

International 49er Class Associations

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SEIKO 49er Worlds - Champions Ready to Go

The 49er Class has returned to Zadar, Croatia to dispute the SEIKO 2012 World Championship with some of the best sailors in the world. 78 teams representing 32 nations have arrived in Zadar not only to claim the remaining 5 country slots for the 2012 Olympics but to test their skills for the upcoming Games against the best sailors as well as claim the title of 49er World Champion.

The last time the 49er Class was in Zadar was in 2009 for the European Championship where Pietro and Gianfranco Sibello of Italy were crowned champions. Fitting as Pietro will make his debut after a lengthy medical hiatus that will find him back on the water with his brother with hopes to qualify Italy for the 2012 Games. Pietro was given a hearty round of applause at the Opening Ceremonies last night by fellow competitors.

While several teams have already been named by their Federations for the 2012 Olympic Games and will use these Worlds as a testing grounds, there are still several nations that have yet to name their team. Competition as always will be fast and furious and the organizers in Zadar are prepared to host the best event.

Australians Nathan Outteridge and Iain Jensen who sit atop the ISAF rankings are here with Nathan trying to win his fourth title as skipper, the first in the 49er class.

Follow the action on www.49erworlds.org with racing beginning May 7 and the prizegiving on May 12.

Photos: credit Nikola Sisko

Photo 4668: Estonian crew Lenart Kivistik walks with local Croatian juniors in the 49er Opening Ceremonies

Photo 4710: Crews lined up for 49er Opening Ceremonies

About Seiko

SEIKO has been the main sponsor of the International 49er Class since 2006. Through this agreement, SEIKO has assisted the growth of the sport and has supported the future development of the 49er sailing through the supply of funds and equipment to the new generation of sailors. In return, SEIKO has gained valuable insights into the needs and wishes of the top athletes in world sailing, and is incorporating this knowledge into each new generation of Velatura, its marine watch collection.