



Fahid Island Watersports Festival SFT Surf Foil World Tour Wake Foil World Cup 2025 Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates November 1st and 2nd, 2025

It is a pleasure to announce the 10th global event of the SFT SURF FOIL WORLD TOUR 2025

which will mark the 1st stop of our Wake-Foil discipline.

The dates will be 1st and 2nd of November 2025 for the Wake-foil discipline.

This is a SFT Surf Foil World Tour event.

The event will be held under the title Fahid Island Watersports Festival SFT Pump Foil World Cup Abu Dhabi. The venue is Fahid Beach Island, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The event is part of the Surf Foil World Tour (SFT) 2025 calendar. The local organizer is Linkviva, in coordination with the Surf Foil World Tour. This event is sponsored by Aldar Properties



Registration

Entry procedure and Registration

All competitors planning to enter a SFT Surf Foil World Tour event shall register through the link on the respective event page on the SFT Surf Foil World Tour website, or under the following direct link:

👉 <https://app.surffoilworldtour.com/>

Alternatively, registration may be sent via email to carlos@surffoilworldtour.com

The registration period and payment deadline will close on November 1st for wake foiling. Late registration may be accepted but will incur an additional late-entry fee of 20 EUR (total entry fee 60 EUR).

Entry restrictions

The entry fee for this event is 80 EUR per discipline, and a valid SFT membership is required (one-event membership 20 EUR or full-season membership 40 EUR).

Payments must be made via credit card. For certain exceptions, late payments may be accepted in cash during inscription at the event. Cash payments will only be accepted in EUR or USD, with an additional 30 EUR processing fee. Failure to complete full payment by the close of the announced inscription time will result in exclusion from competition.

Payment links will be provided as follows:

- * SFT Abu Dhabi Wake-Foil Entry Fee (80 EUR): [Stripe link]
- * <https://buy.stripe.com/cNi7sM3Sd3Re9Xhgup5EY1H>
- * SFT One Event Membership Fee (20 EUR): [Stripe link]
- * <https://buy.stripe.com/28o6rw8HS6KOawo15t>

Eligibility

A competitor is eligible for any SFT event if he or she holds valid worldwide personal medical insurance. Proof of coverage may be requested at registration. Competitors cannot hold the SFT, GKA Event GmbH, Deep Ocean Consulting Ltd, or the event organizer responsible for damages resulting from insufficient insurance or third-party liability.

A valid competitor's membership with the SFT World Tour is required.



Entry Allocation

There is an unlimited number of entries per division for the SFT Abu Dhabi World Cup.

Discipline

Wake-Foil: Open and Pro competitions. Top amateurs from the Open division may earn wildcards for the Pro division (8–16 riders). Awards: Pro Men, Pro Women, Open Men, Open Women, Youth (U16), Masters (40+).

Divisions:

MEN:

- Open Men Wake Foil – Strapless
- Open Men Wake Foil – Strapped

WOMEN:

- Open Women Wake Foil – Strapless
- Open Women Wake Foil – Strapped

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Format Clarification:

All categories are **Open**, meaning any registered rider may participate regardless of ranking or prior experience.

The Open Division will also serve as a qualifying (trials) phase.

After this initial round, the **top 8 riders**. Will **advance into the Pro Division**.

These finalists will then compete in a **series of heats** to determine the official **Top Pro podium** for each category.

Riders who do not qualify for the Pro Division will retain their Open ranking and may still appear in the overall results.

Categories:

Pro Men, Pro Women, Open Men, Open Women, Youth (U16), Masters (40+). We will need a minimum of 4 riders to ride a division on its own. Youth ranking and Master ranking can be picked by best by those age groups looking at the overall scores and ranking standing on the comp.

Event Seeding:

Competitors without will be seeded by draw. We might do a training session were we can pre-seed top performing athletes.

Important Info:



All riders must wear a helmet during competition. Competitors must wear the official lycra vest provided by the organizers during competition and training. Each competitor is responsible for their vest, no replacement will be issued.

Competitors must place one SFT board sticker on both the top and bottom of their board. Advertising and media rules as outlined in the SFT Rulebook apply. Breaches may result in warnings or fines up to 500 EUR.

Attendance at all official rider meetings and ceremonies is mandatory. Riders may not associate their names with unauthorized events. A social event calendar will be published and riders are encouraged to join and share via social media.

Membership

- Every competitor needs to hold a valid SFT membership. The duration of SFT membership is from the first to the last event of the SFT season.
- Membership fees shall be determined by the SFT at the start of the year and may be changed at any notice during the year.
- Competitors are not fully covered by SFT membership. They must still prove that they have accident insurance and a civil liability. There may be a request for medical certificate.
- At the end of the inscription-time, the rider must be able to prove a valid SFT membership. Payments must be made via credit card. For certain exceptions, late payments can be made in cash at the inscription at the respective event. Cash-payments will only be accepted in Euros or USD currency.
- The cost of the SFT membership for this one event is 20.-euro. Competitors competing for the whole year are advised to pay the standard 40 € per year to cover you for all remaining events in 2025.

Travel Info

The closest international airport is Zayed International Airport (AUH), located 6.4 km from Yas Island with a travel time of approximately 11 minutes by car. An alternative option is Dubai International Airport (DXB), 127 km away, with a driving time of around 1 hour and 15 minutes.

By car, access from Abu Dhabi Airport is under 15 minutes, while travel from Dubai requires over one hour.

A daily shuttle will operate from the Radisson Blu Hotel on Yas Island to the event venue for athletes and crew (Run by the company Nirvana Transfers). Taxi services are also widely available.

Public parking is available at the venue, with staff and crew having a dedicated area. Parking is charged at 2 AED per hour in standard zones, 3 AED in premium zones, and residential areas may only be used during non-permit hours. Parking is free on Sundays, public holidays, and overnight (12AM–8AM). Payment is via the Darb App or SMS. Fines apply for violations.

All visitors must hold a passport valid for at least six months. Depending on nationality, a visa may be required to enter the UAE. Please check entry requirements before traveling.



The exact event address is Fahid Beach Island, Abu Dhabi, UAE. Onsite facilities include athlete gear storage tents, toilets, male and female showers, a paid bar, six food trucks, six retail kiosks, and a medical tent. Camper vans and motorhomes are not allowed.

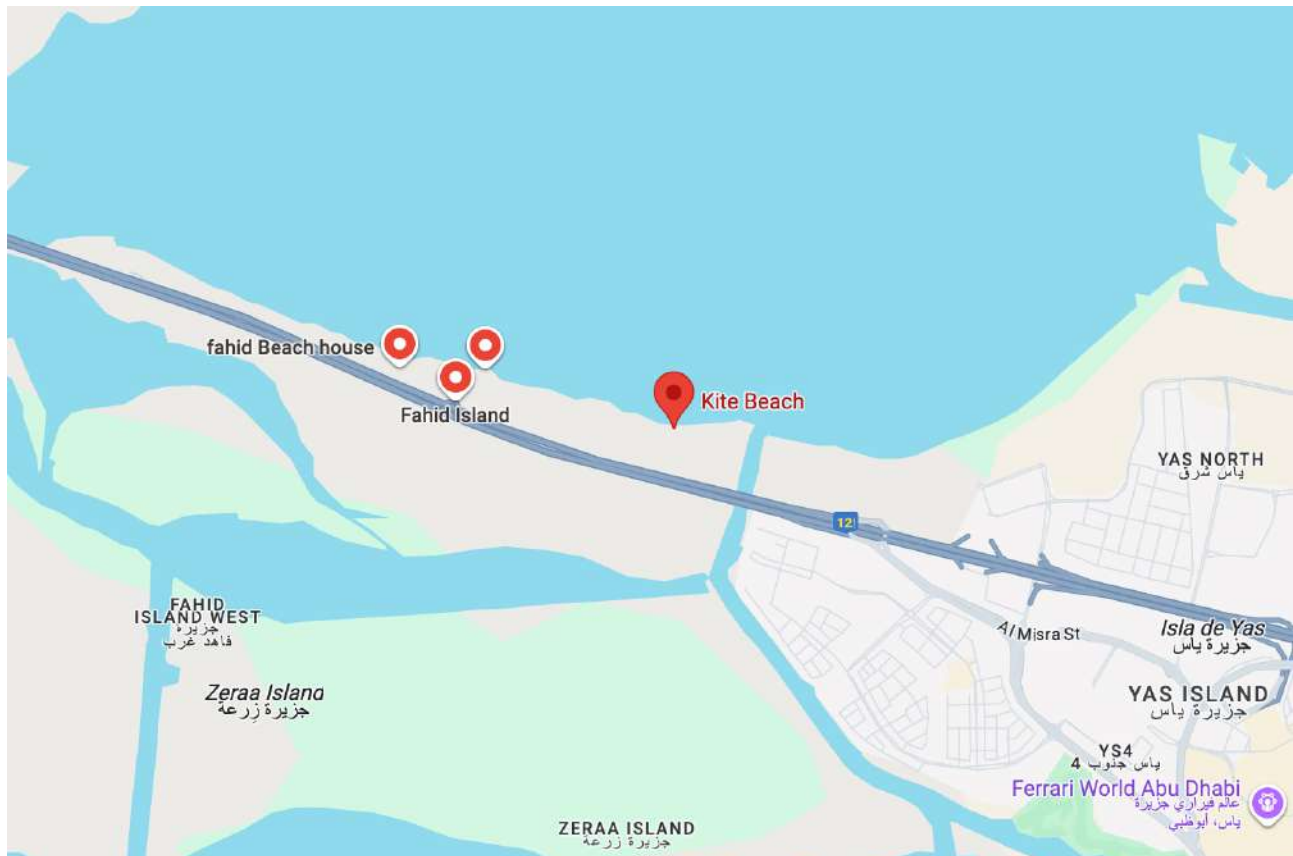
Event site and Event area:

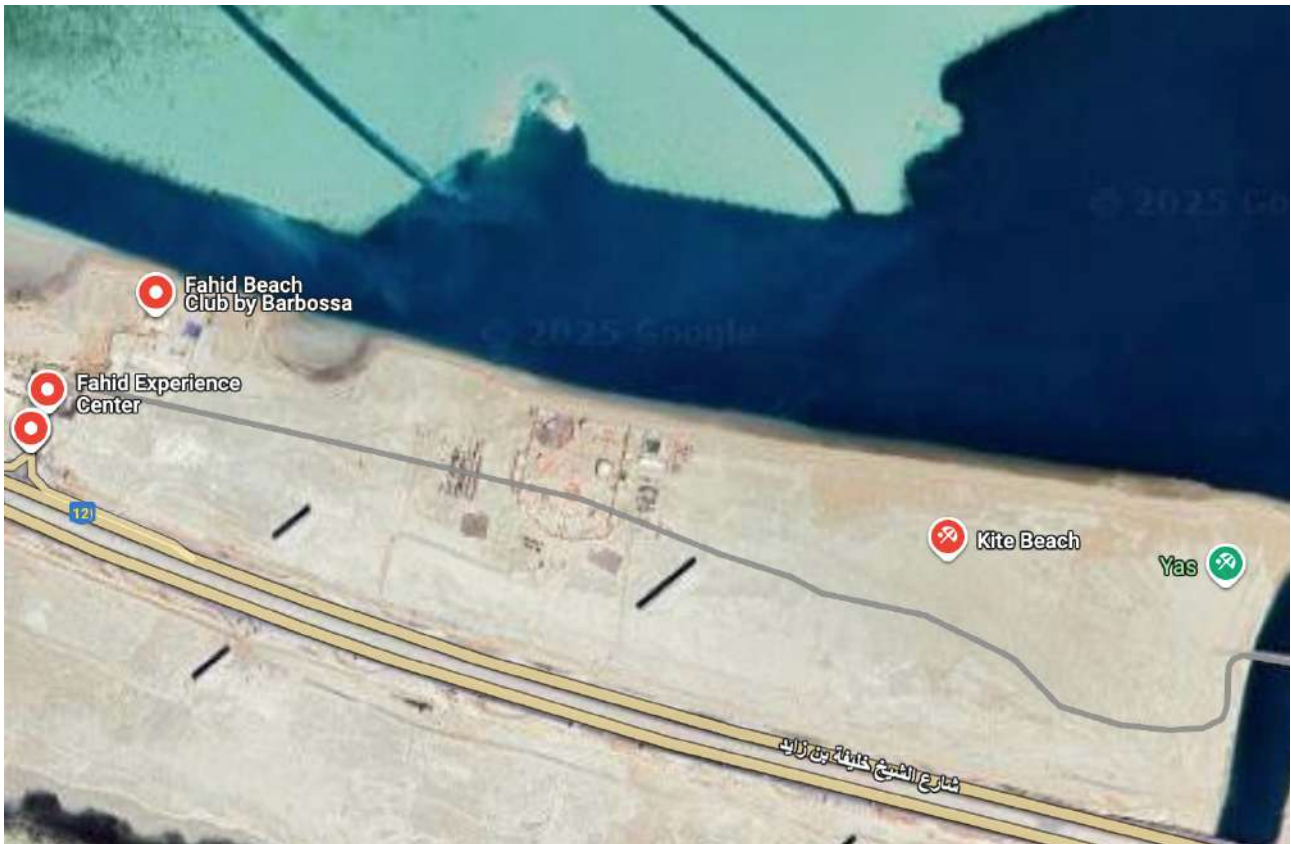
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Accommodation for Competitors

The official event hotel is the **Radisson Blu Hotel, Abu Dhabi Yas Island**, located minutes from the venue and connected by the shuttle service. Additional hotels and apartments are available on Yas Island and in central Abu Dhabi. Apartments may be booked via platforms such as Airbnb or Booking.com. Camping and motorhomes are not allowed. **The Top 8 riders will be provided free accommodation at the official hotel. For all other competitors, special discounted rates are being arranged and will be communicated once confirmed.**

Activities





Athletes and guests can enjoy Abu Dhabi's cultural and entertainment highlights including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, and Yas Mall. Yas Island attractions include Ferrari World, Warner Bros. World, Yas Waterworld, and the Yas Marina Circuit, home of the Formula 1 Grand Prix.

Weather

In October, Abu Dhabi experiences warm and dry weather with daytime temperatures averaging 32–35°C and night temperatures between 24–26°C. UV levels are high; competitors are advised to use sunscreen and stay hydrated.

Event Schedule

Saturday, 1st Wake-Foil

08:00–09:00 – Rider Registration (Wake-Foil competitors must check in during this time)
09:30 onwards – Competition heats.

Sunday 2nd November Wake-Foil

09:30 onwards – Competition heats, followed by finals
18:00 – Closing Ceremony & Prize Giving (Wake-Foil)

Notes for Participants

Public displays of affection should be minimal, with holding hands acceptable but kissing or hugging in public discouraged. Respect for UAE customs, leaders, and religion is mandatory.



Clothing must be modest in public areas; swimwear is only allowed at beaches, pools, and waterparks. Transparent or offensive clothing is strictly prohibited.

Photography of government buildings, military sites, and aircraft is forbidden. Individuals must not be photographed without their consent.

Alcohol consumption is only permitted in licensed venues for individuals over 21 years of age. The UAE enforces a strict zero-tolerance policy for drinking and driving.

Equipment

- Only hydrofoils are eligible for use in competition. There are not any restrictions on the size, length and width of the quiver.
- There are no restrictions on dimensions or constructions of the boards.
- Foot-straps, pads and wax are allowed.
- No propulsion assisted devices are allowed for the pump foil competition
- The use of a helmet is mandatory.

Prize money

The total prize money for the **Fahid Island Watersports Festival 2025** will be **10.000 EUR for the Wake-Foil discipline**.

There must be a minimum of 4 competitors to run a valid division, otherwise men and women run together in one division.

Total Prize Money Distribution. The Wake Foil discipline will follow an Open (Pro-Am) format, meaning all riders compete together in a single division.

From this overall ranking, the Top 8 riders will qualify for the Super Final / Pro Round, which determines the official Pro podium and prize money allocation.

The total prize purse for the event is **10,000 EUR**, divided equally between:

- **5,000 EUR for Strapped Division** (Men + Women)
- **5,000 EUR for Strapless Division** (Men + Women)

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Prize Money Distribution Rules:

- Prize money is awarded only to riders who reach the **Top 8 (Pro Round)**.
- The number of riders receiving prize money depends on total participation in that division:
- **Fewer than 12 riders:** prize money awarded to **Top 3**.
- **12 or more riders:** prize money awarded to **Top 6**.
- This structure ensures that prize money remains performance-based and proportional to field size.

Split Example:

- *Top 3 format:* 1st – 50 % | 2nd – 30 % | 3rd – 20 %
- *Top 6 format (≥ 12 riders):* 1st – 35 % | 2nd – 25 % | 3rd – 15 % | 4th – 10 % | 5th – 8 % | 6th – 7 %



Prize money will be paid in EUR (or local equivalent) once official results are confirmed. All riders are responsible for any applicable taxes or transfer fees.

SFT World Tour

As a competitor, I agree to respect the racing rules and in particular:

- to display visibly the competitor-number attributed to me.
- to always wear the official event-competition-lycra when proceeding to the water (also during training) as well as during interviews, official presentations and on podium.
- to wear a safety helmet during the competition,
- to follow the recommendations and/or instructions provided by the crew.
- to place board stickers (SFT Wingfoil World Tour & Event sponsor) on the top and on the bottom of the board at all times during the event (competitions, interviews, media conferences, award ceremony...).
- to take note that all rider meetings, opening/closing ceremonies and media conferences requested by the Event Organizer are mandatory to all riders. I assure that I'll be on time and ready.
- I'm aware that a non-observance of this rule will incur a fine of up to 500 EUR. Any competitor finishing in the top 3 positions who fails to attend the awards ceremony on time (without being justified by a force of major circumstance) will incur a fine equal to their earned prize money for the event. Furthermore, fine can incur an additional penalty of up to 1.000 EUR and suspension for the next event.

SFT Wake Foil Competition Rules & Judging Guidelines

1. Governing Principles

The Wake Foil discipline within the SFT aims to ensure safety, competitive clarity, and a fair show for riders, judges, and spectators.

Riders will complete two judged passes behind the boat, each consisting of a straight course approximately 200–300 meters long (about 45–60 seconds). The scoring is based on an overall impression system that evaluates the rider's performance across the entire run, emphasizing creativity, technical skill, and flow.

2. Equipment & Safety

- Only hydrofoils are eligible for competition.
- Helmet is could be mandatory for all riders. (Final decision will be made after Riders meeting)
- Personal Flotation Device (PFD) is mandatory.
- The Race Director may inspect equipment before or during the event.
- Any gear considered unsafe may be rejected. Rescue personnel and equipment must be on standby during all runs.

3. Competition Format

- Cumulative scoring system: Each rider has a minimum of 2 passes behind the boat. The final score is the average of both passes.
- We will do rounds changing between disciplines (Pro-open-youth-master-women-etc)



- Each pass covers a course defined by the SFT (e.g., 45–60 seconds).
- Falls and pickups:
 - Maximum 1 pickup per pass.
 - On the second fall, the pass ends.
- Running order: Determined by random draw or seed on official ranking.
- Call to start: The rider must be ready at the dock or designated area when called; otherwise, the turn may be lost.
- The course shall be clearly marked with start and end buoys, and a “¾ buoy” placed approximately three quarters of the way down the second pass. A fall beyond this ¾ buoy ends the rider’s run for that pass, and no pickup will occur
- Each rider is allowed one “out-of-course fall” before the start of the first pass, which may include a handle throw or early release. This fall does not count toward their two in-course falls. Out-of-course falls cannot be used as warm-ups.
- Riders may switch boards between passes or during a pickup, but no time extension will be granted for equipment changes.
- Riders may perform transfers between wakes or waves as desired. No re-rides will be granted due to miscommunication about transfers or boat speed.

4. Judging Criteria

Scoring is based on five criteria, evaluated cumulatively:

1. Technical Difficult: The technical level of tricks (rotations, foil variations, aerial transitions).
 2. Risk and Commitment: Technical difficulty exposure: how hard a trick is to land and the level of risk the rider takes to perform it.
 3. Power and Amplitude: Strength, amplitude, and control during maneuvers.
 4. Repertoire Variety: Diversity of tricks (frontside/backside rotations, switch transitions, wake usage, lines, grabs, and transitions).
 5. Accuracy and Flow: Clean execution, control, composition, and fluidity between tricks.
- Each judge will score the run from 0 to 10 merging each of the five categories. Judges will determine the final score out of 10 per pass. Then will sum both passes and get the average score. Example: 1st pass 7,5 /2nd pass 6,5= Average 7 points (of a max of 10)

There is no fixed limit to the number of tricks per pass. However, riders are encouraged to perform between five (5) and ten (8) well-executed maneuvers within each 45–60-second pass. Judges will reward riders who use the entire course efficiently, maintaining flow without excessive setup time or repetition. Quality, amplitude, and variety take precedence over quantity.

Judges may annotate intensity or using “+” or “–” indicators to reflect power or weakness in specific tricks. These annotations are for reference of the scores sheet to explain the run to riders and are not numeric values.

Overall impression judging is encouraged; judges should evaluate how well the rider links and composes their entire run rather than focusing solely on individual tricks.

5. Scoring and Ranking

- The total score is calculated by combining both passes. If specified by the Race Director, one pass (usually the lowest) may be discarded.]
- Each judge’s score counts equally toward the final total.
- Judges may reward creativity and smooth transitions between tricks.



Judges will not assign predetermined values to specific tricks. Scores are comparative within each heat and within the level showed at a certain season. This means the top difficult tricks in 2025 cannot be those of 2026 due to the rapid progression of the sport. A perfect run can reach a maximum of 10 points.

6. Tie Breaks

In case of a tie:

1. The best single-pass score will be considered.
2. If still tied, the rider with the higher score in Accuracy and Flow wins.
3. If still unresolved, the judge panel decides.

In multi-round formats (heats, semifinals, finals), if a tie persists, the rider's highest previous-round score may be used as a secondary tiebreaker.

7. Athlete Responsibilities

- Be an active SFT member or of the corresponding federation.
- Know and respect all rules before competing.
- Follow conduct standards and represent the sport professionally (behavior, media).
- Attend the Riders Meeting, where rules and formats are explained before competition.
- Riders must confirm boat speed, rope length, and chosen side of the wake with the driver before leaving the dock. There will be no re-rides for miscommunication.

8. Judge Panel

- Minimum of 3 judges plus one Chief Judge or Race Director.
- The Chief Judge/RD oversees format, timing, and rule enforcement.
- Judges' decisions are final and not subject to appeal.
- Judges must declare any conflict of interest before scoring begins.
- Judges may record runs for private evaluation purposes only. Recordings cannot be shared or published without the organizer's
- The Head Judge/RD may authorize a re-ride only in the case of verified technical malfunction (e.g., boat mechanical issue, rope failure). No re-rides will be granted for rider error or miscommunication.

9. Flow and Creativity

Riders will be rewarded for creative course management and full use of time and space. Smooth, continuous runs showing composition and planning will score higher than disjointed riding. Dead water or hesitation between maneuvers will negatively affect flow.

10. General Provisions

Riders may use up to two different boards per event. Boards may be swapped during pickups or between passes, but the clock will not be stopped for changes.

The Head Judge and Race Director have the authority to adjust course length, pickup limits, or judging panels due to weather or technical conditions, provided this is communicated during the Riders Meeting.

SFT team Abu Dhabi 2025

Tour Manager: Tom Hartmann

Contest Director: Carlos Saez



Media Manager: Craig Cunningham

Any question please contact our Sports Director at carlos@surffoilworldtour.com
We look forward to seeing you very soon!