

COUNTDOWN TO THE GAMES: 67 DAYS TO GO

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When the International Sailing Federation (ISAF) announced in 2004 that the equipment used in the Olympic Games would be changed for 2008, selection trials, under the direction of the ISAF were conducted with the objective of choosing a new class of windsurfer. Against a wide range of alternatives, the NeilPryde RS:X was selected to be the new Olympic Windsurfer Class. With just 67 days to go until the RS:X will see its debut in Olympic competition, now is an opportune time to reflect on the first three years of RS:X sailing, events and organisation.

Leading the way to the World Championships and, ultimately the Olympics, where 63 elite athletes have now qualified to represent their countries and compete for gold have been the numerous national and regional RS:X championships. On the road to Beijing have also been two pre-Olympic regattas held in Qingdao, China.

At youth level, the class moves from strength to strength on the back of three Youth World Championships. In 2007 65 Boys and 29 Girls competed in the RS:X Youth Worlds; while in June 2008, a record number of young RS:X sailors will be competing for the 2008 ISAF Youth World title in Denmark. As part of NeilPryde's ongoing support of youth windsurfing, NeilPryde has prepared a comprehensive proposal to the ISAF in support of supplying the RS:X for the first Youth Olympic Games in 2010, and looks forward to hearing the result of this selection in early June.

Established in November, 2006 the Class Association is the focal point for the promotion of the class, organisation of events and coordination of sailors worldwide. NeilPryde works closely with the Class Association as well as sailors, their national bodies and the ISAF to ensure that future activities and developments relating to Olympic Windsurfing are coordinated and well organised. The delicate balance between durability and performance of equipment is a clear benefactor of this close working relationship.

NeilPryde continues to support the RS:X as the class for Olympic Competition. Not only are large amounts of sponsored equipment supplied by NeilPryde to both the Olympics and the ISAF Youth World Championships, and charter equipment made available for major regattas worldwide, but NeilPryde has, in conjunction with its suppliers embarked on an ongoing program to tighten and maintain manufacturing standards to levels not seen before in the windsurfing industry. This enhanced standard of manufacturing quality has been used in the construction of all RS:X equipment to be raced in the 2008 Beijing Olympics, and, subsequent to an audit by the ISAF Class Measurer, the boards and rigs built for Beijing 2008 have been approved for Olympic use.

Neil Pryde Limited is a Hong Kong company started 38 years ago by Neil Pryde, an ex-Olympic sailor. The company is proud to be the supplier of the RS:X Windsurfing Equipment and the 49er Class Sails used in the Beijing Olympic Games, a landmark in Chinese history. We look forward to a continuing relationship with the International Sailing Federation and future Olympic Games.

We wish all of the athletes participating in the Sailing events at the 2008 Olympic Games the very best of luck.

NeilPryde Windsurfing

THE DIFFERENCE

MEDIA

Please review the RS:X Media Pack for further information on the Neil Pryde RS:X.

The Media Pack and a series of unlimited use photographs are available to download at:

[ftp.neilpryde.com](ftp:neilpryde.com)

User name: mediafolder

Password: wlksgh

Folder: rsx media pack

Please include a photo credit with each photo used.

If you require further information on the RS:X or Neil Pryde please contact:

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