



## Formula Experience Class Association

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## World Championships

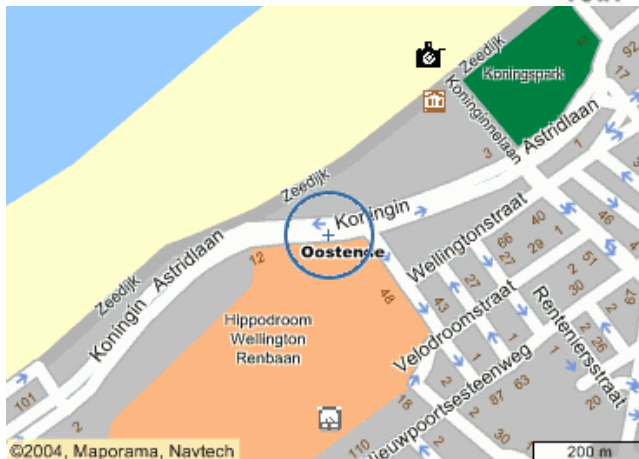
Preparations for the Formula Experience World Championships in Oostende, Belgium are well under way.

**The championships will be held from 25-30 July 2004.**

Team USA will be there again in force. But also large national teams from Poland, Belgium, Netherlands, France, Germany, Norway and many individual racers  
The event will be organised by VVW Inside Outside in cooperation with the VYF

The Notice of Race and the entry form is available on the class website: [www.formula-experience.org](http://www.formula-experience.org)

Some charter boards are available. If you need charter equipment, please fill in the forms a.s.a.p. as the number of available boards is limited.



## Training Camp

Prior to the Formula Experience World Championships, the national coach of France, Mr. Didier Flamme, will organise a training camp for his team in Oostende. **Dates: 22-24 July.** This camp is open to all interested competitors. For further info you can contact Didier Flamme at: [didier.flamme@ffv.fr](mailto:didier.flamme@ffv.fr)

## Event schedule Worlds 2004.

24 July	09.00	Entries & preparations
25 July	09.00	Entries
	14.00	Practise race
	18.00	Opening ceremony
	19.30	Welcome party
26 July	10.00	First possible start
	14.00	<i>Rafting cup if not enough wind for racing</i>
	14.00	City walk in Oostende for all interested parents
	17.30	Free evening meal
	19.00	Reception Town hall
27 July	10.00.	First possible start
	14.00	<i>Kayak competition if not enough wind for racing</i>
28 July	0.900	For all interested parents: Excursion to Bruges (Brugge). A beautiful mediaval town. Start: railway station Oostende.
	10.00.	First possible start
	14.00	<i>Petanque competition if not enough wind for racing</i>
	19.00	Halfway party
29 July	10.00.	First possible start
	14.00	<i>Excursion to Atlantic Wall (Second WW) if not enough wind for racing</i>
	19.00	Free evening meal
30 July	10.00.	First possible start
	Evening	Prize giving and closing party

**ATTENTION: Please note that entry on site will add €40 to the entry fee. See send in your entry forms and payment now!**

## National FT/FE Programs.

In the number one country of the world as far as windsurfing is concerned, France, the sailing federation has decided to use the FE/FT structure as basis for its youth program. France was always very successful in longboard racing. It had an extensive youth program with the Aloha class. However, with the gaining popularity of the wide style boards, it was felt that a change was necessary. Recently the FFVoile announced the change of equipment.

### New Junior and Youth Set up in France

#### *Aloha replaced by the BIC 293 O.D.*

France is the world's largest windsurfing country with several thousands of juniors and youth competitors and has one of the best junior and youth structures. The past 10 years, it has been mainly based on the Bic Aloha. A traditional longboard.

With the decision of BIC sports to cease the production of the Aloha, the FFVoile was faced with the necessity to find a new board for this very successful junior and youth program. To attract the maximum possible number of young sailors, France wanted to find a modern, attractive board that young people like to sail and gives them pleasure when sailing and racing.

The FFVoile decided to set up a test program with all designs available on the French market. These designs were tested by committee members of the FFVoile, representatives of the windsurfing districts (ligues), clubs, trainers of Funboard, Aloha and Mistral O.D. and a number of young competitors.

The outcome of the test was that the new BIC 293 O.D. corresponded best with the set of demands. It has a wide wind range, is easy to control by both small and larger kids, has a good performance, goes upwind well (it has a retractable daggerboard) and gives a funboard feeling in planning conditions. The high speed and the pleasant sailing feeling proved very attractive for the young sailors.

The new board, like its predecessor the Aloha, is suitable for both windsurfing instruction and racing programs. This simplifies the equipment selection for clubs as they only need to invest in one board for teaching and racing.

The BIC 293 O.D is now the official junior and youth board in France and will replace the Aloha.

The last event for Aloha is the French Championship in July 2004. The new season starts in September 2004 on the BIC 293 O.D. It is the French variant of FT racing.

The new set up in France is now:

**Minimes** (12-13-14) will all sail on the BIC 293 O.D.

**Cadets** (15-16-17) can choose to continue on the BIC 293 O.D. or can start in regular Formula Experience (in France also known under the name Techno Formula Cup) or sail the Mistral One Design.

On the International level, the BIC 293 O.D meets the Formula Experience Class rules and as of 2005, the Formula Experience Class Continental and World Championships will be the official international events for the new French Junior and Youth program. As is already the case for the French Formula Experience Techno Formula Cup racers.

For French competitors it means that all sailors that started on the Aloha can continue with their sportive career without any problems.

This is good news for France but also for Formula Experience. It means a constant influx of high level French junior and youth competitors, both in FT and FE racing.



**The new Bic Techno O.D. for the FT division of Formula Experience.**

## First Time racing (FT) / Techno 293 O.D. & Formula Experience / Techno Cup in relation to other windsurfing activities

First Time racing is a division of Formula Experience, intended as the first entry into the sport. It uses so-called multi fin or hybrid boards, short boards with daggerboards or fins that are in particular suitable for learning activities and the first steps into racing. In France FT is sailed on the Techno 293 O.D. In other countries, various Starboard models and Excocet boards are also class legal. As we wrote on the website:

*The new generation entry level boards are very easy to sail and yet fast and agile that they are more than capable to be used for the first steps in competition. So Formula Experience took the initiative to form a special entry level group within the Formula Experience class under the name of First Time Racing.*

*Since this is an entry level class, the equipment used may vary from place to place in order to be able to use locally popular boards to maximum effect.*

*All boards eligible for this division have a durable construction such as ASA and come with a daggerboard.*

*There are two maximum sail sizes:*

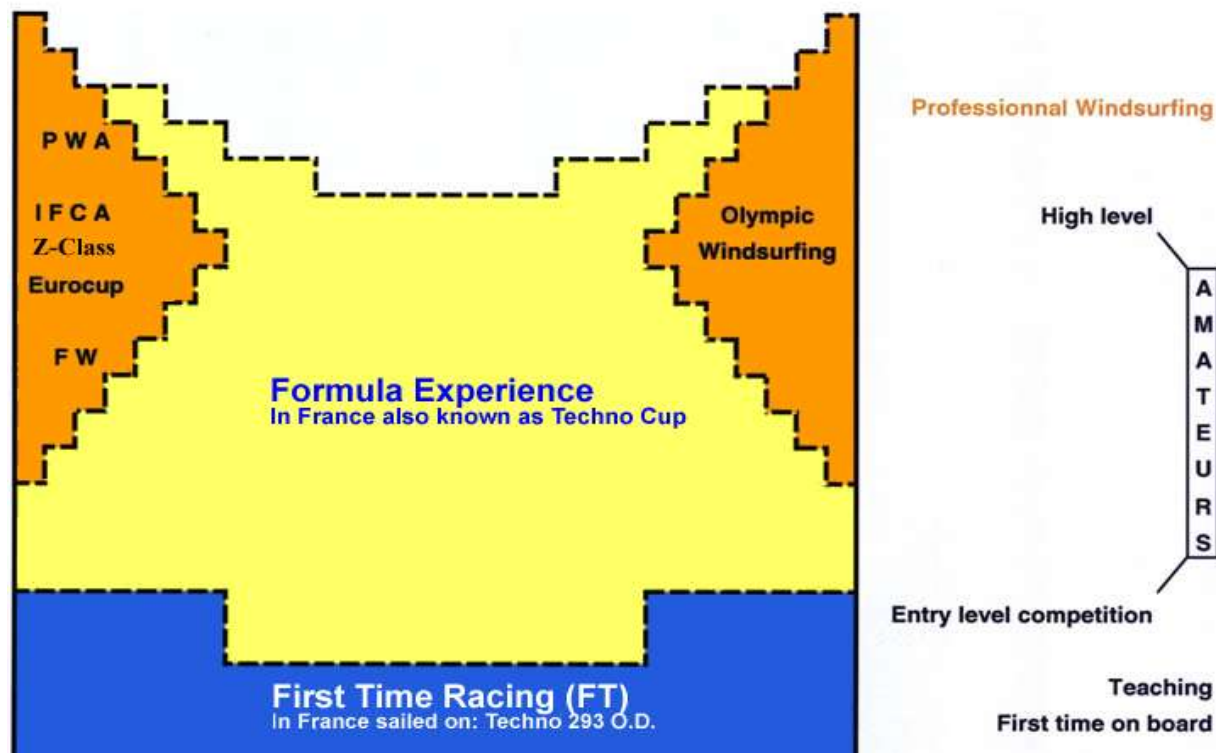
*7.5m<sup>2</sup> (max 3 cams, max 7 full length battens). Open to all ages.*

*5.5m<sup>2</sup> (no cams), specially intended for the most junior racers; the hotshots (under 13). Perfect boards for this age group are the specialized kid boards (Starboard Starsurfer and Excocet Kidjunior)*

More info on FT and some pictures can be found on <http://www.formula-experience.org>.

What the transition of France from the Aloha to FT (sailed on the Bic Techno O.D.) in September, we will see a fast grow in this division next year.

**Formula Experience** itself (in France also known under the name **Techno Cup**) is a form of racing intended for youth and amateurs who value fun racing at affordable budgets. FE is the ideal stepping stone to a further career in windsurfing on one of the high level/professional classes or in the Olympic class and a class for adult amateur racing.



# FAST GROWING FLEET OF YOUNG WINDSURFERS IN NORWAY!

Photos: Lill Hollstedt

There have been many years with almost no recruiting of young windsurfers in Norway and the racing fleets getting older and older. And the first time on a Formula Experience board for a few Norwegian windsurfers was in Thailand last December. What they experienced in Thailand really inspired; *finally finding the perfect recruiting class into modern windsurfing racing*. Since then they have worked very hard and targeted to get the young Norwegian sailors into the class. Much thanks to very good support from the countries largest windsurfing dealer and importer of Starboard, SeaSport, and also good collaboration with the National Boardsailing Association and the countries Sailing Federation. Resulting in a growth from 0 to 18 boards, in just a few months!



Part of Team Norway

And in the capital Oslo the Royal Sailing Club has school and other windsurfing activities every day from June trough July. And also in the surrounding sailing-clubs we now find active windsurfing schools and are seeing several young sailors starting to take part in Fun Time Racing and Formula Experience at both local and national level.

The weekend June 19<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>, a race in Norwegian Cup 2004 was held and we managed to get 7 sailors on FE boards. With support from the sponsor, the young sailors had a weekend of great racing and were also kept busy with other actives like wakeboarding. And it is just amazing to see how the young sailors enjoy being together and also the fact that they race on the pretty much the same equipment and can help each other out. And also in very windy conditions with rough sea like we experienced this weekend, the heavier FE boards made it possible for our young sailor from only 14 years of age, sailing 6.5 and the rest on 8.5 to get around one lap on the big Formula Windsurfing course and have great competition together with the much more experienced and older FW-sailors. With a regular formula board this would just have been impossible; the boards would have been jumping uncontrolled all over the place! Our young and new racers impressed a lot of people!

The people working very hard to promote windsurfing racing for the young in Norway wants to underline the importance of a stable, easy to understand and manufacturer supported class like Formula Experience. Too many changes in rules, or to big changes in equipment is something we are very concerned about. We have seen this class opening up a whole new world for those who wants to find an affordable and modern way to become top level windsurfers and still race on modern equipment. We truly hope the industry and more see what we see! And if they don't, then we will be happy to invited them down to the "real world" to show what is really going on and how to practically get the young involved...

A small team of Norwegian Formula Experience racers will attend the Worlds in Belgium. The goal is to have lots of fun and learn as much as possible! The sailors are already talking about how fun it is going to be to meet sailors from all over the world...

PS: Take a look in our gallery for some inspiration:  
<http://homepage.mac.com/seasportmac/PhotoAlbum11.html>  
<http://homepage.mac.com/seasportmac/PhotoAlbum13.html>

See you in Belgium!

Kind regards, Lill Hollstedt (Team Norway)

This spring for the first time in many years some activities were targeted just for younger windsurfers. We arranged a Junior Camp, and also at every race in the Norwegian Cup there is now scheduled both Formula Experience and Fun Time Racing. A very attractive package deal including Starboard 136/156 with North Sails R-type rig was also marketed. Most of our Formula Experience sailors are in their very first season of racing, most with not much windsurfing experience, the age is from 12 to 17 years. Anders Loeken, one of the leading windsurfers in Norway has coached the young sailors, offered very valuable advice on sailing technique and helped them start writing log-books and more. On the west-coast the countries leading windsurfing club has bought two complete boards with rigs to market racing to the young sailor's already taking part in school and training programs.



Having fun at speed

# Windsurfing USA

Photos Charles Ivey

**On the other side of the ocean. US Sailing and US Windsurfing are working on the revival of the windsurfing sport. For some reason, longboard racing was never very popular amongst US youth and consequently competition was going down. Two years ago, Carolyn Boersma, youth coordinator of US Windsurfing and Charles Ivey, coach of Team USA, started a new, very successful, program on FE/FT equipment.**

**This is a report from Team USA:**



**Charles Ivey**

The junior and youth division sailors of TeamUSA are excited to be coming to the Formula Experience World Championship in Oostende, Belgium. Coach Charles Ivey has indicated this year's team should be larger than last year's group that travelled to Portugal for the European FE Championships. Most of last year's team returns for 2004 with more experience and they are joined by several new sailors who are eager to compete in the Class.

TeamUSA members participated in the Midwinters in Florida earlier this year and are now preparing for the North American Championships and the US Nationals before going to Belgium. They also are sailing in several regional and local events around the USA.

The Formula Experience Class has been recognized and supported by both US SAILING and the US Windsurfing Association and TeamUSA is the official junior and youth team for USWA. To improve development of Formula Experience Class sailors, the USWA program has been expanded to include regional coaches and programs in areas across the USA. These regional programs will feed into the National Program so that more young sailors will have the opportunity to participate in Formula Experience events in the USA and internationally.

A national FE training centre has been established so that young men and women can obtain additional training and coaching in order to improve their sailing.



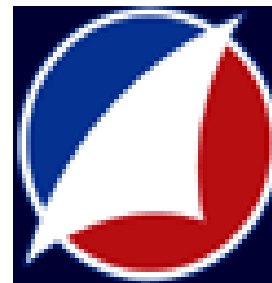
**Lene Botha**

Coach Ivey stated, "The FE Class has proven to be an excellent approach for us in the USA and we are hopeful that we can grow participation in racing by featuring FE as our primary youth and development class." He also shared that the TeamUSA sailors appreciate the opportunity to meet their fellow competitors from all the FE participating countries and the chance to learn from the experiences of sailing with the fine athletes from around the world.



**Chilton McKnight**

The USA is currently planning to host the 2005 FE World Championship, with the goal of announcing the site at the World Championship event in Belgium in July of this year.



**Logo Team USA**

## **FE North American Championship, JULY 2 - 4, 2004 KINGSTON, ONTARIO**

The FE North Americans are hosted by CORK/Sail Kingston. The event can be followed on: [www.cork.org/nor-unlim2004.htm](http://www.cork.org/nor-unlim2004.htm). A delegation of Team USA will be there.

# Class and other news



## Class fees

Those countries that have not yet paid their 2004 class fee, please note that you need to do that before the start of the event.

The class fees are as follows:

- Up to 20 competitors: 50 Euro per year.
- 21-50 competitors: 100 Euro per year.
- Over 50 competitors; 150 Euro per year.

**Please check that any bank charges are paid by the member association.** Bank details see above. If you have for some reason not yet received your invoice, please contact the Class secretary:

Marc Cardon: [Marc.Cardon@wanadoo.fr](mailto:Marc.Cardon@wanadoo.fr) Fax: +33 (0) 320 507 316.

## Technical committee.

Recently, a technical committee was formed consisting of people active in national youth programs and or measurement. Among the tasks of the new committee are: Measurement issues, training new measurers, advising on matters of equipment, selection of event venues, updating the race manual, etc.

The committee is chaired by Charles Ivey. Suggestions and comment are welcome. Please contact Charles at: [charlesivey@cox.net](mailto:charlesivey@cox.net)

Members:

- Arek Hronowski, Poland
- Bart Plasschaert, Belgium
- Carolyn Boersma, USA
- Lill Bente Hollstedt, Norway
- Didier Flamme, France
- Peter England, UK

## The Mysteries of Sail Measurement

What is more simple than just printing the actual surface area on a sail?

Well, life would become boring if we keep it simple.

Where Starboard managed to confuse the windsurfing world with its virtual volume for boards, BIC did the same with sail sizes. Creating its own classification. All sails supplied with the Techno Formula and 293 D boards are roughly 0.3m<sup>2</sup> smaller than indicated when measured according to more conventional methods. Practical implication: the 8.8. actually meets the Formula Experience class rules.

On all new sails BIC adds a label stating the actual sail size.

## Equipment news!

Nautix, the French producer of windsurfing equipment such as booms and masts has announced that they will produce a special Formula Experience mast with a length of 520 cm. (IMCS 32). It is a 75% carbon mast that meets the weight criteria as set in the class rules.

Nautix is also the producer of the Aluminium Jumbo boom (up to 290 cm in length). More info: [info@nautix.com](mailto:info@nautix.com)

## Special offer

During the first Formula Experience World Championships, there are some nice deals on new and used boards.

New Starboard 156 ASA now for €470 including VAT

New Starboard 136 ASA now for €430 including VAT

Boards used for charter, will be sold after the events for €330 (156) and €300 (136)

For more information or reservations, contact Peter at: [pjewindsurf@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pjewindsurf@blueyonder.co.uk)

## New board for FT

Starboard has released a board intended for the most junior sailors. The Prokid Formula. This board is suitable for kids between 8 and 12 years (under 50kg). A nice addition to the FT range of Formula Experience. More information, contact Starboard.