



WORLD
HOVERCRAFT
FEDERATION

PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

Bulletin Number 57

February 2024

2024 World Championships at Saalburg, Germany.

29th August until 1st September 2024.

Welcome to 2024.

In our previous Bulletin we were pleased to confirm our next World Championships as above. Later in this Bulletin we are pleased to give you the latest details from our event organizers.

You may also recall that we had a tragedy at our last World Championships in Sweden. After much investigation and consultation with those involved the WHF have now concluded our report and initial recommendations. A summary of these appears later in this Bulletin.

To end on a happier note, good luck with you arrangements and preparations for our World Championships in Germany and I hope to see you there.

Kind regards,

Tony M Drake, JP. President ~ World Hovercraft Federation.

(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 Saalburg, Germany.

Germany is looking forward to welcoming us to our next World Hovercraft Championship from August 29th to September 1st in Saalburg.



Sparkassen
HOVERCRAFT WM
29. AUG. - 1. SEPT. 2024
SAALBURG

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spannende Rennen ab 10 Uhr

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Race-Party mit Feuerwerk
31. August • 21 Uhr

The event will take place at Germany's largest reservoir. The land section of the course will be 100% grass. For those who have attended previous Championships at Saalburg this is a new circuit adjacent to previous course

In the paddock there will be WC facilities and shower containers with hot water, and provision of emergency power supply for lighting. Participants are kindly asked to bring generators for their own power supply.

On Saturday, 31st August, it is planned to host a Race-Party with a big BBQ evening and delicious buffet for all participants.

The entry fees are: €50 per senior driver, €40 per junior driver and €25 per guest. Insurance costs €40 per craft. Tickets for the Race-Party with BBQ evening will be available for €29.

Official registration forms and more detailed information will be available very soon. To facilitate event planning we are asked to please register by March 31, 2024, at buchhaltung@amk-info-verlag.de with your name, address and email address.

WHF Board Meeting 2024.

Our next WHF Board meeting will be held in September during the World Hovercraft Championships at Saalburg, (venue and time to be confirmed). Formal invitations and agenda will be sent out by e-mail two weeks before the meeting. Within reason all are welcome at the meeting but only eligible country representative, or their nominated representative, have voting rights.

When you receive the agenda, you will note that there are several major items included for discussion at the meeting. These include:

- **Election of Board Members:**

If you wish to nominate a Board Member, please first of all get their permission and then notify our Secretary, at least eight weeks before the Board meeting.

- **Items for the Agenda:**

If there are any items that you wish the WHF to add to its agenda, please discuss this with your country representative who will arrange to do this. Any item should be supported by a proposal and full explanation and sent to our Secretary, by your country representative, no later than ten weeks before the Board meeting.

Any proposals and discussion papers will be circulated with the meeting papers, or earlier if received in good time, to give everyone the opportunity to consider or debate them before the meeting.

WHF Report on fatal accident in Sweden 2022 .

As you would expect following the sad death of Daniel Newton at our World Championships in Sweden in 2022 the WHF conducted a full investigation both to understand what had happened and what we could learn from it to minimise anything like it happening again in the future.

In brief:

The coroner who investigated Daniel's death concluded "Daniel's death was an accidental death as a consequence of the extensive injuries sustained following an unavoidable racing collision".

The cause of the collision was a failure of Daniel's lift engine. The cause of the failure is debatable. On inspection two defects were found, 1) a broken cable on the lift engine, 2) the carburettor had become detached. As a result of this amendments have been made to the WHF Racing Hovercraft Construction Regulations, WHF002. To assist with these amendments the HCGB have produced a Scrutineering Technical Bulletin designed to improve hovercraft wiring and will shortly be concluding a further Technical Bulletin designed to improve carburettor restraint. Both documents will be available to WHF members.

There were unfounded rumours concerning the provision of medical attention for Daniel after his accident. A statement from the attending emergency doctor, Dr Stig Johansson, confirmed that all those on the scene had done everything they could, his exact words were "Those who were there from the beginning had taken all the right steps". Notwithstanding this, the WHF have revised our onsite medical requirements.

Following a serious or fatal incident the flow of information to all on site, particularly to family and friends, is a major consideration. There were some things we got right and some we could have done better. To address this the WHF have revised our marshalling procedures to include a 'Code Purple' procedure that clearly states how such an event will be handled.

It has become apparent that there are some personal issues drivers should address before racing at WHF events which will make it easier for others to help them attend to the drivers' affairs should that driver be involved in a serious or fatal accident. A new WHF document has been drafted covering all aspects of these responsibilities which we hope will be a good aide memoire.

Revised 'drivers' registration forms' will be introduced for future WHF events. This is designed to ensure that in the event of them being involved in a serious accident that the drivers' wishes are respected, and they receive the best of any medical attention.

In preparing our report the WHF must pay tribute to Daniel's family for their understanding and dignity during what will have been a devastating time for them. In particular, we are so grateful to Daniel's sister, Jenny, who has been a major contributor in forming our procedures for the future.

As stated at the beginning this is only a summary. If WHF members wish to see a fuller report, please request this from Tony Drake at TonyMDrake@btpenworld.com

Changes / Additions to WHF Regulations and Documents.

Just a reminder. Last year there were changes to our WHF002 - Racing Hovercraft Construction Requirements and a new document WHF017 Formula Classifications for Racing Hovercraft. Both these documents will apply at our next World Championships in Saalburg and into the future.

And a Final REMINDER.

Please do discuss any of the above issues, or other matters that concern you, with your colleagues and your Country's representative. This way the WHF can take your views into account and develop for the future.

For your information, our Member Country Delegates are:

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(*) number of votes each country has at Board meetings.

Please inform our Secretary, Sacha Rouchier, at sacharouchier@hotmail.com , if your country has made any changes.