

SWC Grand Final Blog 1

Overview

The top 20 boats from all 10 Olympic classes plus kitesurfing are invited to the ISAF Sailing World Cup Grand Final - Abu Dhabi. Racing days are November 27-30, 2014.

Invitations

The top 10 sailors at the ISAF Worlds in Santander will earn invitations and the rest of the invitations are handed out slightly differently depending on the event. Official notes on invitations are here:

<http://www.sailing.org/worldcup/news/38282.php>

Venue

The host venue is the Abu Dhabi Sailing and Yacht Club. It is located on the Abu Dhabi Breakwater next to Heritage Village, a well know landmark in the city. The Marina Mall is close by and offers many different types of shops and food outlets including a large Carrefour supermarket.

The official opening of the venue is November 24th. Teams may, by prior arrangement, request early access to the venue, by emailing; swcfinals@adsyc.ae Access to the club will be granted with the only limitations being on venues set up and charter boat availability.



Local Conditions

The Abu Dhabi Sailing and Yacht Club is located on the north-west of the main island of the city, a short drive from the center of the city. Launching is into a protected strip of water (Abu Dhabi Corniche), similar to the launching from the Rowing Club in Miami, except there is a full club in Abu Dhabi.

Sea Breezes are exceptionally consistent here, and locals say no days will be missed for lack of wind. Expected conditions are outflow in the morning which we will not plan to race in followed by a sea breeze usually 8-12 knots but it can be into the higher teens. The breeze starts at 1130, stabilizing at 1300 and flows until dark 1730. Sailors should expect relatively flat water and no tide. The longest sail to a course area should be no more than 15 minutes.

Weather forecasts:

Windfinder and Windguru are generally quite reliable in predicting the direction and trends; however the windspeed and timing may vary from their prediction.

http://www.windfinder.com/forecast/abu_dhabi_bateen

<http://www.windguru.cz/int/index.php?sc=207>

Currently I think their website is being updated/changed, so links seems to be a bit iffy... but local weather information can be found on the website of the National Center of Meteorology and Seismology:

<http://new.ncms.ae/home/index-en.html> - Main Website

<http://new.ncms.ae/english/forecasts.htm> - General Forecast

<http://new.ncms.ae/gmodel/awuae.asp?pg=en> – Wind and waves forecast charts

<http://new.ncms.ae/stations/> - Weather stations with regular updates of current conditions

Flights

The Abu Dhabi International Airport (AUH) receives flights from many international carriers. It is located at about a 20 minute drive from the city center and about a 30 minute drive from ADSYC. Taxi's offer transportation from the airport to the city at a regulated fixed rate or meter (cash only).

The preferred and national carrier of Abu Dhabi is Etihad Airways, here is their routemap:

<http://flights.etihad.com/routemap>

The Dubai International Airport (DXB) is located in the center of Dubai, at about a 1h30 drive from Abu Dhabi.

Additionally, flights to Dubai are almost as convenient, with transfers available to Abu Dhabi on http://www.emirates.com/english/destinations_offers/destinations/america/brazil/rio_de_janeiro/ It's about a 1 hour drive from Dubai airport to Abu Dhabi.

Visa's

Citizens of Australia, Andorra, Austria, Brunei, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Monaco, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States of America and the Vatican State can get a free-of-charge entry visa upon arrival at Abu Dhabi International Airport. (GCC citizens do not need a visa to enter the UAE.)

Citizens of all other countries will need to apply for a Tourist, Transit or Visit Visa prior to their trip. Please note it may take a few working days to apply and receive a visa.

If you are booking through the details provided in the Notice of Race, our travel agent will be able to arrange a visa for you upon request.

If you are flying with Etihad Airways, a visit visa may be arranged for you upon request. If you have booked your trip through a travel agency, in most cases they will be able to arrange this for you.

If you require any assistance in arranging a visa, please contact the ADSYC: swcfinal@adsyc.ae

Accommodation

The Abu Dhabi tourism authority has secured preferential pricing at a number of 4 star hotels in the immediate area around the sailing venue. This information can be found in the pdf download.

Social

The regatta site will have a sailors lounge to make things pleasant while waiting for racing. Additionally, there will be morning and evening activities made available for sailors looking for a more complete trip. These activities include Camel racing, the Grand Mosque, Ferrari World, and much more.

There is a gym onsite that will be open to all sailors.



Sailboats and Boards

For the Laser, Radial, 49er and 49erFX, the boats are provided. Sailors/Teams must use the provided boats, details are in the NOR. For the RSX and Kitesurfing, sailors are expected to fly with their gear, a excess baggage reimbursement will be available of up to 1200 AED per competitor upon receipt. For the Nacra, 470, and Finn will have the ability to ship their boats from central locations (Santander, other) to Abu Dhabi and from Abu Dhabi to other central locations (Miami, Marseille, Other). The Organizing Authority will pay for shipping of these containers and also pay each team \$1000 USD in compensation for their boat being in a container for the duration.

49er and 49erFX

All sailors shall sail with supplied boats, foils, masts. Sailors shall provide their own sails, footstraps, and tiller extensions.

Footsteps: pre-drilled holes will be placed in all wings. Sailors must bring footstraps that will fit into the drilling plan that is the same for every boat. Additionally, teams are expected to leave the footstraps on the boats at the end of the regatta.

Vang, Cunningham, Tack Line, and Spin Pole Extender: Teams shall bring their own lines and bungy for these systems. The OA will provide the blocks and hardware. Teams may set up these systems as they prefer and are expected to leave the lines and bungy from these system on the boat at the end of the regatta.

Grip Tape: teams may, if they wish, apply grip tape to the charter boats. All grip tape applied shall be left on the boats at the end of the regatta.

Remaining lines: All remaining lines are available by the organizers, but teams may also use their own lines and halyards. Any lines and halyards provided by the teams may be taken away by the teams at the end of the event.

Lasers and Radial

Boats will be supplied complete with 1 piece of everything per boat except for the sail. Sailors shall use their own sails, the supplied hull, foils, and mast, and may substitute any rigging items for their own for the duration of the regatta.

Nacra, 470, and Finn

To be announced. For inquiries please contact Ben Remocker at swcfinals@adsyc.ae

Coaching

Each racecourse will have a 40 foot motor yacht that all coaches are invited to use completely free of charge. It will follow the racing up and down the courses as per normal coach boat restrictions. Coaches may bring their own coach boats to Abu Dhabi, logistics details can be arranged by contacting our logistics manager for the event. The coach boat regulations will be as per normal Sailing World Cup events over the past few years.

Charter RIBS

There are up to 16 coach boats available for charter being imported through the club. Boats are 5.5m ribs with 50hp engines. As the supply is limited we hope teams will pair up in rental. Each MNA will initially only be able to reserve a single boat prior to September 8, 2014. From September 8-20, MNA's that are interested may rent a second boat if available. From Sept 21 and on, any remaining boats will be on a first come first serve basis.

To reserve a boat get in contact with Omar: omar@emirates-advanced.com

About Abu Dhabi

For more information about Abu Dhabi we would recommend you visit: www.visitabudhabi.ae

Local culture

Abu Dhabi has a very tolerant and welcoming culture to all foreigners. As most of the UAE, Abu Dhabi is city of many mixed cultures; Western, Asian and Arabic. Residents are used to meeting people from all over the world. The official religion in the UAE is Islam, so travelers are requested to be modest and show respect for Islamic culture and traditions.

Language

Although Arabic is the official language in the UAE, English is widely spoken. Most transactions at shops, taxis, hotels, restaurants, etc. in Abu Dhabi are conducted in English.

Currency

The local currency is the UAE dirham (AED or Dhs) which is divided into 100 fils and is pegged against the US \$ (US\$ 1: AED 3.6725). There are many ATM machines across the city, at the airport and in most hotels. The use of credit cards is also widely accepted.

Clothing

Lightweight summer clothing is suitable for most of the year, but something slightly warmer may be needed in winter months. Take a jacket or sweater when visiting hotels or the cinema, as the air conditioning can be fierce.

Although the attitude towards dress is fairly liberal throughout the Emirates, a healthy amount of respect for local customs doesn't go amiss, especially when shopping or sightseeing. Short or tight clothing may be worn, but may attract attention. When in public it is generally recommended to cover shoulders and wear shorts that cover the knees. When visiting a restaurant or bar a dress code may apply.

Alcohol

Tourists are allowed to consume alcohol in designated places (hotels and private areas). Public drunkenness and driving under the influence is strictly prohibited and enforced.