



## **International 420 Class Open World & Ladies Championships 2008**

### **Record 420 entry prepare to race in Athens**

A record number of 420 teams have arrived in Athens for the 2008 World and Ladies World Championships. The event is being held in the waters of Faliro Bay in the Saronic Gulf. It is based at the Faliro Olympic 2004 Coastal Zone Complex, the home of the host club, the Nautical Club of Tzitzifies-Kallithea (NOTK),

Speaking after the Opening Ceremony, 420 Class President, Nino Schmueli, said, "We are very proud to have teams from five continents at this World Championships – 178 boats (of which 77 are entered for the Ladies Championship). This is a record participation, including several countries that have not recently, or ever, been previously represented. This gives us a positive impression that we are moving in the right direction. I am looking forward to an excellent championship".

President of Yacht Club NOTK, Pandelis Parlidis, welcomed the sailors and coaches, saying, "We are very pleased and proud to host here in Athens so many countries from all over the World. We will do our best to make sure that the sailors leave Greece pleased with their experience of sailing here and with beautiful memories of their time in Greece".

Over 350 athletes from 25 nations, with their coaches and support teams, have been arriving from around the globe over the last week. Some of the teams have been in Athens in recent weeks for training, while others have been competing at International 420 events at CIMA, Kiel, Garda and Ile Tudy (Finistere), as well as National Championships in Oceania, Spain, South America and Portugal, as part of their preparation.

Four teams who competed in the Volvo ISAF Youth World Championships in Aarhus, Denmark last week, have travelled to Athens to make the switch back into the 420 (twenty-three experienced 420 sailors competed at the ISAF Youths 2008, four teams winning medals in the 29er and multihull classes, including the two Golds in the double-handers).

The selection processes for the World Championships teams have been challenging and thorough. For example, Israel held 29 races, over 5 regattas, to identify the very best of their 420 sailors for the team. The French completed most of their selections through their series of regional regattas in March and May, together with CIMA, but two final team places were reserved until the results of the Coupe Nationale in Ile Tudy, just last week!

With the Practice Race today, racing starts in earnest with the qualifying races for the Gold and Silver fleets that will race in the finals after the Sunday lay day.

Καλός αέρας στα πανιά σας! Good wind in your sails!

#### **More details:**

Class website: <http://www.420sailing.org>  
Event website: <http://www.420worlds08.gr>

#### **ENDS**

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