

Interview with Guido Verlaeckt

Hi Guido ,

Q - This is your 4th year as an ISAF International Measurer for the FW class, how do you like the job?

I like the job very well. I did the measurement already before as an assistant when my sons did the competitions. And so I can say I rolled in.

The registration day gives you stress if you have to control 100 or more competitors. Sometimes it is a race against the time as everything has to be checked before the start of the races.

Once the competition starts it is more or less relaxing and you can do the checks on the beach.

Q - What changes would you like to see in the class equipment inspection procedures?

First of all I would like that the equipment form is attached to the NOR. The competitor can download it and complete it. He or she can print or send it to the measurer of the event. We can do it as try-out for continentals and for worlds. We are looking how we can improve this procedure

At the event

The ideal should be that we have our fixed place for the registration where the competitors can present their equipment so that we don't have to go from one corner to the other. It will make it easier to check the sails than on a reduced surface. The system now is no problem for the boards and the fins.

Q - What about Class Rules - how do you view the recent AGM decision regarding sails /fins limitation?

This is difficult to answer, because I was not at the AGM and I don't know the background for proposing the change. If the issue is the transportation, I think even with two sails the airlines will make problems.

For the fins I have no problem; you can have 1 light wind and 1 high wind fin to cover your needs.

The sail discussion is more complex because the industry is also involved. Are they able to make the sails in a couple of months so that 2 sails can cover the wide wind-range in FW? For me it seems to be impossible to do this already for 2012. With 2 sails they need to redesign the sails for that purpose. On the other hand most of the sailors will still have 3 sails and the decision which sails to use will depend on the forecast at the venue.

Personally I would keep the 3 sails and go for 2 fins.

Q - What do you think about this years Europeans - do you like the venue?

The venue is good. Janis did a great job and I hope that the class can come back for other and even bigger events. They say Liepaja is the city where the wind is born and I have to confirm it.

Q - You were elected to the formula committee this year, what are your opinions and expectations for the future of the class?

To make an opinion I think it is a little bit too early, I am only a few weeks in the committee, but I feel already there is a lot to do.

We live in a hard time and we feel it in organizing events and the number of competitors. The transportation cost has a big influence on that. Therefore if there could be a deal with some airlines, it could make life easier and more attractive to come to events.

Probably we have to re-think some issues like the marketing of the class and why not of the sailors.

Like every class we have up's and dawn's.

If you see the evolution of slalom, they returned in force after a dip. We have to work on it to do the same.

There is a potential in the T293 class ; it is up to us to bring them to the FW class

It is a big challenge but I believe in it .

Have good winds and good racing