



# **WINDSURFER**

## **45th AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS**

### **SUNSHINE COAST, QUEENSLAND**

#### **26-29 JANUARY 2023**

Lake Cootharaba  
Sailing Club



[bit.ly/45thwod](https://bit.ly/45thwod)

Scan the QR code to register and  
view accommodation options!



#### **Entry Fees**

Under 19 yrs: \$175  
18-21 yrs: \$200  
First Time Entries: \$200  
Adults over 21 yrs: \$230  
Family Entry: \$395

**COURSE RACING**  
**SLALOM**  
**MARATHON**  
**FREESTYLE**

Family-friendly  
Loads of prizes  
& onshore events  
Limited number of  
charter boards available

Proudly Supported by:



## **Post-Event Survey**

### **including Economic Impact Summary**

**February 2023**

Commercial in Confidence

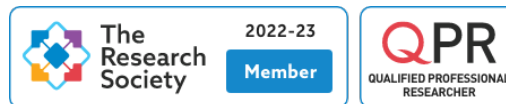
# Preamble

This research project was completed by Mobium Group (Mobium) on behalf of the Windsurfer Class Association of Australia (WCAA).

All information in this report is strictly commercial in confidence and is copyright 2023, Mobium and WCAA.

Mobium is a member of The Research Society (TRS), Australia's peak body for professional market and social research.

All research methodologies, data collection, analysis and reporting outlined in this proposal will be conducted in accordance with the TRS Code of Conduct.



Version: Final

“The benchmark for all  
future Nationals.  
Exceptionally well run event.”

“A fantastic showcase for the Class.  
What an amazing group of sailors  
and volunteers we have”

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# Event Overview

The 45<sup>th</sup> Windsurfer Class Australian championship was hosted by Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club (Queensland) from January 25 (registration and practice day) until January 29<sup>th</sup> 2023.

Registrations: 145

State Representation: QLD: 46 (32%), NSW: 41 (28%), VIC: 39 (27%), WA: 8 (6%), SA: 6 (4%), TAS: 2 (1%), International: 3 (2%)

Male: 129 (89%)

Female: 16 (11%)

Open: 125 (86%)

Cruiser: 20 (14%)

Age Range: 11 years – 78 years

18 years or under: 9

## *Discipline Program*

Course Racing: 8 races per division (drop worst 2 results)

Slalom: 1 single elimination series per division

Marathon: 1 long distance race

Freestyle (optional) 3-minute trick routine

## *Social Program*

Welcome party: on-site @ LCYC

Celebration party: off-site @ Apollonian Hotel

## *Presentation*

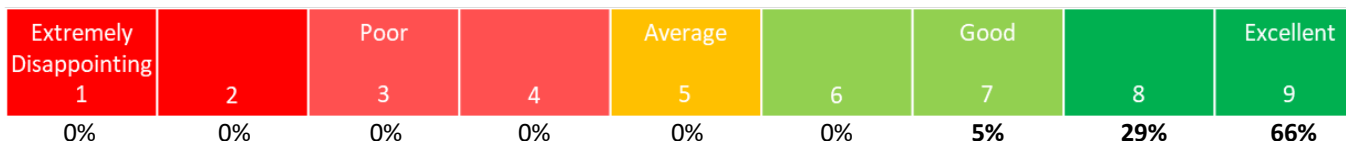
Awards ceremony: off-site @ Apollonian Hotel

# Summary Findings

Overall, the feedback from competitors about the 45th Windsurfer Australian Championship was highly positive and complimentary.

The overall rating was:

Weighted Average  
8.6 out of 9



## What was liked?

- General vibe, inclusivity and overall event program
- Size of fleet, quality of racing, overall event management
- Camaraderie, social aspects, big fleet experience
- Venue with courses close to shore, shallow, being able to leave boards rigged on beach

## What could be improved?

- Better use of technology to communicate – WhatsApp / other technology to keep people informed
- Race management - consider how best to cater double elimination slalom, freestyle. How Cruiser division can be best incorporated and enhanced.
- Award over the line result for marathon – irrespective of gender. Presentation speed, format, non-competitive prizes.

## Requests for future Events

- Maintain the fun and positive spirit
- Consider best approach to large fleet management, recalls, starting sequences, division orders – consider extra day / simultaneous courses running
- Integrated tech to register/sign-on/results. Faster scoring and available online faster, consider technology solutions such as tracking
- Continue to refine social/meal events to ensure inclusivity, dietary requirements, quality and speed of service are enhanced

## 2023 World Championships - Perth

- Strong support and high levels of intended participation – with projections showing an Australian contingent of 150 possible.

## What will the Windsurfer Class committee do with the information?

- Undertake a 'tipping point' review to assess how best to manage large fleets in the future, as well as rules revision and enforcement
- Build the feedback into planning/guidance for future Windsurfer Class events

# Methodology

A Post Event questionnaire was co-created by WCAA and Mobium Group in 2018 to gather information from competitors about their experiences at major Class events.

Major topic areas include:

- what aspects were liked
- what areas could be improved
- what should be included at future events

The survey is confidential with no personally identifiable information collected. Data is collected using a secure online survey tool.

The responses are used to help plan future Windsurfer class events and provide direction on Class activities.

The data is also useful to provide feedback to host Clubs and sponsors.

The base survey has been used on numerous occasions since, with small modifications to cater for specific events.

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## 2023 Australian Championships Post Event Survey with EIS

For the 2023 Australian Championships, Mobium Group administered the survey, collected the data, analysed the results and undertook the reporting on behalf of the Class.

All those who raced at the event received an invitation to participate in the survey which was conducted online.

Reminders were sent on two occasions.

A total of **79 competitors undertook the survey (54% of those registered for the event)** providing a strong representation of the fleet.

# Pre-Regatta Planning & Communication



## WINDSURFER

### 2023 AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP

January 26<sup>th</sup> – January 29<sup>th</sup> 2023



With Thanks to our Sponsors









The 45th Australian Championships are supported by







## SAILING INSTRUCTIONS

Revision 1 – January 19, 2023

2023 Windsurfer Australian Championships – Sailing Instructions



### WINDSURFER

45th AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS  
SUNSHINE COAST, QUEENSLAND  
26-29 JANUARY 2023

**Notice to Competitors**

**# 2**

January 20, 2023

Dear Competitor,

Not many more sleeps now. Please read the following information carefully to prepare yourself for the event. We will provide further updates as required.

**1. Sailing Instructions**

The event Sailing Instructions (Sis) are now available on the Regatta Notices [website here](#)  
Or direct download: [https://g282wvk2q4wzk.cloudfront.net/GHHeIMDFH\\_doc\\_1674159580025](https://g282wvk2q4wzk.cloudfront.net/GHHeIMDFH_doc_1674159580025)

The Sailing Instructions provide important information to competitors about how racing will be conducted, the courses, start sequences, scoring and so on.

It is strongly recommended that all competitors:

1. review the Sis their entirety in advance
2. download a digital copy of the Sis to your device or bookmark the digital Sailing Instructions

Please note:

**Section 1 – Racing Rules**

The regatta will be sailed using Racing Rules of Sailing (RRS) (2021 – 2024). The Windsurfer Fleet Racing Rules (Appendix B of the RRS) do not apply.

A significant implication is that Rule 18. Mark Room includes a 3 board length 'Zone'. Other Rules have been changed by the SI's such as Rule 31. Touching a Mark

You can download the RRS and the Class Rules [here](#)

**2. Racing Identification Bibs**

To assist sailors, spectators and the Race Committee all sailors are issued coloured identification bibs that must be worn while competing in Course Racing, Slalom and Marathon.


We may be a few short with the large amount of late entries meaning we could not plan properly.


**REQUEST:**

If you competed in the 2020 Nationals in Adelaide or 2022 at Parkdale.

If you still have a bib in your possession - could you please bring your racing bib issued at BSYC or PYC with you to Lake Cootharaba and hand it back in at the registration desk.


(Washed please!)





### WINDSURFER

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Freestyle

**Judging Area**

Freestyle area is 4 buoys laid as a 'box' – approx. leg length 40m.

Your tricks will only be scored / counted if it is inside the scoring area.

**Stage 1 – Heats - Conduct**

Competitors are assigned to a heat based on a random draw.

For each heat:

- When judges are ready to score the Class flag raised and three short bursts to draw attention.
- Judges blow hooter and 3-minute time starts
- Hooter at 10 seconds to go
- Long Hooter at 0 time
- Competitors have another 10 seconds for dismount
- Judges tally scores
- Top 2-4 (depending on number of heats) from each heat progress to final

**Stage 2 – Finals - Conduct**


Competitors are assigned a position in the running order based on random draw.

For each competitor:




- When judges are ready to score a competitor Class flag raised
- Competitor raises hand when ready
- Judges blow hooter and 3 minute time starts
- Hooter at 10 seconds to go
- Long Hooter at 0 time
- Competitor has another 3 seconds for dismount
- Judges tally scores
- Next competitor on water/beach waiting to go. Once judges ready cycle commences again

**Individual Judging**

- Judges use scoring sheet criteria and score independently
- Scores from each judge for each competitor tallied
- At conclusion all competitors ranked by each judge based on highest scores
- Overall results based on lowest overall combined rank for all 3 judges



Freestyle Scoring area



# Pre-Regatta Planning & Communication

The overall assessment of the Pre-Regatta planning and communication undertaken by the Class in the lead up to the event was extremely positive.

Key aspects including the timing and detail of the Notice of Race, and the online entry system received strong levels of endorsement. The comprehensive advance accommodation guide (video & written) was lauded. The Notices to Competitors issued in the immediate lead-up to the regatta were seen to be relevant and useful. The addition of a WhatsApp group was a positive for communicating key messages.

The vast majority of competitors believed the full entry fees provided good value considering the merchandise and social inclusions. (Discounted entry fees for newcomers, Youth and Families were also provided)...

Q: Please provide your feedback on the following aspects of Pre-Regatta planning and communication:

n=79

| Statement  | 'Agree' + 'Strongly Agree' |     | Total Agreement |
|--|----------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| The Notice of Race (NOR) was issued in <u>plenty of time</u>   | 28%                        | 72% | 100%            |
| The NOR contained <u>all the information needed</u> about the event                                  | 36%                        | 63% | 99%             |
| The online entry system was <u>easy to use</u>   | 27%                        | 72% | 99%             |
| The full entry fee of \$230 (including racing, T-shirt and 2x socials/dinners) was <u>good value</u> | 32%                        | 67% | 99%             |
| The Notices to Competitors provided <u>useful information</u>  | 35%                        | 64% | 99%             |
| The <u>information and recommendations</u> on accommodation was useful                               | 34%                        | 59% | 93%             |
| The <u>WhatsApp Group</u> communication was useful to keep up to date                                | 38%                        | 53% | 91%             |

# Pre-Regatta Planning & Communication

Open feedback from sailors provided suggestions for further refinement of the communication aspects of future nationals.

Further development of the WhatsApp communication should be considered to increase usefulness – such as on call status or social event timing. Other ideas for Notice of Race, Sailing Instructions and Notice to Competitors were also put forward...

## Q: Please provide any feedback, ideas or issues about Pre-Regatta aspects:

n=31

- All good - very well organised.
- All super in terms of communication, but the WhatsApp group was not used enough or at all for info and results broadcast. This would be an easy way to have a quicker and broader communication.
- At the worlds they posted photos and results to the WhatsApp group. Friends family and followers of the class use this to keep up to date.
- Due to poor Wifi coverage signing on/off difficult Messages came through late.
- Excellent event.... Well done!!!
- Fantastic event. Excellent value, great friendly vibe and quality sailing. An awesome choice for the Nationals catering for the full spectrum of competitors. World class!!
- Hopefully the class can secure a major cash sponsor for the worlds and future Nationals, to help reduce the entry cost for all especially families.
- I think more use could have been made of the WhatsApp Group communication. For example some of the social events initially marked as TBC could have been confirmed by WhatsApp. Instead a few of us were wondering about timing and location of the social event - made it particularly hard when trying to coordinate with partners who were not at the lake.

“Please keep the class open to the original Windsurfer boards - was great to have the participation of some classic dudes, on their old school setups. . . Not every windsurfer is prepared to upgrade to the LT - for whatever the reason”

- I think the whatsapp was good for pre regatta but could have been a little more informative during the regatta. Obviously this takes time for a person to do and good communication regarding what's happening at all times. I think its very important to have at least 1 reliable information source otherwise we can run into issues such as in Italy where changes made at daily briefings weren't well communicated. Great job on the Pre regatta.
- I was unaware prior to the event that there was a cruising division therefore I nominated as Open/womens as I wasn't looking for Cruisers. A fantastic part of the event that should be promoted at club level as those who didn't go to the nationals were surprised to here about it and perhaps would have entered. Even my partner and XX husband (who were their) may have entered in the Cruising division, had they known about it and to quote them, ' had they known how casual the even was'.

- Might just be me but the reliance on bandwidth / mobile signal in an area where it was geographically restricted didn't seem brilliant, saying that, I sailed poorly and was furious with myself and the Nationals were the best thing I think I've ever done
- No issues
- Nothing else to add, the above response represents what a fantastic event it was.
- Once I worked out the notification alerts on the WhatsApp became handy for current info
- Our class has too many media platforms - website, team apps, Facebook, state assoc and regatta spot(?)
- Partially my fault because I'm hopeless with emails. But would be great if notices to competitors also had a text or whatsapp message to alert us.
- Prior to the event I thought I had registered when in fact I had not (completely my fault)
- Only because I am useless and maybe I am not the only one but having the ability to see who is registered for up coming events is great, so that you can check your name is in fact included

# Pre-Regatta Planning & Communication

Q: Please provide any feedback, ideas or issues about Pre-Regatta aspects:

n=31

- Thanks for a great weekend ladies & gents, met a fantastic group of people & looking forward to more regattas.
- The WhatsApp Group should be used promptly to confirm ALL race session relevant Race Officer &/or Committee advice/directives e.g. estimated start time; which event; which fleet/s; AP flag raised/dropped; Sign On Open/Closes at; Sign Off Open/Closes at; Protest window closes at etc
- We thought we could race from Habitat Noosa but that proved not feasible
- Well done to all involved great regatta great fun and great friends. I loved every minute on and off the water
- Well organised
- Well-detailed, timely and good value. Full marks from me.
- WhatsApp Group should ALSO be used to promptly broadcast ALL racing relevant Race Officer/Committee advice/directives eg. estimated start time; for which events; for which divisions; AP raised/lowered; Sign-On Now Open, Closes at (time); Sign-Off Closes at (time) etc
- WhatsApp was good but could have also been used to provide updates on the TBC social events in terms of location and start times.
- While Clubspot does work, I find it a bit cumbersome to use and not somewhere I think to go looking for information about windsurfing events. I also find Facebook difficult to search for previously sent information (important information gets lost in the multitude of other posts).
- Would have been good to get the SI's a bit earlier. I like to print so I can easily read and review if need be through the event. Yes very old school, but aged 67 what can you expect! I think I received the day before travelling so no issue, but if I was travelling earlier I would have found hard to print.

# Event Management & Registration



# Event Management & Registration

Competitors were universal in their view that the 2023 Nationals was conducted in good spirits with a highly positive manner that included a strong sense of inclusion for all.

Competitors were complimentary of the regatta T-shirt.

The registration process for the event was seen to be well managed but due to large fleet sizes is becoming slower and more tedious for waiting competitors.

There was strong agreement that including the social events in the entry fee is preferred.

Engaging professional media coverage for video/drone and photography of the event was seen as strong value-add...

n=79

Q: Please provide your feedback on the following aspects of Event Management and Registration:

| Statement  | 'Agree' + 'Strongly Agree' | Total Agreement |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|
| The event had a <u>positive feeling</u>  | 10% 90%                    | 100%            |
| I felt <u>welcome and included</u> at the event                                    | 13% 87%                    | 100%            |
| On-site <u>registration was easy</u>   | 18% 77%                    | 95%             |
| I <u>liked the regatta merchandise</u> (t-shirt) received as part of registration  | 23% 77%                    | 100%            |
| It was good that <u>Socials with dinners were included</u> in the registration fee | 19% 77%                    | 96%             |
| It was <u>good having professional photos/video/drone</u> footage taken            | 23% 73%                    | 96%             |

# Event Management & Registration

Improvement suggestions included refining the registration process including using technology to speed up the process, easier / faster access to regatta photographs and more drone footage.

Some competitors provided examples of their positive experiences at the event...

Q: Please provide any feedback, ideas or issues about Event Management and Registration:

n=24

- ALL the registration requirements should be completed online. The disclaimer should be a condition of entry and therefore does not require a paper signature. Only the weigh-in and receipt of the event T & weight vest; would therefore be necessary on the morning of Day1. The majority of entrants could be issued their weight vest upon weigh-in because they're well clear of the nominal division cut-offs, and if an error is made those few can be recalled for a swap. Therefore providing a full afternoon for whatever event suited the wind conditions, which provides a half a day safety factor if nil or extreme winds occur during part of the other scheduled days.
- As before 1st class, well done to those involved. A hard act to follow but also a great template.
- Drone footage of starts
- Girls tshirts could have a lower v or round neck.
- Great vibe and smoothly run
- Hats off to the organisers handling quite a large amount of competitors for the registration given the humid conditions.
- I lived locally and did not eat at any of the organised socials.
- I was a First timer.... Love every minute

"Really good organization and communication given the size. The photos were awesome."

- I thought the race committee were very professional in the way they conducted the racing. Apart from the pin end start lines, which caused Chaos for many.
- In Vic and Adelaide there were pics available and easy to find every day, this made it easy for me to repost the pics of myself on my socials. This in turn got me promoting the event to all my friends on socials. Pics that include me are only coming through now and I prob won't bother to post them as it's post event.....
- Minor annoyance that have encouraged early rego at 1500 the day before the rego had not got underway by 1520, and when I came back later there was a long queue.
- More drone footage of the racing if possible

We're getting to the point where we need to sequence / segment registration to speed up the process but this requires duplicating the registration team and obviously all men need to be all weighed on the same scale.

- My feeling on the professional photography is that most people are reluctant to pay for such photo's (myself included).
- Need to provide additional T shirts for non competitors, eg support crews, friends and families. Even if these are ordered and paid for during online registrations. In fact why can't we get an expression of interest of getting additional regatta T shirts made after the event. Now!
- One of those things but there is only one distant photo of me and in the group shot on the beach you can see my arm but my face is covered by someone else.
- One queue, for weighing and registration, instead of having to queue up twice!!
- Photos great but it was a lot of work undertaken by photographer, thankyou to him. maybe not needed as much but great
- Regatta shirt maybe go sun smart, loose + and long sleeve with hat incorporating neckflap
- The meat at pub dinner was as tough as nails.
- There was a long queue for registration. Although they ere all volunteers would have benefited from a 2nd registrar.
- Would like to see more of the drone action!

# Racing & On Water



# Racing & On Water

The overall quality of race management conducted by the race management team at Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club at the 2023 Australian Championships was viewed very positively by competitors.

The vast majority strongly supported the notion of 'on call' scheduling and thought that the racing conduct and course lengths were appropriate. Targeting a minimum 9 course races with two drops remains as a desired benchmark.

Briefings were generally seen to provide adequate information...

n=76

Q: Please provide your feedback on the following aspects of Racing and On Water:

| Statement  | 'Agree' + 'Strongly Agree' | Total Agreement |
|--|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Having the event ' <u>on call</u> ' to allow flexibility in scheduling is appropriate                    | 16% 80%                    | 96%             |
| The daily <u>briefing(s)</u> provided enough information   | 40% 60%                    | 100%            |
| The <u>race management</u> was appropriate   | 37% 59%                    | 96%             |
| The <u>course length / overall duration</u> of races <u>was appropriate</u>                              | 35% 63%                    | 98%             |
| A target of <u>9 course races</u> in a 4 day event is appropriate  | 31% 67%                    | 94%             |
| Having <u>two discards ('drops')</u> in the scoring once <u>8 course races</u> is reached is appropriate | 22% 76%                    | 99%             |



# Racing & On Water

Continued...

Elements of on water activities that had strong endorsement included running two simultaneous racing areas (course and slalom) and the implementation of 'expression sessions' for the Freestyle.

There is broad agreement amongst sailors that the Cruiser division is working well and should continue in future events.

There is general support to explore increasing oversight during slalom by adding a judge(s).

While the majority of respondents supported the 'rabbit start' approach for the marathon, the open comments point to several challenges that need to be considered if it is to continue for future events...

| Statement  | 'Agree' + 'Strongly Agree' |     | Total Agreement |
|--|----------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Splitting <u>course racing and slalom</u> sessions by division worked well                         | 31%                        | 67% | 98%             |
| There should be <u>on water judge</u> to manage infringements in the slalom                        | 33%                        | 38% | 71%             |
| The <u>Freestyle 'expression session'</u> initial heats are a good idea to encourage participation | 47%                        | 42% | 89%             |
| Cruiser division is a good idea and should be retained   | 35%                        | 63% | 98%             |
| The <u>'rabbit start'</u> for the marathon worked well   | 35%                        | 28% | 63%             |

# Racing & On Water

Competitors provided a variety of feedback – compliments and criticisms, as well as observations and suggestions to enhance the on-water experience.

Managing the increasing fleet sizes is clearly becoming more of a challenge with concerns raised about start lines, fleet cross-over, course lengths, and the ability to run all disciplines within the regatta window.

Others raised issues about how to best enforce rules, the pro's and con's of freestyle and better promotion of the Cruiser option to encourage more participation.

The WCAA Committee should carefully consider how best to manage future event planning including the possibility of running two courses simultaneously at all times and/or extending the event to 5 days and so on.

These options are likely to have implications including:

- limiting the choice of future Nationals venues to clubs with sufficient resources
- adding costs which would impact on event entry fees

Q: Please provide any feedback, ideas or issues about Racing & On Water:

n=39

## Race Management

- The club's lines were too heavily biased.
- I felt that the course distance was too short. Increasing the length of the legs would only have a minor impact on the overall time taken to run a racing session and would reduce the congestion, which was very heavy and reduced the tactical options available. The group in the second start ran into the Cruisers very early on in the race and from then on even the leaders of the second start spent their entire time trying to deal with inexperienced sailors and big clumps of competitors.  
Sadly, some of the sailors who were being overtaken did not respect the rules and in particular did not seem to understand that overtaking sailors often had buoy room on them.
- In some previous regattas the congestion hasn't seemed to be such an issue because the shiftier winds spread all the fleets more, but in the light and steadier winds at Coota the pack stayed together.
- Starting lines were a little too crowded, leading to infringements that were unable to be dealt with given the on-the-water officers available.
- Was disappointing to have the start line on first day very pin end biased. I got caught in the chaos at the pin end of the line in 2 starts which had people running into me and me falling in giving me my worst results of 15 & 14th. In two other races I got good pin end starts and was 1st & 2nd around the top mark 1st time. My best races of a 2nd & 3rd on the last day was largely due to a good start line that allowed a safe but good start and not having to negotiate cruisers and slow big guys the entire race.

# Racing & On Water

## Race Management (continued)

- Starts were chaotic and unduly prejudiced the rest of the races, in H, SH, Cruiser there were lot of start line infringements and bad actors but seems churlish to protest, for example Cruisers and several Opens regularly sailing back down line on Port. Clearly the good sailors dealt with it but for club racers looking to improve the choice was risk stuffing up the good sailors or accept being in 2nd or 3rd row and race over. Strongly feel that 70+ starters on such a short line is inadequate, suggest combination of longer line and smaller fleets, for example if each division went off on a 3min sequence, or 2 divisions per start on a 3 minute sequence.
- RO was generally excellent but declining to raise AP ashore caused some uncertainty among those whose boards were not close to shore, could possible have gone AP ashore + 15 mins. Not withstanding above, it was a very well run regatta, thank you.
- Splitting course racing and slalom sessions was a good idea, but the wind didn't do the right thing.
- Start lines were not set well first day - is it possible that selected sailors (only) could offer suggestions to start boat re start line setting ?
- Logistics aside, its too many competitors on a single course for course racing, i.e heavier divisions going first etcetera it just becomes a procession around the course, so to pursue 'Splitting course racing and slalom sessions by division worked well' is an understatement. Anyway I assume this will be different at the Worlds and we have plenty of time until next Nationals - although I won't be traveling north of the Queensland border again during summer, way too hot and humid, enclosed lake didn't allow ventilation.....
- Marathon, was a bit short. Maybe the Marathon should be a true Marathon, lap around the lake/bay rather than just an extended course race.
- More course racing please
- The event on call is not my preference and is a departure from other racing practices. I much prefer the AP be flown and knowing I have 30 minutes to make it to the next start. Even with the starts of this event being so close to the beach, we didn't start sooner than 30 minutes anyway. I don't see this provided any benefit.
- Course Racing is my main reason for attending. Ideally I would prefer to see Freestyle dropped from the schedule and more course racing added.
- A couple of suggestions as fleets grow- mainly for safety and to promote fairer racing.
- 1 Have a rules/ regatta coaching night the night before the regatta start for those that want to attend and compulsory for Cruisers.
- 2 Potentially have an inside mark laid for the top and wing marks for Cruisers as there can be a safety and unfair race issue where open competitors and Cruisers converge on the same mark at the same time. Already this happens between 2 divisions of different weights but would be good if it could be minimised, Alternatively a return to windward leeward for Cruisers with the same concept could be another solution.
- Unfortunately the On Water race start management spoilt an otherwise excellent event. 4 or 5 of the 9 course races grossly favoured a port end start. While a slight bias to the port end is always preferred to spread the fleet along the line and avoid the boat end bunch-up; a severe bias is a certain recipe for many collisions which could ruin the regatta for many of those competitors and raise lingering grudges that (could & did) degrade regatta harmony and camaraderie.
- I would like the courses to be longer.
- Already things we all know but start lines were extremely bias to port and the rabbit boat went too fast. Also it would be good to have the second start fleet do the sausage first and triangle second to alleviate congestion at the wing mark.
- All things considered really good courses - few start lines were a bit tough with too much boat end.

“Slalom, make it a whole day event with 3 or 4 courses running at the same time. Morning session, every competitor guaranteed 3 heats.

Have a lunch break on shore and compile results and have an afternoon session of finals.

Or if it's all too hard, just don't do the Slalom. Felt like a lot of effort for the committee and competitors sitting on water waiting, and then half of us only got one heat.”

# Racing & On Water

## Marathon / Rabbit Start

- Rabbit start favoured upwind sailors, boat went too fast, good concept
- The Marathon's rabbit start had the potential to be fair for the majority of competitors only if the start line AND the path & speed of the rabbit were in keeping with a normal 'slight port end bias'. Unfortunately it was the reverse situation with a gross starboard end bias. With consideration of the possible risks of multiple boards charging to pass by the aft of a powered boat; perhaps a normal line start, divided into 2 fleets (as per the course races); with, if its less than 13kts the 'heavies' starting 10mins ahead, and if its greater than 20kts the 'lights' start 10 mins ahead, and if its in between 13 to 20 then the 'heavies' start only 5 mins ahead."
- Rabbit start should have an LT on port tack in front of the motorboat so at the right speed. Or long start line with middle of line extra start boat if resources allow.
- Marathon could have been longer.
- The ""rabbit"" boat went too quickly at the marathon start. Perhaps a sailing rabbit could be used as in conventional gate starts, with the powerboat acting as a guard boat. The powerboat could also sail alongside a known sailor for about 30 seconds and check how fast they are sailing on the day and then use that speed as a reality check; it shouldn't be hard with so many GPS watches around.
- The Rabbit start for the Marathon is a good idea in principle except that much of the fleet were over the line at the start and those who started at the Committee Boat end all started early and had a massive advantage because the Rabbit Boat moved to windward to accommodate them. Very unfair as there was no intention of recalls.
- I actually thought the rabbit would 'unzip' the start line from the pin end back to the start boat ( so held back )
- Marathon could have been longer. Rabbit start - perhaps a practice one as he went a bit fast - I missed the start :(“
- Rabbit start - a lot of people at the boat end didn't understand what was happening. Some tried to take off when the gun went..... not sure how you cater to people who don't listen.
- Rabbit start was fun. It was a challenge for the boat adjusting speed, perhaps it should have slowed a little towards the boat end. Cruiser division works well.
- The rabbit start is a good option, however the actual line needs to be strictly enforced. Too many competitors push the line forcing the rabbit above it's correct course. This gives an unfair advantage to the competitors that are over the line. This same situation occurred at the 2022 worlds. My overall preference for a Marathon start is a Le Mans style beach start.
- I'm not sure the rabbit start went to plan. I started at the pin end and once the gun went all boards crossed the line and started sailing with the effect the boat crossed past pin end well out from the line. If boat had held course he would of taken out a lot of boards. But it was fun and different.
- Happy with the Rabbit Start, But for more impact, the drone should have followed the start boat up the line rather than try and capture all the starters from a distance.
- Marathon was way to short
- I like the rabbit start but feel it should have been led by an actual windsurfer as the bias was clearly to the boat side on account of the boat's height and speed.
- The rabbit start was a bit of a farce. I was behind a large group who were well over the line. The boat probably had no choice and just went around them. I had a solid transit and was on the line with a heap of others who were then stuffed. Contrary to the comment at briefing that it wouldn't be won or lost at that point, it was a lot to recover from. I would say just set a huge line.
- Rabbit start was good but needs to be refined.
- The rabbit start allowed people to be way over the start line, the boat steered around them. Forget about the rabbit.

# Racing & On Water

## Freestyle

- Freestyle should count as one heat in the course racing. Those that compete can have an extra drop. Those that don't will have to drop the free style and keep all heat results
- I did not like freestyle expression session as a competitor.
  1. Need wind for freestyle. Was unable to turn the board .
  2. Freestyle heat started when all windsurfers clumped together so unable to have space. Surrounded on all sides. Unable to move.
  3. Too many windsurfers in very small area - unable to maneuver to get wind - too concerned about watching others so you didn't hit them and what they were doing. Suggest no box if this situation so everyone can have their own space or less windsurfers per heat would have been better.
  4. General Music would be better for heats for competitors.
  5. Personally I prefer a 3 minute routine alone with music with no distractions .
  6. For Worlds there used to be a separate freestyle and tandem freestyle - perhaps consider for worlds in Perth ?
  7. Personally I think more points for harder tricks and less of a deduction for each boom scrapes , drop sails fall ins. Ie a positive score rather than positive and negative . You lose enough in time when you fall in. Im not convinced repetition should be penalised either esp for beginners - doing something is better than nothing .
- Josh's routine was excellent. 😊👍👍👍 I really enjoyed watching it !!!!
- The expression session heats worked well.
- I would like freestyle to be taken more seriously - and the score to go towards the overall score. Also there needs to be minimum 5 knots
- As mentioned above, the freestyle appears to interest very few competitors. I don't see the value of this discipline being included any longer. The time could be better utilized for other disciplines.
- The freestyle was treated like a second class citizen to the other events. Shoving 8 or so boards in one small area and expecting it not to hinder performance was a mistake. Also making the session run when there was no wind at all limited greatly the performances and the viewing spectacle. A few of us had costumes ready for freestyle but were not allowed to wear them in the heats and then didn't make final, taking away the chance to make it more spectator friendly.
- Please no freestyle at all. Even if there is no wind one morning, give the boat crews a break. It's quite a short regatta and it's wrong to dedicate time to freestyle.
- I entered the freestyle as it is likely my favorite event running the hearts in zero wind was a ridiculous decision. There was zero test of real freestyle skill. With only 20 entries the event could and should have occurred at any time - lunch break - first thing - afternoon - with wind. It was a real shame even as an event that meant nothing for scoring that it was run in zero wind. Given it is all about 50% fun and 50% competition - maybe freestyle should also count towards / against points as an incentive for people to get involved.

## Rules / Judges

- On water judging for slalom would be great
- I know it would be a mission and unlikely however, having an on water judge at the top mark for course racing would be a game changer.
- Barging at the start is a big problem and is not policed at all.
- I would like the slalom to be a bit argy-bargy/no buoy room rule :-)
- There was a lot of pumping up wind in the course racing

# Racing & On Water

## Other

- I have a son who is interested in starting to race and having the cruiser section is a less daunting way for someone to get involved.
- Regatta was excellent on and off the water 😊😊😊👍👍👍
- I know part of Windsurfer racing is its all-wind appeal but for me mooching around in 2 knots is off-putting as I do not find that sort of sailing in any way pleasurable. That said this is the Nationals, the aim is to find the best all round Windsurfer sailor so I understand, and I did exercise skippers discretion and sat out some parts that looked likely to be windless. So its not a criticism, but just a comment, and something that makes me more likely to just use my LT for fun in conditions I enjoy and not come to comps. Horses for courses.....
- I strongly recommend the cruiser division to encourage club level back runners to enter the nationals. As a competitor you gain so much more from a four day event with so much talent around you. I found it challenging and fun and didn't feel like I was in anyone's way. I wasn't pressured into sailing out of my comfort zone but did push myself and improved heaps and gained confidence. I am hoping we can have this division at the worlds.
- Sign on / off app was great.

# Social & Presentation



# Social & Presentation

Competitors indicated that they enjoyed the included events and presentation function.

The Welcome dinner and the Celebration Party both received praised.

Resident DJ (Peter Jones) was first incorporated into the 2018 event and continues to receive strong support for the atmosphere having professional music provides. Unfortunately local by-laws about noise levels curtailed the usual party volume.

The views about the presentation event were also positive.

Further insight into potential ways to enhance the presentation format are provided in the open comments that follow...

n=77

Q: Please provide your feedback on the following aspects of Social and Presentation:

| Statement   | 'Agree' + 'Strongly Agree' |     | Total Agreement |
|---|----------------------------|-----|-----------------|
| The <u>social events</u> (Welcome and Celebration Party) <u>were fun</u>                | 35%                        | 62% | 97%             |
| <u>Having a DJ</u> to provide music and commentary <u>added positively to the event</u> | 35%                        | 58% | 93%             |
| The <u>presentation event was fun</u>   | 37%                        | 57% | 94%             |
| It seemed like there was a <u>good amount of prizes</u> <u>across all categories</u>    | 36%                        | 60% | 96%             |



# Socials

Feedback about the social aspects showed that there remains opportunities to improve certain aspects.

Suggestions for refinement of social/meal events included making sure the included social formats ensure inclusivity, that dietary requirements were catered for, and that the food quality and speed of service is enhanced...

Q: Please provide any feedback, ideas or issues about Socials & Presentation:

n=29

## Socials

- Commentary was good - at times a bit over the top but that's ok.
- DJ good idea until the pub told him to turn it down.
- Food good but could be more gluten free / vego options.
- Yes DJ was a good idea until the Pub staff forced the volume down.
- Very grateful to win a PFD. Embarrassed to have my name called out three times in the raffle therefore I called 'redraw' each time!
- I'm indifferent on the DJ. Food is hard to please all but keep working to make it edible!
- DJ excellent !
- Great fun, thanks!
- Very good. Great to socialise with other competitors and celebrate the event.
- The Yacht Club was too small, too hot and too noisy with the fans running at 100 percent - was difficult to hear the announcements.
- Food was slow and tasteless at the pub.

I loved the fact that there were giveaways just because!

Were not pressured to buy raffle tickets and if you did you did to contribute to the kids.

Loved the Presidents awards – it's a great touch.

## Presentation

- Perhaps streamline presentation if the same people win multiple times
- Prizes : far too many go to the same fleet winners. Many of the awards are won by those fit & experienced racers older than 25 and less than 50. It is unnecessary to award again for anyone less than 50 except for juniors & youths. Based upon current fleet stats, both world & AUS, perhaps a Grand Master should be 55 to 64, Legend 65 to 74, Super Legend 75+
- I thought it was a drag having the same people go to the stage several times seemed repetitious but i cant suggest anything as an alternative
- Im not sure how i would do it but there is great battles being fought at the back of the fleet which no one ever gets to hear about again i have no suggestions
- Due to age categories and divisions and overall, the prizes tend to keep going to the same people.
- Too many prizes, perhaps some should just be noted, and replace with more encouragement awards"
- Might want to consider how international guests are awarded. For example if three Italian sailors took 1,2 and 3rd in Heavy weights they would have been listed as the Aussie national champion 1,2,3rd place getters in other sports they get those places but the first second and third locals are the ones that are given the title because they are local. For example if I compete in the US national cycling road championships and win, I dont get crowned national US champ ( I would only be shown as the winner in the overall results ). The first local guy would get the national championship jersey and the medal.

# Presentation

Those who gave feedback about the presentations underlined the challenge to balance celebrate achievement across all divisions/disciplines, and the consequent length of the time the presentation takes.

(It should be noted that extra divisional awards for overall / marathon / slalom were overwhelmingly requested by competitors as part of the 2022 survey and were added for 2023.)

Some believed recognition of achievement and not just results could be better handled, whilst others provided ideas to speed up the presentation process...

## Presentation (continued)

- The idea of having an overall prize for each weight division was excellent. The increasing size of the fleet and the fact that freestyle is not counted in the Pentathlon means that men's Pentathlon now has no "one on one" element at all. Bringing in the weight division overall prize recognises overall performance among sailors who actually see each other on the racecourse.
- Love your work guys – presentation was very well run and as fast as possible.
- Pity in a way that so many people cleared out early ( but understandable) Could some presentations be done earlier?
- Where possible do event category awards on the day they are finalised so that the main presentation can be shorter and focus on the overall categories. This probably only works for a longer event (eg. 5 days or more, not a 4 day event)
- Perhaps streamline presentation if the same people win multiple times.
- The pub beer garden was an excellent venue
- The outdoor setting at the pub was a great idea and worked very well.
- Maybe too many prizes
- No prize for Sarah Kenny winning marathon outright !
- I am not sure the end of day 4 was a good idea for the presentation and a fair few had left. I could not stay unfortunately after finishing the marathon.
- The lake is 100% fantastic venue despite sometimes fluky winds - the pub also a fantastic venue and atmosphere.

Always a challenge to make it short and punchy and still give out all the prizes.

Very much like more presidents style and spirit awards. Need to set the expectation that it will be an hour or two so combining with a dinner and having a climax of the overall winners and the raffle at the end should keep people interested.

Potentially break up the competition awards with the presidents and spirit awards and maybe best regatta stories by weight division/ fun awards eg 1 between divisions or discipline awards.

# Feedback on adding extra Divisional Trophies

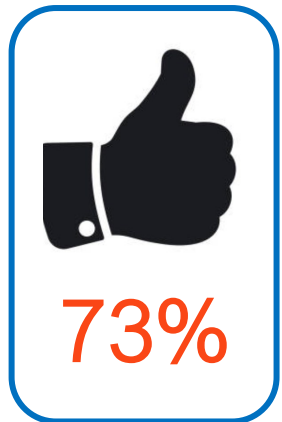
The vast majority of sailors believe that the Class should award the overall trophies for the marathon at Nationals based on across the line placing – irrespective of gender.

Ideas to improve the timeliness of the presentation were also provided...

The presentation format and the trophies awarded has followed a traditional pattern but...

n=72

Q: For the marathon, would you support adding a set of 'across the line' awards to recognise the place-getters - irrespective of gender?



- But not just Marathon
- Why can't a Woman be crowned overall champion?"
- Yes very strongly agree, and along with the first 3 in each of the 3 older age categories disregarding their particular weight category.
- Maybe no more awards due to the many categories already
- Just winner
- Rather than adding more awards, ditch male and female across the line and have non gender awards only
- It is the only time we all race together so if you are giving weight category and women 1,2,3 prizes then overall must be irrespective of gender not male over the line as occurred this year.
- Unsure or undecided on this question.
- Why not have 1,2,3 across the line, then have divisions 1,2,3. Remove Men's 1,2,3.
- I agree across the line awards irrespective of gender. Also light weights may dominate (that's ok) light weights tend to correlate to athlete endurance in most conditions which aligns with Marathon.
- Seemed out of place that the achievement of the overall winner was not recognised because she was a she.
- There were enough awards.
- YES BUT celebrate it together with the divisions represented not two trips out to the podium but . Lets face it this will be divisional winners if a woman beats all the boys then that is great and should be celebrated but could be done last and together as a highlight. eg Mens weight divisions are announced and if any of them are in the top three they get a second medal at the time they come out eg 1st in Medium weights and third across the line overall was Joe he gets 2 medals, 1st in Lightweights and second overall was Fred and The winner of the women's division and fantastically first overall was Sue and she gets two medals and the Lucy Palmer Award. it means making another 3 medals. for overall but helps to show that we are supporting women to challenge the boys. Probably means that you present the divisions according to that overall placing with the winners division presented last.
- Go with tradition which I guess has been established to encourage women to compete
- Yes! Always. Competitive women need to be recognised.
- I understand that we have a women's separate division to encourage participation however Competitive women need it too.
- The women's category is small therefore weight divisions cannot be introduced as yet however if I was competitive (and I plan to be) I would want weight divisions eventually and age categories as I am older and nearly twice the weight of some"
- 100% there should be an award for first across the line regardless of what division that competitor came from. Maybe even a perpetual trophy.

# Overall Event Experience



# Overall Event Experience

Sailors who attended the 2023 Australian Championships were overwhelmingly positive in their assessment.

When asked to rate the overall experience at from '1 - extremely disappointing' to '9 - excellent', 95% of competitors scored it as an 8 or 9, with two thirds rating it as an 'excellent' regatta.

As a weighted average of all responses received - this equated to 8.61 out of 9.

Converting to a scale out of 100 – with 100 being a perfect score, the 45<sup>th</sup> Nationals rated as 96...

Q: Considering all aspects of your experience (racing, social, etc) at the 2023 Nationals, how would you rate the event:  
(select a rating from 1 – Extremely Disappointing to 9 – Excellent)

n=74



# Overall Event Experience

The 2023 Nationals was seen as a success by most competitors.

There was widespread appreciation and praise for the event – on water and on the land.

The Class focus on fair racing and social fun along with the contributions of the host club, volunteers and sponsors led many to the conclusion that the event generated highly positive emotions for them...

Q: Considering all aspects of your experience (racing, social, etc) at the 2023 Nationals, how would you describe the event:

n=42

- 3 ways to describe it - fun fun fun
- 50% racing 50% social fun...the Spirit of Windsurfer
- Absolutely excellent. Can't wait for next one.
- Another awesome regatta, so proud to be there.
- Awesome
- Best thing I've ever done, ever
- Beyond expectations.
- Bloody amazing!
- Competitive & fun
- Considering it was my first major event in 35 years, I really enjoyed it especially meeting the community in person. I came into the event after a long period of injury so appreciated having the cruiser division. It has inspired me to get into fitness training for the worlds.
- Could not fault the organization, experience, competition and overall event.
- Excellent (up to date what's app group with photos and results will keep followers of the class interested.)
- fantastic
- Fantastic as per usual - Great event
- For me, a great introduction to racing with Windsurfer Class
- Fun
- Fun, enjoyable, relaxed and good racing
- Good atmosphere.
- Great competitive sailing
- Great 4 days.
- Great
- Great balance of social, fun and fair racing - really good to see all our Windsurfer 'friends' again !

"A great event. Good balance.  
Made the most of the  
conditions.  
Great location.  
Great people.

Achieved the goal of 50%  
social / 50% fair racing"

# Overall Event Experience

- Great community, water bottle being provided on water was great
- Great event, however would prefer sailing in the ocean.
- Great event. Well managed, good vibe, great racing
- Great fun on and off the water, with friendly people. Couldn't ask for anymore.....
- Great fun on and off the water.
- Great fun, great venue
- Great racing, Great people, Great location.
- Great racing, lots of fun and friendly, welcoming and relaxed environment shared with lifelong and new friends.
- Great Racing, well organized and great atmosphere. I hope this atmosphere can continue in this class.
- Great.
- Great. A little packed. Given the attempted 4 formats, another day would have been good.
- I brought my family so getting to social stuff was hard but I believe the others loved the social events.
- Loved everything about it. The venue/lake/club/ campsites were all marvelous.
- Being able to stand up anywhere on the lake, having water available was important. Super helpful and friendly bar staff come rescue/start boat volunteers were fabulous and made the series special. Being able to leave the boards on the beach and the bar across the road was so easy and the food vans and canteen outstanding."
- I really enjoyed it. The slalom was really fun - perhaps we could do 2 slaloms and 1 or 2 less course races.
- It was fun!
- Just right.
- Mostly terrific camaraderie, spoilt by port-end start line collisions. Two of which were my own 'single minded' poor decision making (when I tacked onto port to avoid tangling with those already on port). Yes I did 360 turns but it spoilt the races of 2 competitors, and gave me guilt anxiety thinking that 720's would have been a fairer penalty considering both the other competitors fell in. My actual results were not great, but I learned a lot both on and off the water.
- Most locals were friendly.
- Biggest issue for some of us was the distance between accommodation and the lake.
- The 2023 Windsurfer Nationals were run very well, and located at a great spot with many options for accommodation. Water access was good, with the option of leaving the windsurfers on the banks was great. All the social events were great, the curries were excellent, and all run very smoothly.
- Congratulations on an awesome event :)
- The overall event was great.
- Very positive vibe, and well handled and organised racing when considering the volume of competitors.
- very successful
- Very well run event that catered for all levels of competitor, with the right amount of social activity
- Well organised, fun and friendly
- Well run , Excellent

# Overall Event Experience

- Pretty well run, with enthusiasm and good humor. It's important to recognize that returning sailors (old farts like me) do not need to be verbally abused by other competitors that have been sailing constantly for years. I think some elements of the group can over-reach in this regard. I witnessed some quite abusive behaviors on the water that was absolutely unnecessary. I had other people make mistakes around me, yet I found it quite easy to remind them of the rules in a friendly manner. Message is.....play nicely!
- Well run and organised considering the amount of sailors
- Well run and welcoming to all participants. Team Peroni had a ball!!
- Well run with a fantastic race committee and some great social events in the evenings.
- Went well, nice to sail another place, look around another place, it was confined but accessible.



# Best Aspects

Competitors were highly complimentary of the overall event execution and delivery, as well as the general 'vibe' and feeling of the 45<sup>th</sup> Nationals.

Highlights included the size of fleet, quality of racing and overall event management. Being able to set courses close to shore was a plus which also enhanced spectator engagement (along with commentary). The venue was lauded for its uniqueness and general amenity.

Off the water the level of interaction, camaraderie, social aspects were a standout for many...

Q: Please indicate up to three things that you really enjoyed about the Nationals:

n=68

## Event Management

- The opportunity to charter boards
- The length of the series
- Great organisation
- Well organized
- It was a well run event
- The organisation and work by the volunteers for the event to take place
- Extremely well organised
- Water handed out on the course.
- Smoothly run ( and its appreciated just HOW much work it is to make that happen)
- Good value
- Water bottles on course
- the great organisation and effort made by the club, Nick, Josh and Adelaide + the other volunteers
- Value for money
- Excellent organization.

- Charter boards making it easy to get involved and the 'water' boats
- Quick publishing of results
- On phone Sign on process worked well.

## Briefing / Communication / Commentary

- What's app
- Good communication - clear and timely
- Good online communication
- Commentary - good to have people like Bez with knowledge doing the calls
- Commentary of Slalom and Freestyle
- Loved the freestyle commentary and performances- will be practicing :)
- Jinxy!!

## Facilities / Venue

- 146 Boards and all the people, Bar overlooking the beach- Beer, Pizza and DJ what more could you want?
- the site was perfect
- Location
- The venue. Great choice fun sailing and good accommodation.
- Great location
- The fact it was an idyllic family friendly location
- Good location
- Location, camping near the yacht club
- Great location
- Warm to hot weather with warm water.
- good location , private
- Location - just beautiful - away from the madding crowds.
- Great accommodation (Habitat)
- The location yes excellent

- Warm weather
- Excellent facilities, access to food and coffee etc
- The location, Lake Cootharaba and the sailing club.
- location - great to go somewhere new and warm
- I enjoyed the relaxed location
- Nice relaxing venue

"Encouragement, camaraderie and respect from everyone to each other"

# Best Aspects

## On Water

- On water activities
- On water sailing
- Racing a one design class.
- Course Racing
- Competitive Racing
- Racing
- Learning experience
- The number of competitors
- Racing
- The racing competition was amazing
- Learning how to race again!
- Tight racing
- Close racing
- Great racing
- Racing short tight courses
- Great racing location not much outside interference, other boats etc..
- Friendly competitiveness
- 2 drops from 8 races added to the course racing my favourite event was great
- lots of races
- Course races
- Racing
- A great slalom heat in fresh wind (as opposed to light, pumping mandatory wind).
- the highs and lows of racing
- The competition of the course racing- but still being friendly racing.
- Great fleet
- The sailing
- Great racing
- The 9 course racing being the target with 2 drops
- Many course racing races
- Running slalom and Course racing at the same time so that Course racing has maximum number of races and slalom could have 2 rounds
- On water competition was friendly and positive.
- the competitive racing
- The quick results
- Competitive fleet or top level sailors
- The individual competition - (like between cruisers )
- Race with world class sailors
- Gaining extra knowledge
- The close racing through out the fleet
- The course races with enough wind that you could hook in and leverage the harness for good speed
- Lack of formal protests.
- Close to shore

## Social / Vibe / Friendship / Feeling

- Enthusiasm and energy of the WCAA officials. Encouraging and helpful. Thank you!
- Community feeling fostered by organisers (windsurfer assoc + sailing club ) and locals
- Catching up with old friends on and off the water
- The friendly atmosphere
- Participation of the young and old
- Great Atmosphere
- Great bunch of people
- People / competitors
- meeting some great people
- Camaraderie
- Meeting new people
- Friendly people
- friendly
- Camaraderie
- Having a beer with competitors at the sailing club at the end of the day.
- Great vibe from the organisers
- Social events
- The camaraderie amongst the competitors.
- Josh Green's smile.
- The friendship amongst all the sailors
- meeting and hanging with other sailors
- The feel, general atmosphere
- Community
- Meeting others
- Dinners
- Fun approach from QLD committee
- Great vibe from.....most of the participants :)
- Casual but professional atmosphere
- Great spirit
- The friendliness and happy vibe amongst competitors.
- Good Times and Laughter
- Social contact with all manner of fellow windsurfers - both old and young
- the 'getting together'
- New friends, nice vibe.
- Being part of the Windsurfer LT community. The presentations were quite touching.
- Friendly and social atmosphere
- Relaxed feel to event
- Great feeling ashore and great overall administration.
- Being part of the WA team

The people - competitors/volunteers/friends

# Improvement Ideas

A wide variety of suggestions were put forward to enhance events in the future.

Many of these reflect that the fleet sizes have reached a 'tipping point' where many aspects of event planning and race management need to be reviewed and refreshed.

These included:

- better use of information technology for communication, race management
- review of the approach to large fleet management including potential of two courses, recalls, starting sequences and division orders as well as Cruisers
- assessing an increasing prevalence of rule infractions and how to balance the Class culture with compliance and enforcement
- consideration of amenities at host venues such as loudspeakers, rigging areas and overnight storage
- refined delivery of social events, including coaching clinics and making Windsurfer merchandise available

Q: Please indicate up to three things that you believe could be improved for the next Nationals:

n=72

## Event Management

- I liked the QR code lanyard at the 2022 Parkdale Nats for check on and off the water. Could do that for 2024.
- Either freestyle has to be taken more seriously or abandoned; I certainly prefer the former. The idea of having an expression session to select finalists is a good one but it's also a test of boardhandling skills, just as in skating and shortboard freestyle. That shouldn't be ignored and perhaps the "jokey" side and the "serious" side need separate representation in the points, or those of us who enjoy the boardhandling side can just give up freestyle entirely.
- Some coaching clinics in the lead up to the Nationals for those of us like me who are new to LT racing would be good
- Schedule - I would like to see it spread over more days (5, 6 or 7) to allow a few full or half days off.
- Rules and coaching night on the eve of the regatta/ MORE Slalom alternating with Course racing
- Coaching clinics / mini sessions were great at Parkdale Nationals. Would be nice to run them again and maybe spread the load to some new ppl.
- Less packed schedule.
- Daily schedule, Its ok to change but I feel it's better if there is a schedule as some cant do the total regatta but still will enter to participate in certain events. I get why you like it fluid but it has some down falls.
- Pre-event 1 day State freestyle contests. The top placegetters only, then contest the National demonstration event.
- Different colour Polo style shirts for volunteers for identification and thank you
- Continue promotion to get more female and younger sailors into class.

# Improvement Ideas

## Race Management / Rules

- Marathon result in general not by division
- Start line bias. 30min nominal course duration. 2hr nominal Marathon duration.
- Total disregard for right of way rules at top mark, although you do get use to it.
- Separate courses so racing fleets don't overlap
- I appreciate that no one protested but here are a few guys that push the friendship with the rules. Be great if the organisers gave them a kind word ie Mate we know your pumping when you shouldnt be, please stop it. Mate you cant adjust your sail during the race please stop.
- Provide an easily visible display of sail numbers for the Start boat during each individual Slalom heat.
- Double elim in the slalom
- On water judging
- Perhaps a longer start line?
- Disqualify serial cheats.
- More starts, smaller sailors per start. (fewer divisions on one start line)
- Have a couple of excellent sailors give feed back to the RO on the start line and have the RO adjust the line if needed to make it so all sailors on the line get a fair start.
- On water pumping marshals
- Check for racers releasing downhaul on final top mark
- For slalom seed sailors based on course results, incase there is no double elimination to even out lopsided heats
- Use a speaker system at the briefings so the entire group can hear all the information given.
- seed slalom heats.
- If slalom counts 25% then more chances prior to knockout or less weighting to slalom
- Scoring, particularly the slalom was too heavily weighted (as well as the marathon). If you're fouled by another sailor or make a slight error you can lose a mass of points.
- Use of AP Ashore to give more notice to a large group of sailors
- Starts: Smaller Fleets / Longer Start Lines
- Across the line marathon irrespective of gender
- Marathon start - more even for everyone - difficult I know.
- Marathon start
- Freestyle competition
- Make pin 5 degrees up on start line
- Start line bias
- Basic port and starboard rules taught at home clubs for newbies. Some didn't know enough to be fair.
- No freestyle
- Freestyle - involve more, slot in in when there is wind !!!
- I still wonder if the 'top performers' get too many medals....some had 5....I understand this gets reviewed, but do wonder
- Two courses running side by side for Course Racing - split the starts for each division
- More emphasis course racing. Marathon being worth 25% is a bit much.
- there seems to still be too much 'port barging' by certain competitors.....don't know how this could be 'improved'
- Improved and expanded slalom or no slalom at all
- Rabbit starts (no motor boat as rabbit)
- If someone is wiped out on the start line they should be able to resolve that issue
- Rules session at briefing
- Cowboy culture at the starts is a big turn off. A big disadvantage of windsurfer racing is that if you are not on the front row of the start line when the start gun goes you have basically lost the race given the massive advantage that the 30 seconds of pumping rule provide to those on the front line and the massive amount of extremely dirty air that it ensure that everyone else gets. While I understand that pumping downwind is a part of windsurfing I think that the 30 second upwind pumping rule is very unfair and makes me not want to race LTs particularly as starting rules are willfully ignored.
- Two separate courses in a perfect world but understand logistics on different clubs and volunteers
- Send the lights and mediums before the heavies to avoid issues at the rounding marks

# Improvement Ideas

## Race Management / Rules (continued)

- A better gate start for marathon
- Reduce the massive pin end bias
- Start lines that are fair and long enough and not pin end bias
- Women's results being pulled from weight divisions
- Compulsory freestyle
- Some comments from the faster light weight classes was that they were catching the slower heavy weight class competitors- maybe 5 minutes wait between starts??
- Race management - 2 course areas would be ideal for fleets over 100 to split the fleets
- I felt that the congestion of the course made the whole event a bit aggro and messy for the second starters. Even the fastest Mediums spent the entire course racing event fighting for clear air and space, and with tactical options very restricted. The light winds were part of the issue, but never once did I get the chance to settle back and enjoy the racing rather than dodging traffic. Given the big fleets, having longer start lines could reduce the pile-ups and crashes. While the favoured end will still be crowded, more people could take the opportunity to get clear air or simply avoid pile-ups.
- Have the lighter sailors start first so the fleets are as separated as much as possible.

## Racing – Cruiser

- Cruisers on an outer course finishing at same finish
- Separate Cruisers out on the race course for safety. They seemed to finish first each time so why not have a separate start after open divisions?
- It would be nice if the Cruisers etc. could perhaps be reminded of the rules, that overtaking boards that started 5 minutes behind and have caught them on the second leg also have rights, and that people with limited skills should allow for that fact at marks.

## Facilities

- Board storage - racks for boards and rigged sails might be needed at some venues
- Credit card facilities for merch sales
- sailing venue maybe could stock pre made salad rolls, Pub food meat was tough as nails
- For worlds I would like to see lockers for storage of personal items as many will not have cars
- EFTPOS for purchasing windsurfer merch on the first day and last afternoon of the Nats.
- Availability of breakfast and lunch catering every day
- P.A for briefings as it was hard to hear sometimes
- Location with similar or even more parking.
- sailing venue maybe could stock pre made salad rolls, Pub food meat was tough as nails

# Improvement Ideas

## Briefing / Communication / Results

- Bigger whiteboard and clearer diagrams
- Briefings - getting everyone to sit so those at the back could hear
- Whatsapp communication - if we have it use it
- Communication for upcoming event schedule (eg next day).
- Better usage of the WhatsApp group for daily communication such briefing time for the next day and results
- All communication via an App. Eg Scoring, Updates, Sign on / off.
- Whatsapp should be like the online noticeboard and very regularly updated as a reliable source of truth
- Put results onto What's App platform

## General / Other

- Some sailors are very serious they don't need to be so serious
- Probably could have some standard Windsurfer T's ( Without all the regatta logos)or hoodies on sale as well
- More windsurfer merchandise
- Try and retain competitors at the event site after racing, many disappeared to accommodation locations
- Drone videos of start

# Final Comments & Ideas

“Awesome job Windsurfer Class - what you've got going is a great culture and pretty unique across any sport - not just sailing”

Competitor feedback

## Q: Any other ideas, suggestions, feedback you would like to add?

- A coaching session (like at PYC) would be great if time permits
- Maybe a coaching session on starting etiquette, although this may be difficult to achieve in a good-natured way"
- A longer schedule of 5-7 days would allow a bit more time off to spend with family. For a future 4 day event I will just come on my own and leave the family behind because I will not get any time with them on a 4 day schedule.
- big big thanks to all involved in organising...a very special adventure was had
- Considering the event was held in a rural area with limited facilities the association and locals were fantastic
- Drone video of starts :)
- Thanks for all the work by the association and club, well done
- GPS tracking for the racing might make things easier
- Great 4 days, Biggest issue was distance between lake and accommodation. Made it difficult for non racing partners to meet and socialise with other non racers or know when to come back to the lake when racing had finished.
- Great attitude to attract old and new sailors !!
- THANKYOU !!
- Great event. Really fun. Big thanks.
- Great regatta as always, well done.
- Great regatta guys
- I would like to see the Worlds regatta be a carbon neutral/ green regatta I am happy to do the work for this and there are guides on how to do it from Sailors for the Sea etc. I think most windsurfers would like to be good to the environment as well as have a great regatta.
- Great work to the entire team, so much work goes on leading up and congratulations to all involved. Bravo..!
- Have freestyle part of the overall
- I really enjoyed the whole event and it was extremely well put together. It would have been a little disappointing to hang around for one quick slalom race - we need to cater for these people as well, not just the pointy end of the fleet. Maybe less course racing and extra slalom race, I really enjoyed the slalom and think young people (and spectators) would find this more exciting than other aspects of the event.
- Well done everyone involved.
- I was very disappointed by the unsportsman-like behaviour of a particular younger (but experienced) Victorian who had delivered a 'diatribe' of verbal abuse in his probable belief that by loudly claiming that I had grossly infringed him and that he was definitely going to protest, that he might confuse me into doing a 360. I should have protested his infringement and the behaviour, both of which were witnessed and remarked upon by others. However I was reluctant to raise possible 'bad-blood'. I believe we should draw attention to the desire for sportsman-like ""Excellent Sporting Behaviour"" by providing an annual award - a sort of ""Best & Fairest"" acknowledgement. Competitors could be allowed a single vote into a 'sealed' ballot box.
- I think realistically you are doing a fantastic job.
- It was a well run event. Most of my issues were caused by accommodation distance to the event or not having access to my own vehicle. I really appreciated being picked up and dropped off by a local though.



# Final Ideas / Suggestions / Feedback

## Q: Any other ideas, suggestions, feedback you would like to add?

- Josh's pre-regatta video showing the venue and accommodation options was fantastic. Nick's drive, enthusiasm, commitment to the class is second to none and realising he is a competitor also at the regatta is very special, cheers!
- Keep rocking... doing an amazing job
- Maybe a way of assisting competitors to get in contact with each other - for car / equipment pooling - prior to the event.
- Keep the inclusion of the original windsurfer boards, one design along with the LTs
- More windsurfer merchandise to be available to purchase. I think there is an opportunity for the association to leverage the windsurfer brand and pent up demand from the community to wear windsurfer apparel!
- Overall, the class leaders are doing a great job. The venue was great apart from the lack of wind during the event.
- The slalom course was a good length, especially when shortened as for the Meds final. For once, rule observance was very good but an on-the-water judge at the vital first mark is a great idea, even if the ""judge"" is just someone taking vids that the RC can be quickly shown (sometime in the future a drone over the mark could be an option).
- The freestyle format has to be sorted out; it's understandable that judges were told to encourage young sailors and jokey approach but if that's the aim then tell everyone so we can decide to either not bother or to learn how to do dress-ups and impro comedy (btw this is not saying that Josh did not deserve the win). While it is always hard to fit the event in, when one of the world's best freestylers (Mel) is embarrassed with her performance then it shows that the conditions are simply unsuitable. To allow for the time issue, perhaps freestylers can just be told that the event may be run after the racing is over for the day, or before racing opens.
- For me the frustration was the congestion on the Course Racing course. One good suggestion came from Walshie, who came up with the idea of asking a Laser class PRO to get involved in some way. The class could also look at the Laser class format of running two trapezoidal courses. The Lasers put one division on the ""outer trapezoid"" and one on the ""inner"" so they are doing windward/leewards in different parts of the course, and the result is far less congestion between the different fleets with very little confusion.
- In general, the class officials are doing a great job and together with the club volunteers deserve many thanks.
- Really appreciate the time and effort that the volunteers put in to make the event so enjoyable. It makes me feel guilty that i do so little and i have often thought that the event could be privatized so that more sailors would be less distracted and more focused on their sailing. I understand this would mean greater costs but i would happily pay more for such a great experience
- Review the scoring system so there is a better balance between to disciplines.
- So this is re Worlds. For what its worth, those dates are a killer for anyone. Great for anyone that's single with a lot of money but otherwise its a shocker.
- Thank you and congratulations on hosting such a successful event.
- Thank you for a great event. Special thanks for the flexibility in running it, and even moreso to the people who volunteered at short notice which was amazing.
- Thanks again to the Windsurfer Association, Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club and fellow Victorians. Grimshawville was a great location to kick back with the gang.
- Thanks to everyone involved in the regatta.
- The event is about the people. The class and supporters are one of the friendliest and inclusive groups I have come across.
- Well done to all involved both on and off the water. Fantastic event see you in WA
- The what's app group at the worlds is how we should use ours for promoting the class
- Lake was great to sail on.

## Q: Any other ideas, suggestions, feedback you would like to add?

- Signing On/Off worked well when internet allowed.
- Briefs were good. General atmosphere was great. Food choices were good. Its evident lots of work went into preparation.
- Distance between resort accommodation and the lake are probably the biggest issue. It made it difficult for meet and greets between non sailing partners who didn't already know others. This is not a criticism of accommodation choices on offer as I believe lots of work went into this. Its only mentioned as thought for future events
- We need more young sailors. Families may need more encouragement to get more of their family participating. There are some excellent examples of family participation.
- Well done all. Thank you so much from a newbie. Feel like part of the tribe now
- While I really like the idea of the online sign on/off. I feel there more is needed to ensure we are adequately meeting the safety requirements. Allowing anyone to sign anyone else on/off without recording who made the sign on/off would leave the organizers with a lot of explaining to do should we have a competitor go missing or god forbid if a coronial inquest were to be required there would be serious gaps in safety exposed. I have discussed this with the developer already and he has taken these concerns onboard.

“Love your work guys.

This was my first big regatta after several years away from sailing, and my first ever windsurfer nats.

I felt at home, was challenged, had fun, looking forward to being part of things for a long time to come.”

# Sponsor & Supporter Feedback





Pat – CEO/Founder

Congratulations on yet another massively successful Windsurfer National Championship!

You have crushed it yet again  
and everyone is still raving about how great the Windsurfer class is.

Vaikobi is stoked to be a partner of the class!

Congratulations on such a huge turn out for the Windsurfer Nationals.  
Amazing work from you and the team at the WCAA.

I have been following all of the State Championships which have shown impressive turnouts.  
A credit to all the State Reps working hard to get these results.

While the competition on the water seems fierce, the vibe around all of the events seems to  
be really fun and positive.

It looks like everyone is having a great time at all the events which is equally as important.

We hope Surflogic has been well received by the members and that our contribution  
remains welcomed by the growing fleet. Thank you for all of your support and inclusion on  
the WCAA Flags etc.. They look great.

It is exciting with the Worlds coming to Perth in 2023/2024. No doubt this will be a huge  
event. Happy to chat about this when it is convenient.



Brad & Amanda - Founders

# Worlds Planning



I.W.C.A. a.s.d. International Windsurfer Class Association



## ***Confirmation of 2023 Windsurfer Class World Championship Arrangements***

***South of Perth Yacht Club – December 29, 2023 – January 4, 2024***

The International Windsurfer Class Association (IWCA) is delighted to confirm that the 2023 World Championships will be held on the Swan River in Perth, Western Australia from December 29, 2023 – January 4, 2024.

The Swan River provides a fantastic sailing location with the legendary “Fremantle Doctor” seabreeze providing consistent winds on flat water under sunny summer skies.

A contingent of Australian 150 athletes are expected along with international sailors from more than 15 countries.

After the huge success of the 2022 Worlds conducted at Mondello Beach, Italy with over 350 competitors the IWCA has taken the opportunity to consider the resourcing and logistics requirements to ensure the best experience for competitors.

After discussions with local Clubs, the IWCA has chosen the South of Perth Yacht Club [www.sopyc.com.au](http://www.sopyc.com.au) to host the event.

Located less than 10 minutes from Perth CBD, the Club offers extensive on water race management expertise backed by fantastic large-scale facilities for visiting sailors, families and friends to enjoy the hospitality and watch the racing.

A variety of accommodation options are available within easy access and proximity to the Club.

A Preliminary Notice of Race will be available in the next days.

Entries will open on March 1<sup>st</sup>.

A minimum of 100 charter boards will be available to non-Australian competitors on a first come basis.

Further information including a dedicated event website, video overview and other useful information for competitors will be provided.

We look forward to welcoming you to enjoy the Windsurfer lifestyle – Australian style.

January 11, 2023.

# Future Event Planning

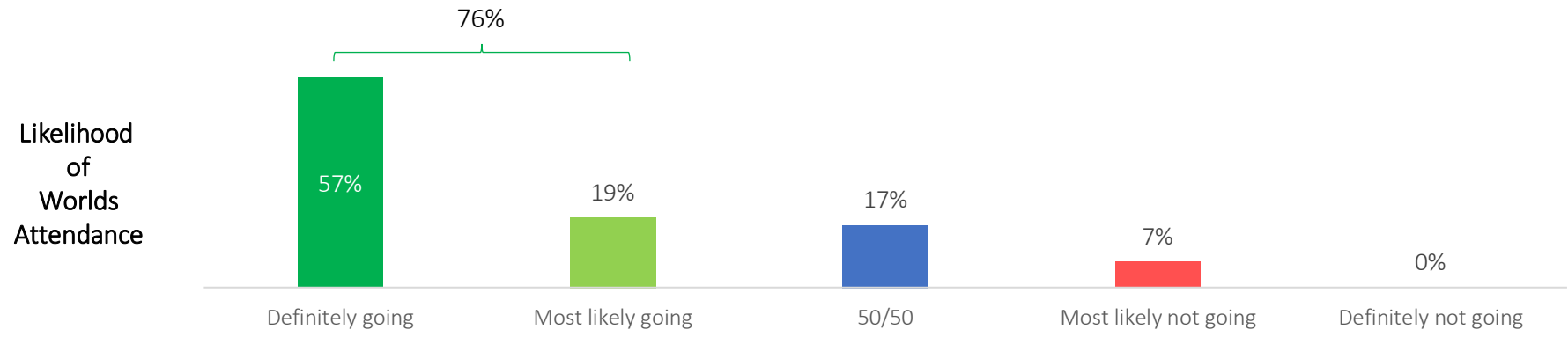
A substantial Australian contingent is indicating their interest in the 2023 World Championships. Three quarters of respondents said that they are interested – with nearly 60% saying that they are certain to attend.

Based on a strong turnout from the local West Australian fleet – the projections suggest 150 or more Australians will attend.

Many of those who are planning on attending the Worlds are interested in buying new kit to use at the event. Group shipping from various States is a preferred mode of gear transport...

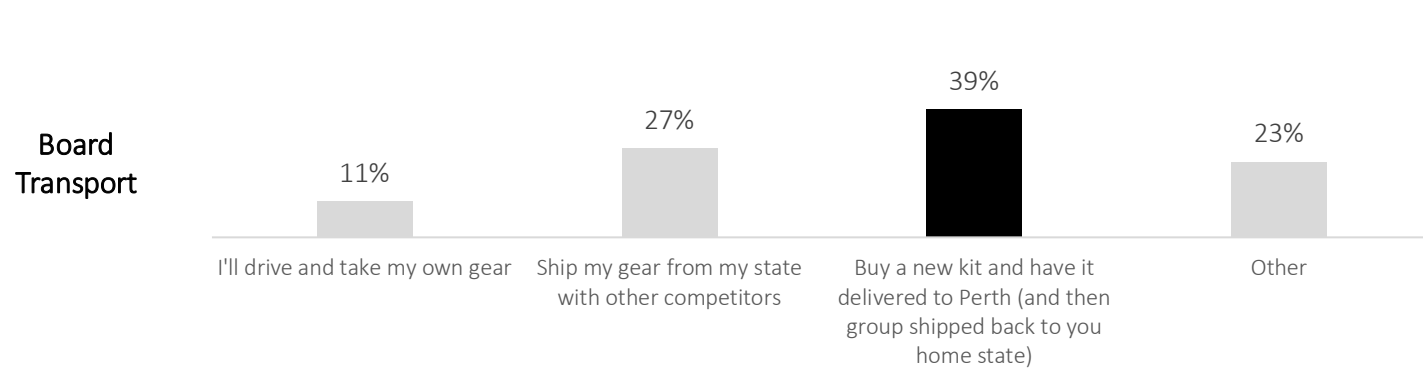
Q: At this stage, how likely are you to attend the 2023 World Championships in Perth?

n=75



Q: What is your most likely scenario for getting gear to Perth?

n=70



- Ship my gear from my state via Windgenuity hopefully ??
- Based in Perth
- Bohaul Express
- Buy a new kit, then sell it in Perth
- Can you buy new gear and keep in Perth as an option ?
- Don't know yet
- Don't know
- Not sure yet
- Not sure.
- I live a 5mins away from SoPYC so all good for me.
- I live in Perth
- I live there
- I'll drive, take my own gear, and perhaps the gear of other competitors if needed
- live in Perth
- Travelling from overseas

# Estimated Economic Impact



Total registrations: **145**

Splits:

|                |    |       |
|----------------|----|-------|
| QLD:           | 46 | (32%) |
| NSW:           | 41 | (28%) |
| VIC:           | 39 | (27%) |
| WA:            | 8  | (6%)  |
| SA:            | 6  | (4%)  |
| TAS:           | 2  | (1%)  |
| International: | 3  | (2%)  |

Total interstate  
/ overseas: **99 / 68%**



# Economic Impact

The final part of the post regatta survey asked respondents to reflect on their activity and spending directly related to attending the event.

Note: The data collected was for competitors only.

Additional travelers (if any) such as family and friends were excluded from the activity and spending calculations.

## Estimated Economic Impact – Attendance Summary – 2023 Nationals

Total registrations:

# 145

Splits:

|                |    |       |
|----------------|----|-------|
| QLD:           | 46 | (32%) |
| NSW:           | 41 | (28%) |
| VIC:           | 39 | (27%) |
| WA:            | 8  | (6%)  |
| SA:            | 6  | (4%)  |
| TAS:           | 2  | (1%)  |
| International: | 3  | (2%)  |

Total interstate / overseas:

# 99 / 68%

# Estimated Economic Impact – Accommodation – 2023 Nationals

Q: Did you stay away from home whilst attending the Nationals ?

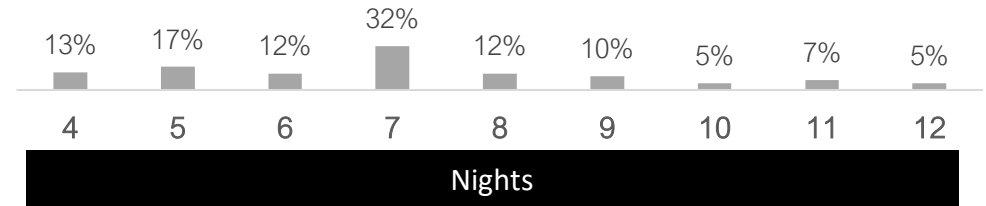
No – stayed at home **2%**

Yes – stayed in accommodation **98%**

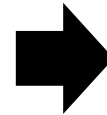
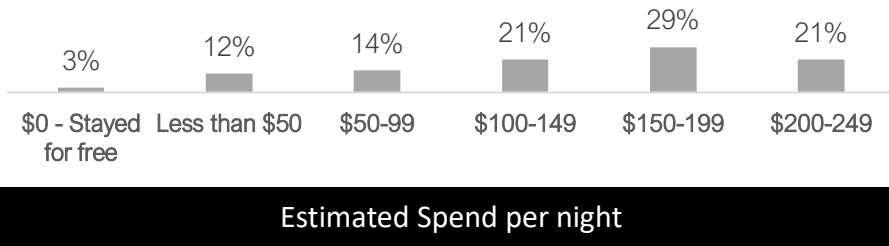


Q: How many nights did you stay away from home whilst attending the Nationals ?

Weighted Average Nights away from home: **6.72**



Q: Estimated spend per night on accommodation whilst attending the Nationals ? (excludes non-racers, family, friends, etc)



Weighted Average spend per night for accommodation: **\$139.55<sup>1</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> Spend based on mid-points Less than 50 = \$40, \$50-99 = \$75, \$100-149 = \$125, \$150-199 = \$175, \$200-249 = \$225

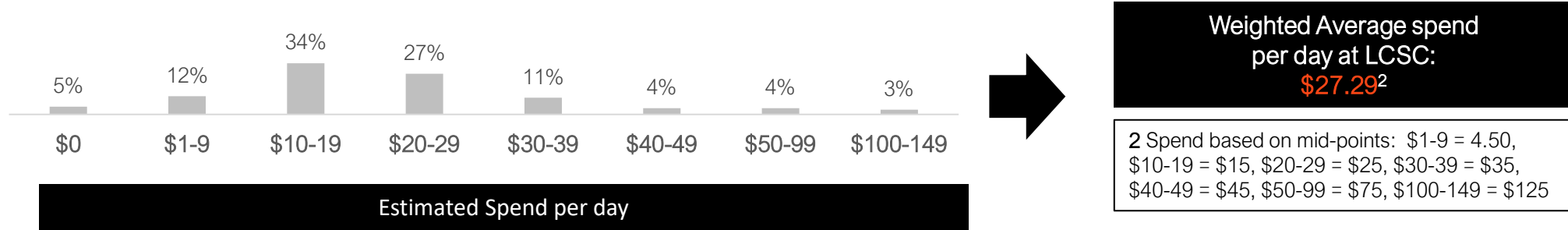
## Calculated Economic Impact – Accommodation

98% of 145 competitors stayed away from home = 142 but 140 paid for accommodation

140 competitors x 6.7 nights x \$139.55 spend per night = **\$130,897**

# Estimated Economic Impact – Food / Drink at Lake Cootharaba SC – 2023 Nationals

Q: Please estimate your spend per day on food / drink at LCSC (lunch's, bar) whilst attending the Nationals? (excludes non-racers, family, friends, etc)



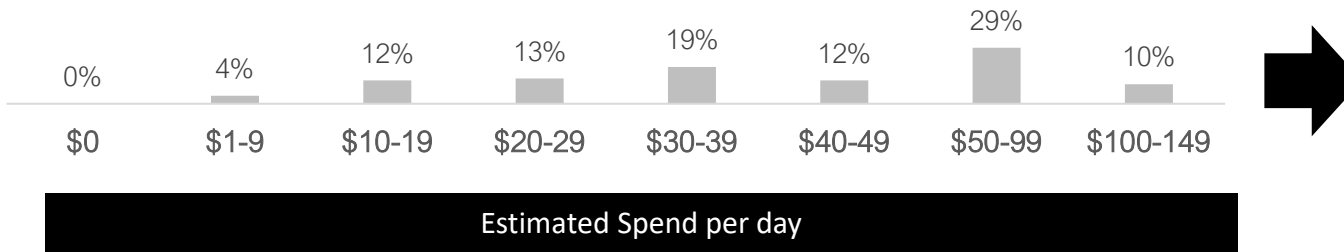
## Calculated Economic Impact – Food / Drink at LCSC

97% of 145 competitors spent at LCSC

141 competitors x 4 days x \$27.29 spend per day = **\$15,391**

# Estimated Economic Impact – Eating Out of Home – 2023 Nationals

Q: Please estimate your spend per day on eating out (e.g. café's, restaurants, take-aways) on both food and drink whilst attending the Nationals.  
(excludes non-racers, family, friends, etc)



Weighted Average spend  
per day Eating Out:  
**\$51.53<sup>3</sup>**

<sup>3</sup> Spend based on mid-points: \$1-9 = 4.50,  
\$10-19 = \$15, \$20-29 = \$25, \$30-39 = \$35,  
\$40-49 = \$45, \$50-99 = \$75, \$100-149 = \$125

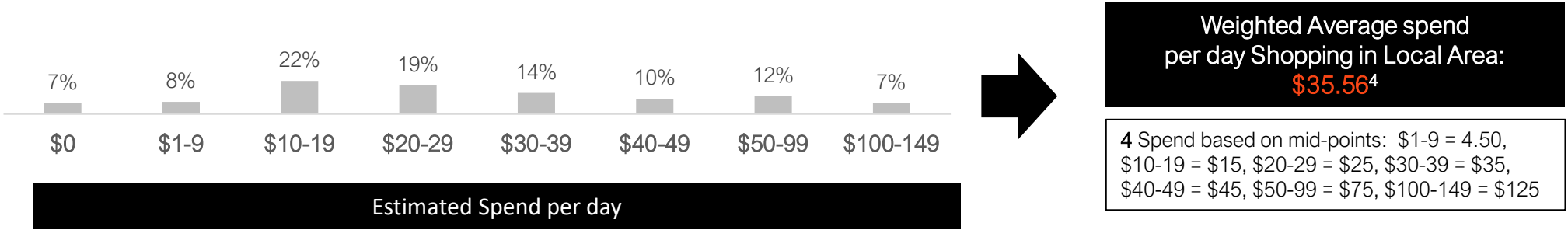
## Calculated Economic Impact – Eating Out of Home

100% of 145 competitors ate out of home

145 competitors x 4 days x \$51.53 spend per day = **\$29,887**

# Estimated Economic Impact – Shopping in Local Area – 2023 Nationals

Q: Please estimate your spend per day on Shopping (e.g. supermarket, bottleshop, other) whilst attending the Nationals  
*(excludes non-racers, family, friends, etc)*



## Calculated Economic Impact – Shopping in Local Area

93% of 145 competitors shopped locally

135 competitors x 4 days x \$35.56 spend per day = **\$19,202**

# Estimated Economic Impact – Overall Event – 2023 Nationals

## 2023 Windsurfer Class Australian Championships

Lake Cootharaba Sailing Club

January 26 - 29, 2023

145 Competitors – 4 days

### Estimated Direct Competitor Spending

|                     |           |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Accommodation       | \$130,897 |
| At Club Spend       | \$15,391  |
| Eating Out          | \$29,887  |
| Supermarket, Retail | \$19,202  |

**Total** **\$195,377**

per entrant **\$1,347**

per day **\$336.86**

### Additional Spending in Local Community

|                          |             |         |
|--------------------------|-------------|---------|
| LCSC Event fee           | Race Mgmt   | \$9,230 |
| T-Shirts                 | Event Merch | \$3,740 |
| Welcome Social event     | Catering    | \$3,920 |
| Celebration Social event | Catering    | \$4,985 |

**Total** **\$21,875**

**Total Estimated Economic Impact** **\$217,252**

per entrant **\$1,498**

per day **\$374.57**