



AUS-120
SEAN O'BRIEN
#1 Australian FW & Olympic Class Windsurfer



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RETURNING TO AUSTRALIA ON A HIGH NOTE.

Australian Formula Windsurfing Champion Sean O'Brien finishes the 2007 Windsurfing Pro Tour on a high note, with his first Top-10 event finish and an overall World Ranking of #12 for the season.

The current and two-time Australian Formula Windsurfing (FW) Champion Sean O'Brien has just returned home to Brisbane, after a 4-month tour in Europe on the Windsurfing Pro Tour. The final event of the Pro Tour on the Isle of Wight, England, in September, saw Sean put in his best performance to date, finishing 9th overall and raising his current overall World Ranking for FW up to #12 for the 2007 season. Sean battled with a class fleet during the event, including the current FW World Champion and again showed the results of his hard work during the year, being the only Australian sailor on the Pro Tour.

Sean joined the Pro Tour late in the season after switching from the RS:X Class (Olympic Windsurfing Class) due to a disappointing performance in his final qualifying event for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, China. Despite being the current Australian Olympic Class Champion, Sean had his training interrupted earlier in the season by a back injury and was unable to properly prepare for the Olympic Class World Championships in July this year. So the obvious choice was to return to the Professional Windsurfing Tour, despite minimal preparation. *"I only had two weeks to prepare my gear for the first events of the Pro Tour I was planning to attend. I had just changed to a new sail sponsor and was unsure of the tuning required for the new sails as the gear is very different to the Olympic Class kit, but as I went through the events I just got faster and faster".*

Now back in Australia, Sean's focus has turned to event organisation with him directing the organisation of the 2008 Oceanic and Australian FW Championships to be held at Redcliffe next January. Sean is hoping to bring some of the ideas and experiences he has had competing in large international windsurfing events in Europe and incorporate them into this championships in Australia which has so far attracted a few of the big names in windsurfing including the current FW World Champion and the current World #1 who have already pre-entered. Having already won the past two Australian Titles, Sean would like to add a third consecutive National Title to his belt at this event which will be run at his home training spot of Suttons Beach, Redcliffe. To follow Sean's progress, visit his website at www.AUS120.com or the Official Event Website at www.fw-australia.com.

For more information:

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