



WORLD HOVERCRAFT FEDERATION

PROPELLING GLOBAL HOVERSPORT

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Over the past few weeks and months I have been involved with much discussion over the forthcoming World Championships with the organizers, competitors and WHF delegates, far more than should have been necessary. I think that there are a few things that we should consider and possibly put in place for future World Championship events that would make life easier for us all. I list them below and the reasons for them, and suggest we start to consider these now and include them on our agenda for the next formal EHF meeting in France.

WHF Rules:

All WHF rules should be agreed and published 12 months before an event. Except in very exceptional circumstances only minor changes may be allowed.

Two reasons:

- (1) *This is because it will remove any uncertainty for competitors and organizers alike and allow both to plan accordingly.*
- (2) *This will considerably reduce the amount of time that is wasted by the organizers in trying to sort out issues with the WHF when they are hard pressed to organize the event.*

Minimum number of craft per formula:

If there are less than a minimum number of craft in any formula (number to be agreed) registered four months before a World Championship that formula will be withdrawn from the forthcoming Championship.

Three reasons:

- (1) *Should a World Champion really come from a very small number of craft competing in a formula?*
- (2) *A small number of craft racing in a World Championship formula is not good racing, gives a poor image for our sport, and is not good for the organizers relationship with any sponsors they may have.*

- (3) *It will encourage early registration which will considerably assist organizers with their planning.*

Formula 50:

If the experimental F50 is adopted for future World Championships should the organizers be allowed to exclude F50 competitors from Formula S?

With the introduction of additional formulae time pressure on the racing programme is making it almost impossible to accommodate everything, particularly if heats are needed. Removing F50 Drivers from FS will help reduce the possibility of heats being needed for FS.

New Formulae:

If new formulae or events are to be added to World Championships some existing ones must be dropped.

As it is time constraints on event programming make it very difficult to cope with existing requirements. To add any more would be almost impossible.

Frequency of World Championships:

Should World Championships normally be held every 3 years, instead of the existing 2? *With the ever increasing cost of traveling and transport to attend World Championships if there were a greater gap between them it may enable more participants, who have to travel large distances, to attend as it would give them a great time to seek sponsorship or to save up for them.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Drake', with a horizontal line underneath.

Tony Drake JP. President of the World Hovercraft Federation
www.worldhovercraftfederation.org

World Hovercraft Championships, 2006

Please make sure that you register for the World Hovercraft Championship 2006 as soon as possible on: www.whc2006.com

The French organisers will be very pleased to know how many people they can expect! All registration should be made before July 14th.

Formula 50 craft in Junior racing

Last year we voted, and most members agreed, to allow Juniors to use Formula 50 craft at World Championships, as they are for example in the UK, and Europe. This is on the basis that the craft and engine comply with the following:

- Craft with single Rotax 503 engine. (maximum re-bore for maintenance to 508 cc) or Fuji Robin EC44.
- Single fan, single duct integrated craft (Fans of less than 300mm used solely for engine cooling will not be counted).
- Single or twin carburetors maximum diameter of 37mm.
- Standard Rotax 503, or Fuji Robin EC 44, 2 into 1 exhaust system (positional modifications to allow safe fitting of the exhaust to the hull are permitted, but the exhaust must remain dimensionally the same).

World Hovercraft Federation Award for Excellence

Each year the WHF consider making their prestigious award for excellence to an individual, company, group or country that has made a major contribution to the world of hovercrafting. If you have any suggestions or nominations for 2005 please send them to the WHF secretary wordhovercraftfederation@planet.nl

(Past recipients include Barry Oakley for the work he has done as Race Director for many years at national, international and world level, Sir Christopher Cockerell for his work on Hovercraft development, Dr Bertelsen for his work on hovercraft technology, John Gifford on behalf of Griffon Hovercraft as being the most successful Company world wide, designing and manufacturing intermediate sized commercial hovercraft ,and Jean Claude Delorme for tirelessly organising the Raid on the Rhône for over 14 years).

World Championships 2008.

So far we have only received an indication from Mauritius that they would like to host our Championships in November 2008. If your Country is considering making a bid for 2008 please will you let our Secretary have a provisional notice as soon as possible and certainly by the end of April 2006 so that we can plan for the future.

Two WHF publications which will be helpful to countries considering making an application to host a World Championship are available on our website at www.worldhovercraftfederation.org or www.world-hovercraft-federation.org

- ***Information required for World Championship bids.*** This has been written at the request of member countries that may wish to apply to host a World Championship in the future.
- ***Marshalling Guidelines at World Championship events.*** This has been written by Barry Oakley to assist those organizing events.

WHF Web Page

As always if you have any upcoming announcements that you feel should be included in either the WHF Bulletin or placed upon the WHF web page, please contact the WHF secretary via email at worldhovercraftfederation@planet.nl

**World Hovercraft Federation
Franciscusstraat 41
6681 VP Bemmell
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 481-450471
worldhovercraftfederation@planet.nl**