

**ISAF Kiteboarding Format Trials  
Santander, Spain, 21-25 March 2012**

**Evaluation Report**

**Background Information:**

At the November 2011 ISAF Annual Conference the ISAF Council approved the recommendation from the Events Committee that a small and specialist evaluation team be appointed to look at the format and event management implications for Kiteboarding.

At the February 2012 ISAF Executive Committee meeting it was noted that the following members had been appointed to the Kiteboard Evaluation Working Party:

Kamen Fillyov - Chair ISAF Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Committee

Bruno de Wannemaeker - ISAF Equipment Committee

Michael Gebhardt - Olympic Windsurfer and professional Kiteboarder

Markus Schwendtner - Executive Secretary, International Kiteboarding Association

This Working Party has prepared the separate Technical Report based on the Kiteboarding trials held in Santander.

The Executive Committee also noted the panel of windsurfing, Kiteboarding and race management experts to prepare a final report for the ISAF Mid-Year meeting:

Tomasz Chamera - ISAF Events Committee

Ilker Bayindir - ISAF Windsurfing & Kiteboarding Committee

Bruno de Wannemaeker - ISAF Equipment Committee

This panel along with Alastair Fox, the ISAF Events Manager, has prepared this Evaluation Report.

The panel would like to note the generous support of the Prince Felipe High Performance Sailing Centre and the hard work of the specialist Kiteboarding Working Party. The panel would also like to note the enthusiasm and professional approach of the Kiteboarders who attended the trials. In total there were 17 competitors, 11 men and 6 women representing 11 countries (BRA, CAN, ESP, GBR, GER, ITA, NED, POL, THA, TUR, USA) and 4 continents (Asia, Europe, North America, South America).

**Areas of evaluation:**

**1. Race Management and Format**

- (a) There are no issues for ISAF from a race management point of view. No extra support, additional resources and facilities are required.
- (b) Typical starting system as per rule 26 with 5 minutes interval applies but flags colours are changed (red, yellow and green as used in NASCAR racing).
- (c) The races are organized by using ISAF Racing Rules of Sailing as changed by Appendix BB, Kiteboard Racing Rules.
- (d) Details on the recommended formats can be seen in the full Technical Report prepared by the Kiteboarding Evaluation Team; however the Windsurfing and Kiteboarding Committee should make final recommendation.
- (e) Kiteboarding can offer different types of format bringing racing close to the shore with short target times. Number of racing formats i.e. short track, slalom, course racing and *enduro* have been tested.

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- (f) Races are short and fast. The courses can be easily set close to the beach to increase spectators and media attention

**2. Event Management**

- (a) Shore requirements are minimal and existing venues should be able to cope easily.
- (b) Little wind (less than 3-4 knots) prevents Kiteboarders from starting to launch (kites may drop into the water).
- (c) Identification of kites and competitors by the juries and race committee shall be taken into consideration.
- (d) Safety issues are slightly different for Kiteboarding and it would be essential to have a well-trained team on the racing area (size of committee boats, tangled ropes, cutting the kites, jumping).

**3. Areas for ISAF to look at:**

- (a) Course racing is only a very small part of Kiteboarding so ISAF needs to work on contracts to ensure Kiteboarding at ISAF events is the pinnacle event and that the calendar is protected.
- (b) At the moment many National Kiteboarding Associations (NKAs) have no formal relationship with ISAF MNAs.
- (c) Safety issues shall be developed.

**Recommendations:**

- (a) Kiteboarding is ready to be included as an ISAF event for both men and women.
- (b) By introducing Kiteboarding to ISAF events both ISAF and the IKA can work to promote a new discipline of sailing, finalise safety, equipment & competition rules, look to develop new formats & spectator opportunities and align NKAs with ISAF MNAs.
- (c) Kiteboarding can add new interest to the ISAF Sailing World Cup and ISAF Sailing World Championships by helping to promote sailing to the media and the IOC. Effectively Kiteboarding can provide a real opportunity to help promote sailing.
- (d) Safety issues are slightly different for Kiteboarding and it would be essential to have a well-trained team on the racing area (size of committee boats, tangled ropes, cutting the kites, jumping).