



Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championships

24 May to 1 June 2008

Hossegor – Seignosse – Capbreton (Landes, France)

For the first time, France is set to host the Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championships, presented by Quiksilver and Roxy, organised by the French Surfing Federation (FFS) and the International Surfing Association (ISA), with the support of the French Ministry of Sport. The ISA is recognised by the International Olympic Committee.

It will be in Olympic spirit that more than 250 athletes, from the world's top surfing countries and some less usually associated with the sport, will come together on the world famous beaches of Seignosse, Hossegor and Capbreton in the South West of France to compete for both individual and team World Junior Champion titles.

Unlike standard professional events, the surfers will compete in national team format. This format is unique in world surfing. The surfers will be competing solely for the honour of receiving a gold, silver, bronze, or copper medal and representing their nation.

With just a few months to go until Beijing 2008, Olympic fever is set to grip the world of surfing, which soon hopes to become one of the official sports at the Summer Games and Summer Youth Olympic Games.

The Olympic touch

The Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championships maintains a very a prestigious reputation within the echelons of world elite surfing competitions.

The Universal Surfing Event

The event will see junior athletes, both girls and boys, under the age of 18 coming from every continent on the planet. More than 30 countries will be represented this year in France. Among them there will be the powerhouses such as Australia, USA, South Africa, and Hawaii along side emerging nations as the likes of Israel, Morocco, Costa Rica and many Latin American nations.

A Different Concept

Contrary to professional events where surfers compete for individual titles and money, surfers competing in the Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship do so as part of their National Surfing Teams, for the privilege of representing the colours of their country and to win an ISA World Champion Gold, Silver, Bronze or Copper medal.

The ISA

The International Olympic Committee recognises the ISA as the world governing authority for surfing, bodyboarding and surfriding. Originally established in 1964 as the International Surfing

Federation, the ISA (as it has been known since 1976) has been organising World Surfing Championships for over 40 years. In 1980, it organised the first World Junior Championship. During his fourteen years as ISA President, Fernando Aguerre has tirelessly worked to have surfing officially recognised by the IOC and subsequently accepted into the Olympic Games. This year in France, land of the modern Olympics and only a few weeks before the Beijing Games, the ISA hopes to reconfirm the values, culture and identity of the movement are enough to integrate into the Olympic Games Program.

The ISA Opening Ceremony: An olympic spirit

Traditionally all ISA World Championships begin with a Parade of Nations. During the procession, surfers, coaches and managers march as one under their national colors through the streets of the host town.

Even though there is a strong chance that the event will take place on the beaches of Seignosse, the 2008 ISA World Junior Surfing Championship Opening Ceremony presented by Quiksilver and Roxy will roll under the fanfare of music along the streets of Hossegor.

At Parade's end, all teams congregate before officials, VIP's and guests to participate in the *Sands of the World*. This ceremony, under the signs of peace and fraternity, is a cousin of the ho'kupo (mixing of the waters), which consists of mixing of sands from each participating delegation.

A brief history of the ISA World Junior Championships

The junior division of the ISA-organised World Surfing Games was created in Biarritz (France) in 1980 which was ultimately won by Tom Curren.

In 2002, the ISA decided to make the juniors an event in its own right, and the inaugural ISA World Junior Championships were held in Durban (South Africa) in 2003. They have since travelled to Papeete (Tahiti) in 2004, Huntington (CA, USA) in 2005 and Maresias (Brazil), whilst Portugal hosted the 2007 edition, which saw record participation with 257 competitors involved.

The 2008 edition: a record

With over 300 surfers from 30 countries, the 2008 Quiksilver ISA World Junior Championship will create a record event in its own right.

The World Junior Championship categories are:

Boys under 18 years

Boys under 16 years

Girls under 18 years

The list of countries competing in the 2008 EDITION:

South Africa

Germany

Argentina

Australia

Barbados

Brazil

Canada

Chile

Costa Rica

Ecuador

Spain

France

Great Britain

Guatemala

Hawaii

Ireland

Israel

Italy

Jamaica

Japan

Morocco

Mexico

New Zealand

Peru

Puerto Rico

Portugal

Tahiti

USA

Venezuela

In 2007 it was the Australian, Garrett Parkes who won the under 16 boys division and Jadson Andre from Brazil who won gold in the under 18 boys.

Sally Fitzgibbons from Australia was a brilliant winner of the under 18 girls. She has since gone on to confirm her status as a rising star in the surfing world with victories at the World Pro Junior titles and the WQS Roxy Surf Festival at Philip Island in Victoria.

The Favourites

With two current world title holders in their ranks, Australia will be without doubt the favourite for the teams title.

Both Garrett Parkes and Sally Fitzgibbons, winners of the 2007 edition, will be leading an Aussie team full of depth who are, at all times, super competitive.

They will however have to deal with the other major surfing nations such as 2003 title holders Brazil, 2005 title holders Hawaii, the USA, South Africa and of course France, 2nd Place 2006.

Heading for a first world title

The 2008 WJSC is a wonderful opportunity for the French Surfing Federation to showcase the positive results that its elite group of surfers have been experiencing over the last couple of years.

The entry in the elite of the world and the success of the new tricolour surfing generation is a good demonstration of the massive improvement of the French Surf Federation, of its clubs and of its Elite department, on the sports field, event organisation and elite coaching.

With the goal of reaching the highest step on the podium for 2008, the French Surfing Federation has an excellent selection consisting of a main team and reserves: Pauline Ado, Alizée Arnaud, Marie Dejean, Marc Lacomare, Charlie Martin, Pierre Valentin Laborde for the juniors; Maxime Huscenot, Dimitri Ouvre, Kieran Bullard and Ian Fontaine for the cadets.

The final selection will take place at the Hossegor training camp between the 28th and 30th of March, 2008.

To fulfil these objectives, the French Surf Federation has decided to implement a new preparation concept by offering to its national team a wide range of training sessions both in France and abroad, and by organizing training competitions against the Costa Rica team in Biarritz on May 18, and against Tahiti in Hossegor on May 21.

The FFS has gathered together a number of multidisciplinary trainers and physical and mental specialists from the high level federal department in order to create the best possible environment for success.

Alize Arnaud

Alize is a confirmed member of the new wave of French surfers. Along with Lee-Anne Curren and Pauline Ado, Alize Arnaud is at the forefront of European Girls surfing. Along with other leading European surfers Jeremy Flores and Mickey Picon, Alize began her career at Capbreton where she won the 2005 King of the groms girls division (ex Quiksilver Pro Junior).

She had an exceptional year in 2007 where she was French Junior Champion and runner up in the open women's division, a number of podiums on the European Pro –Junior circuit and an eye opening performance at the Pantin WQS.

Alize will be one of the leaders of the Team France and the young girl from the South West of France intends to go all the way to being 2008 World Junior Champion.

BIO EXPRESS

Nationality: French

DOB: 16/02/1990

Resides: Capbreton (France)

Sponsor : Roxy, Gorilla grip, FCS, Mark Phipps surfboards

Favorite Spots : La Gravière, La Piste (Fra)

Favourite surfers: Mick Fanning, Kelly Slater

PALMARES

2007

French Junior Champion

2nd Open Female Division French Championships

2nd WQS 4* Pantin (Spn)

1st Lacanau Pro Junior (Fra)

2nd Buondi Pro Junior (Port)

2nd Pro Junior d'Ericeira (Port)

2nd Roxy Surf Festival Philipp Island Pro Junior (Aus)

13th Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship

5th World Pro Junior Narabeen (Aus)

MAXIME HUSCENOT

Having grown upon the Island of La Reunion, Maxime developed a veritable passion for the ocean and aquatic activities at a young age. He was nicknamed Macabi which means "small fish" in Creol, by the local surfers due to his prowess in free diving. Maxime really developed as a surfer during a family holiday in Margerat River, West Australia.

At 15 years of age, his trophy cabinet is already well stocked. Well supported by a tight knit family, the young Macabi has progressed at an astonishing rate. To which point at the ripe age of 14 he completed an excellent 6th place in the under 16 division of the 2007 Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship in Portugal.

Maxime joined Quiksilver in 2007 where he now gets the chance to surf regularly with the likes of Kelly Slater and Jeremy Flores. The talented young surfer was rewarded for his motivation and hard work by being invited to take part in Young Guns 3.

With an excellent start to the year's pro junior circuit as a foundation, Maxime will also be a big hope for Team France come May at the 2008 Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship.

BIO EXPRESS

Nationality: French

DOB : 17/05 1992

Resides: La Réunion

Sponsor : Quiksilver

Favorite Spots : Les Aigrettes (La Réunion)

Favorite Surfers: Jeremy Flores, Kelly Slater, Taj Burrow, Andy Irons and Mick Fanning

PALMARES

2007

1st Jetty Surf Pro Cadet (U/16), Bells Beach, Australia

1st Quiksilver King of the Groms series (U/16) Anglet, France

6th Under 16 boys ISA World Junior Championships 2007, Portugal

1st ESF European Championships (U/14), Ferrol, Spain

1st French Championships (U/14)

2006

1st HIC Grommet Challenge (U/16), Duranbah, Australia
1st La Réunion Championships (Minime)

2005

1st HIC Grommet Challenge (U/14), Duranbah, Australia
1st Quiksilver King of the Groms series (U/16) Sopelana, Spain
3rd La Reunion Championships (Minime)

2004

1st La Reunion Championships (Benjamin)

Marc Lacomare

It was on his father's long board at the age of 4 that Marc Lacomare had his first taste of surfing. At 6 he had his first board and toured the beaches of Seignosse, Hossegor and Capbreton looking for the best waves available. When he is not surfing, you will find Marc on the Golf course or playing Tennis.

In 2008 the robust surfer from the Landes set himself a number of objectives:

Participate in a number of selected WQS events, Qualify for the World Pro Juniors at Narabeen, Sydney and win the Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship at his local spot in front of family and friends.

BIO EXPRESS

Nationality: French

DOB: 4/07/ 1990

Resides: Hossegor

Sponsor: DC Shoes, Spy, Komunity Project

Favorite Spots : La Gravière, Green Bush (Mentawai)

Favorite Surfers: Andy Irons and Dane Reynolds.

PALMARES

2007

1st French Championships

9th Super Series

2006

4th Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship

2nd ranking European Pro Junior series

TOBY DONACHIE

Toby is one of the rising stars of the British Surfing scene. This blonde surfer from St Merryns in Cornwall was born to a surfing family. With a famous surfer/shaper father (Adrian Phillips), the young Brit has the technical baggage to surf well on all types of equipment.

In 2006 Toby made a sensational debut to his competitive career in defeating all of the established surfers his age. After an honorable 4th place in the European Championships he won the English version of the King of the Groms and qualified for the world finals in Capbreton where he terminated in the top 16, the best result for a British surfer to date.

BIO EXPRESS

Nationality: English

DOB: 18/07 1992 Cornwall, England

Sponsors: Quiksilver, Nike 6.0, Fluid Juice Surfboards, Surfs Up! Company ,Lok Box

Hobbies: surf, golf and skateboarding

Favorite Spots: Rocky Point (Hawaii), Snapper Rocks (Australia)

Favorite Surfers: Taylor Knox, Mick Faming, Joel Parkinson

PALMARES

2007

14th KOTG World Finals, Capbreton, France

NICOLAUS VON RUPP

Of German Nationality, Nicolas has lived in Portugal all his life and learned to surf at Praia Grande, Sintra just to the North of Lisbon. Very soon following, the one they call "Turbocharger", started winning a number of junior competitions in the area.

In 2005 he took out the King of the Groms in Portugal and England respectively and ended the year with a 1st place in the National Championships of Portugal in the junior division.

In the following year, he won both senior and junior division of the German Championships.

Making the finals of the 2007 European Open Championships, Nicolaus also became the youngest surfer ever to win an event of the Portuguese National tour (FIAT Pro).

End 2007 saw Nicolaus terminate an excellent 2nd on the ASP Europe tour which helped him qualify for the 2008 World Pro Junior in Sydney

Before he goes fulltime on the WQS circuit, this young man who can speak 5 languages intends to follow the pro juniors and complete his High school Leaving Certificate.

He will be the spearhead of Team Germany for the 2008 Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship.

BIO EXPRESS

Nationality: German

DOB : 2/ 08/ 1990 à Lisbonne (Port)

Resides: Cabriz, Portugal

Sponsors : Quiksilver, Lufthansa, Vans, Semente, MEI

Favorite Spots: Hawaii, Gold Coast

Favorite Surfers : Marlon Lipke et Stephen Bell

PALMARES

2007

2nd ASP Europe

Finalist European Championships

1st Fiat Pro 2007 au Portugal

2006

1st Open and Junior divisions German Championships

2005

1st German Championships Junior division

1st Quiksilver King of the Groms Series England and Portugal

Alejo Muniz

This gifted surfer is extremely talented for such a young age. Very fast on his feet, Alejo has a technical baggage that has impressed many in the world of competition surfing.

The Argentina born, naturalized Brazilian, sponsored by Quiksilver, is well travelled already and has had the chance to hone his skills in the waves of Peru, France, Spain, Australia and even Indonesia.

He first came to light during a visit to France where he won a prestigious junior event at Capbreton. The young surfer from Bombinhas went on to win 3 divisions (U/14, U/16, U/18) in the Brazilian amateur titles.

Runner up in the U/16 boys of the 2006 Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship, Alejo has one objective for 2008 and that is to become world champion.

BIO EXPRESS

Nationality: Brazilian

DOB: 22/02 1990

Resides: Bombinhas, SC, Brésil

Sponsor : Quiksilver

PALMARES

2007

2nd Billabong Pro Junior Series à Coffs Harbor (Australia)

2006

Vice Champion Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship (U/16)

2004

1st Quiksilver Grommets Tophy Capbreton, (France)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS : 2008 Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship

23 May: Teams arrive

24 May: Parade of Nations and Opening Ceremony

25-31 May: Main event

1 June : Finals, Medal Ceremony

Média

Photos :

Photos available on:

www.isasurf.org

www.quiksilver-press.com

Login: pressroom
Password : quiksilverpress

Images TV:

TV production on site
Ours and video available by ftp during the event.

Accommodation

Accommodation can be provided upon request

About the French Surfing Federation (FFS)

The French Surfing Federation (FFS) was founded in 1964. Its role is to organise, promote and regulate surfing and its six associated disciplines in France. Backed by its various leagues and regional committees, the FFS has been working tirelessly to guarantee the future of high-level French surfing for over 40 years.

Its self-appointed mission is to "act, share and educate". The FFS is proud of its development, and now has more than 39,000 members, whilst some 140 schools and clubs all over France and its overseas territories have gained official "*Ecole Française de Surf*" (French Surfing School) accreditation. The FFS's activities go even further than this, however, and the Federation is also developing three "outside sport" commissions in a bid to open up access to surfing as widely as possible. Through the Ecosurf commission, the FFS seeks to educate about environmental issues and to raise awareness among both surfers and the general public, about the sport's impact on the ocean, dunes and beaches. The FFS also coordinates the Handisurf and Social Cohesion commissions, which aim to restore social links and make the sport as accessible as possible, by introducing people who would not normally get the chance to the joys of boardsports (disadvantaged young people, disabled people).

France and the world's elite

One of the aims of the FFS is also to lay the groundwork for the future success of the country's top sportsmen and women. Setting up sports sections is one way of helping school students to reach the top level. The top level is managed by the French centre (*Pôle France*) in Bayonne, and the three youth centres (*Pôles Espoirs*) in Brittany, Guadeloupe and Reunion. The results are plain to see! For a number of years, France has been a member of the exclusive club formed by the world's top surfing nations. Jeremy Flores and Mikael Picon have qualified for the ASP World Tour, Pauline Ado has become the world junior champion and the French team has enjoyed great success, finishing as runners-up in the 2006 ISA World Junior Surfing Championship and being crowned ESF European Champions in 2006 and ISA Tag Team World Champions in 2005.

About the ISA

The International Surfing Association (ISA) is recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as the World Governing Authority for surfing, bodyboarding and surfing. It was originally founded as the International Surfing Federation in 1964 and has been running world championships since 1964 and the Junior World Championships since 1980.

ISA membership includes the surfing National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of over 50 countries on six continents. Its headquarters are located in San Diego, California. It is presided by Fernando Aguerre, first elected in 1994 in Rio, and re-elected six times since. The ISA's four Vice Presidents are Alan Atkins (Australia), Robin de Kock (South Africa), Maile Aguerre (Hawaii) and Mike Gerard (USA).

Key Dates:

1964: Foundation of the International Surfing Federation which becomes International Surfing Association in 1976.

1982 : The ISA is recognized by the GAISF, l'Association Générale des Fédérations Internationales de Sports.

1995: The IOC officially recognizes the ISA surfing into the Olympic movement.

About the Quiksilver group

As supporters of the competition since its creation in 2003, Quiksilver and Roxy, world leaders in the boardriding sports industry, are underscoring their commitment to promoting and developing surfing. The two brands have always striven to provide youngsters with the quality organisations and competitions they need to progress and improve. They are also firm supporters of the FFS in its efforts to help the country's young surfers make it to the highest level.

Quiksilver, Inc. (NYSE:ZQK) is the world's leading outdoor sports lifestyle company, which designs, produces and distributes a diversified mix of branded apparel, wintersports equipment, footwear, accessories and related products. The Company's apparel and footwear brands represent a casual lifestyle for young-minded people that connect with its boardriding culture and heritage, while its wintersports brands symbolize a long standing commitment to technical expertise and competitive success on the mountains.

The reputation of Quiksilver Inc.'s brands is based on different outdoor sports. The Company's Quiksilver, Roxy, DC and Hawk brands are synonymous with the heritage and culture of surfing, skateboarding and snowboarding, and its beach and water oriented swimwear brands include Raisins, Radio Fiji and Leilani. The Rossignol, Dynastar, Lange, and Look brands are leaders in the alpine ski market, and the Company makes snowboarding equipment under its Rossignol, Dynastar, DC, Roxy, Lib Technologies, Gnu and Bent Metal labels.

The Company's products are sold in over 90 countries in a wide range of distribution, including surf shops, ski shops, skateboard shops, snowboard shops, its proprietary Boardriders Club shops, other specialty stores and select department stores. Quiksilver's corporate and Americas' headquarters are in Huntington Beach, California, while its European headquarters are in St. Jean de Luz and St. Jean de Moirans, France, and its Asia/Pacific headquarters are in Torquay, Australia.

World championship under the Ecology banner...

The French Surf Federation and its Ecosurf Commission have decided to make the French World championships a real symbol of the environmental respect and in doing so, will minimize the impact such an event can have on the fragile beaches of Hossegor, of Seignosse and Capbreton.

With Ecosurf Commission's initiative and Nicolas Hulot Foundation's backing, the 2008 Quiksilver ISA World Junior Surfing Championship will integrate the ecological dimension in all steps of the organisation.

Ecosurf will of course not stop right there during the championships. The commission is going to propose to 16 elementary school classes of the Landes department (CM1 and CM2) and to the general public, a number of educational and awareness programs.

... Surf presented to the Public

The world championships are a fantastic vehicle to discover the sport. They will provide the perfect platform to make the public aware of the eco-citizen attitude and to punctuate the first steps of a long-term environmental plan.

During the contest, over 100 children from schools in the South West will be welcomed each day on the competition site by the surf coaches from the French Surfing Federation Elite Training Centre.

Several workshops will be organised to learn about the different aspects of the sport, its organization, its grass roots programs and an initiation to the environment since Nature is where most sports occur: the ocean, the beach, the dunes, and the forest.

Moreover, the French Surfing Federation Social Cohesion Commission and the Surf Insertion Association will offer the opportunity to children from both rural and urban areas that under normal circumstances would never access the ocean, discover the activity of surfing, usually kept for a certain kind of public. Through workshops, they will discover what High Level surfing is, the pathways to excellence, hard work and models of achieving pre-set goals.

These 10 days will also be the occasion to organise a "Special 2008 Championships cigarette butt pick up" through which 500 little ashtrays will be offered on and around the beach. They will also recuperating the rubbish left behind in the parking lots, the forest, the dunes and the beaches.

Press Contact: Agence Olivia Payerne / Cathy ROURRE
Tel. +33 (0)146 040 862 – Email: contact@agence-op.fr