

RACEBOARD CLASS MEMORANDUM
(BACK TO THE FUTURE 2023)

Dear windsurfing community, club members, national associations and sailing federation executives.

For decades, the International Raceboard Class has been a vital part of the windsurfing community. Since day one it's been evolving and providing exciting and close racing for all generations in all conditions on lakes or on the open sea, from club racing to big international championships, with a strong technical and tactical base. The Raceboard class is competitive at all levels which makes it great competition "school".

In recent years the International Techno 293 Class has produced thousands of windsurfers annually who face the unacceptable cost of Olympic classes or high-performance foiling classes. For many it also means radically changing their athlete's physical profile. Reaching the super weight necessary to aspire to be minimally competitive level (around 100kg for men and 85kg for women) can cause eating and health disorders that are contradicting the true nature of the sport itself. Without great alternatives, this unfortunately forces a majority of them to quit windsurfing and focus their sport activities elsewhere.

High performance classes require not only great initial investment but also very high maintenance costs, even in their one design versions. On the other hand, in the Raceboard class, as the current world champion in the youth category Dany Sanchez says, "It's not only the arrow, but also the Indian". Using a board that was produced before he was born, he is enjoying the racing and all its technical, tactical, and physical aspects despite the fact he is also a competitive foiler, keen surfer and all-round water person.

Racing in the Raceboard class is technical, tactical and physical throughout the fleet and there is no better proof than this year's world championships, with 155 competitors from 20 countries and 4 continents. One big family fighting hard on water, but sharing knowledge, life experience, thoughts and ideas with each other. One of the big advantages of the class is the fact that it can provide fair racing in all wind conditions which is especially valuable during the weekend club races. It gives all a chance to sail regularly without a need to wait for the perfect conditions that will suit a particular gear choice. It is the best step for all the kids growing out of the Techno 293 class who want to continue racing with the same tactical, technical and physical elements that they enjoyed.

For the growing number of youth competitors coming to the Raceboard competitions, and having difficulty finding cheap 2nd hand equipment, there is the Raceboard 300 division. This division includes all under 300cm boards that already exist all around the world, like Techno 293, RS:X, RS One, Glide 299 and others. It gives all chance to join the racing without any additional cost. Working closely with manufacturers we hope to bring new affordable boards for racing in this division in near future. Adopting the volume-weight ratio in the class rules will ensure that the class will keep its racing DNA, with equipment costs affordable for all without a monopoly of one-design production. You can find all the class details at www.raceboard.com. If you have any questions do not hesitate to contact any of the executive committee members.

Many successful windsurfer Olympians have grown with this class and are part of its long and successful history, and we are introducing it to a new young generation now. We want YOU to get onboard with us and give this option to the young generation at your waterway, in your club, in your federation. For many years the Raceboard class was a parallel

to Olympic windsurfing, preparing athletes at a lower cost in bigger national fleets to international events. Raceboard is still that class that can teach and improve the skills of the youth in all elements of windsurfing on a day-to-day basis. It is a cheap and fair option for your national fleet to flourish. Skills learned on Raceboard are easy to transfer to Olympic classes, not only windsurfing, but sailing in general. The Raceboard class will keep your local sailing fleet numbers up, the Raceboard class will help you to define the best talents in your group and allows you, even with a limited budget, achieve Olympic participation level.

Become a part of history! Come with us back to the future.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Pollák', with a stylized flourish at the end.

On behalf of International Raceboard Class Association
Patrik Pollák
President