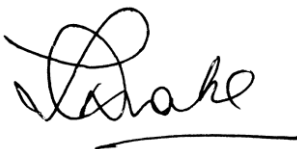
A rather belated welcome to 2013 to you.

This is an important year for us as we urgently seek a host for our 2014 Hovercraft World Championships. There is some news on this later in the Bulletin.

We must also resolve various issues that were raised at our Board meeting in Germany last year, and the events that followed concerning protests that may affect awarding trophies. All these issues must be resolved in good time ready for future events.

As you can see a busy time for our Officers, Country Delegates and you!

Kind regards,



Tony M. Drake JP. President of the World Hovercraft Federation.

P.S. As usual this Bulletin will be circulated to as many people as possible but please pass it on to anyone who you think may be interested.

World Hovercraft Championships 2014.

As you will be aware the WHF are required, if at all possible, to hold World Championships every two years ~ the next one being in 2014. So far the only country to come forward with a preliminary offer is Germany again. This is only a provisional offer and as there is a considerable amount of preparation to complete before a firm proposal can be submitted, Germany has asked the WHF to indicate that if they submit a full proposal that meets the WHF's criteria their offer would be accepted.

To this end your Country Delegate has been asked to vote on the following. If you wish to influence his / her decision please do not hesitate to contact them. They have been asked for their reply by the 20th of March 2013. If we do not hear from them it will be assumed that they accept the proposal.

"IF GERMANY PRESENT THE WHF WITH A FIRM PROPOSAL TO HOST THE WHF WORLD HOVERCRAFT CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2014 THAT MEETS OUR REQUIREMENTS WOULD YOU ACCEPT SUCH A PROPOSAL?"

Although this will mean that we will have successive Championships in Germany (although hopefully at a different venue), the WHF President recommends that you support this proposal.

WHF 2012 Delegate meeting.

We would like to remind you of the outstanding issues raised at the last WHF Board meeting. These are listed again below with some additional comment in red:

1. Sweden proposed to change the point system when heats are needed. At the moment the difference in points between 1st and 3rd place are too large.

Heat Position	Points	Heat Position	Points
1 st	20	2 nd	18
3 rd	16	4 th	14
5 th	13	6 th	12
7 th	11	8 th	10
9 th and onward decreasing by 1			

2. France proposed a prize to honour hull/craft manufacturers.
[Awaiting further proposals from France]
3. France maintains their view that when only 6 craft are registered in a formula there should not be a World title. **At the moment the Competition Regulations WHF001 at 9.2. (d) Classification, state 8.**

4. France proposed that for safety reasons each Continent should send the WHF a letter which shows their drivers have completed at least two international races in the year of a World Championship.

An alternative suggestion was made by Germany that a WHF hovercraft racing licence is needed and that only authorised countries should be able to issue these after investigating the driving history of applicants to see if they meet WHF requirements.

A further suggestion has been made: Once the entry date deadline has passed, the organisers pass the list of registered drivers to the WHF Country Delegates to confirm that drivers racing under that country's licence have completed a minimum of 5 individual National or International races in the previous 24 months.

5. France proposed that aggressive drivers (driving like bulls) should be penalised.

Are there further proposals or is this already covered by Competition Racing Rules WHF 001 ~ 8.7 C General?

6. Germany proposed that the rules concerning crash helmets, life jackets and back protections should be strengthened.

It has been suggested that the existing regulations Competition Regulations WHF001 4.2 governing crash helmets and life jackets are left as is, and the following added: It is **recommended** that drivers wear body armour (tested i.a.w BS EN 1621-1) and a back protector (tested i.a.w BS EN 1621-2).

7. Protest procedures to be reviewed.

Your President suggests that an addition is made to the Protest Procedure such that if a protest is lodged which will make a difference to any podium places (1st, 2nd, or 3rd) then a Special meeting of the WHF Board shall be convened **before** the presentation ceremony to decide the issues(s). The decision of this Board meeting will be final.

8. Competition Regulations WHF001 rule 7.3.G. to be reviewed and rewritten.

The European Hovercraft Federation has reviewed this rule and not changed it. However they have introduced an enhancement to it in the form of an additional rule as follows:

H. Drivers who hit course markers may be penalised by the removal of 1 point for each occurrence. Drivers who drive over or inside coarse markers may be penalised by the removal of 5 points. Up to the number of points gained in that race.

The WHF President and our Technical Director recommend that a decision on this topic is deferred until the end of the 2013 racing season so that we have the benefit of seeing its effect in action. However, if this is accepted you should be aware that it may be introduced at short notice.

9. How should the race course be defined?

The race course is reviewed during the course walk, and subsequently defined during drivers briefing, to which all drivers sign on as attending, thus whatever is described at briefing IS the course.

10. How should dangerous driving in the Paddock or pit lanes be dealt with?

Technically Competition Regulations WHF001. 8.7 C does not mention confines of a race or course, thus dangerous driving anywhere can be met by a penalty.

11. The WHF Director of Endurance Racing will be submitting future development plans.

All these topics will very shortly be circulated to your Country Delegate for their comments or in some cases a decision. If you have any views on these issues please discuss them immediately with your Country Delegate.

Use of Craft Log Books.

Our Technical Director wishes to remind you that it is essential when entering a craft at WHF events that it has a Craft Registration Document (Scrutineering and Defect Record book) as defined in Craft Registration WHF014. Indeed we would strongly encourage that all our Member Countries adopt this important document so that we have one standard throughout the world.

Hovercraft Manufacturers Association (HMA).

The WHF are pleased to note that a group of professional hovercraft builders from Europe have formed themselves into the Hovercraft Manufacturers Association (HMA). An "extract" of their press release issued by the HMA Secretary recently is given below:

"It is with enormous pleasure that I can announce that the Hovercraft Manufacturers Association was formed on Friday March 8th 2013.

The aims of the Association are to develop and mature the hovercraft industry, promoting their use in recreational and commercial roles, represent the industry to the media and legislative authorities and work together to ensure that our members produce safe hovercraft.

It is open to all full-time, professional hovercraft manufacturers from around the world and expressions of interest are encouraged from companies who could not make the inaugural meeting.

The officers elected were: **Chairman** : John Gifford and **Secretary / Treasurer** : Russ Pullen.

The HMA hope to strengthen and develop its ties with the WHF, EHF and HCGB Organisations as well as and enthusiasts, distributors and other operators.

For more information, contact the HMA via me, the Secretary, Russ Pullen on at +44 (0) 1304) 619820 or russ@flyingfishhovercraft.co.uk ”

And Finally ~

Please do discuss any of the above issues, or other matter that concern you, with your Country Delegate. This way the WHF can take your views into account.

For your information our Member Country Delegates are:

Australia (2)	Peter Streader	peter.streader@thomson.net
Austria (1)	Andrew Stelzhammer	andrew.stelzhammer@gmx.at
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Canada (2)	Bob Rennick	bob.rennick@gmail.com
Denmark (1)	Uffe Andersen	uffeandersen@hovercraftclub.dk
France (2)	Denis Ragot	rpm@wanadoo.fr
Germany (2)	Michael Rausch	rausch@luftkissen.de
Great Britain (2)	Chris Barlow	chrisbarlow@vfast.co.uk
Indonesia (1)	Soegiarto Soejatono	soejatono@yahoo.com
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Lebanon (1)	Houssam Chamseddine	calaw@cyberia.net.lb
Mauritius (1)	Siegi Scherrer	hovercraft@intnet.mu
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Poland (2)	Jakub Furmanski	biuro@pudoszkowce.pl
Portugal (1)	Mario Gonzaga Ribeira	fpm@fpmmotonautica.org
Slovakia (2)	Jaroslav Balaz	info@vznasadla.com
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South Africa (1)	Francois Malan	malan1968@gmail.com
Sweden (2)	Magnus Ivanoff	magnus@hovercraft.se
USA (2)	Kent Gano	kentgano@bellsouth.net

(*) number of votes each country has.

Please inform our Secretary, Christel Martens, if your country has made any changes.

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