

MOOREA  
TAHITI

SFT  
SURF FOIL WORLD TOUR

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ARMSTRONG

TAHITIAN FOIL CLUB

# TAHITIAN FOIL FESTIVAL

5 FOILING DISCIPLINES

- DOWNWIND
- WAKE FOIL
- SURF FOIL
- PUMP FOIL
- FOIL ASSIST

2026

FROM MAY 8TH TO MAY 17TH, 2026  
INTERNATIONAL OPEN TAHITIAN FOIL CONTEST

**SFT TAHITIAN FOIL FESTIVAL, Tahiti**

**French Polynesia**

**08.05.2026 to 17.05.2026**

**This is a SFT World Tour event.**

## **SFT Tahitian Foil Festival 2026**

**Tahiti, French Polynesia**  
**May 8th to May 17th, 2026**

It is a pleasure to announce the **SFT Tahitian Foil Festival 2026**, a landmark event that will host the first-ever **SFT x Tahitian Foil Club event in Tahiti**. This event is part of the **SFT Surf Foil World Tour 2026** calendar and will feature competition in **Surfoil, Downwind, Pumpfoil, and Wakefoil**.

Set in one of the world's most iconic ocean environments, the Tahitian Foil Festival is designed to celebrate the diversity of foil sports through multiple disciplines and competition formats. From wave riding and open-ocean glides to technical endurance and towed freestyle, this event brings together the full spirit of modern foiling in Tahiti.

This is a **SFT World Tour** event.

### **Registration**

#### **Entry procedure and registration**

All competitors planning to enter this SFT World Tour event must register through the link on the relevant event page of the **SFT Surf Foil World Tour website**, or through the following direct link:

<https://app.surffoilworldtour.com/>

Alternatively, registration may be completed by email at **carlos@surffoilworldtour.com**, or by other means as specified by the SFT Sports Commission.

The registration period and payment deadline will close on **May 3rd, 2026**. Timely registration is essential to allow for the proper organization of event lycras, logistics, and the event safety plan. Riders are strongly advised to register early, as accommodation availability in the area is limited. Riders under 18 years of age must provide a **signed parental authorization** before registration can be confirmed.

### **Data Protection**

Registration implies acceptance of the **SFT Riders App Terms and Conditions** and **Privacy Policy**. Personal data may be processed for sporting, administrative, media, and event-related purposes in accordance with applicable data protection laws.

### **Entry Restrictions**

#### **Important note for French riders**

French riders must also hold a valid **Tahitian Foil Club 2026 "Licence Compétition"**, issued by the **Fédération Tahitienne de Surf (FTS)**. Riders who already hold a valid FTS license may use that existing license. For questions regarding this requirement, competitors may contact:

**tahitianfoilcontest@gmail.com**  
**WhatsApp: +689 87 78 42 82 (Bastian)**

The entry fee for this event is **USD 300**, covering participation across the festival competition program. A valid **SFT membership** is mandatory and may be obtained as either:

- **One-event membership:** EUR 20
- **Full-year membership:** EUR 40

Payments must be made by credit card. In certain exceptional cases, late payment may be accepted in cash during on-site inscription. Cash payments will only be accepted in **EUR or USD** and will incur an additional **USD 30 processing fee**. If the full registration amount is not paid by the end of the announced registration period, the rider will not be allowed to compete.

### **SFT Payment Links**

**SFT Tahitian Foil Festival Entry Fee (USD 300):**  
<https://buy.stripe.com/00w7sM88tafCedxba55EY1J>

**SFT One Event Membership Fee (EUR 20):**  
<https://buy.stripe.com/28o6rw8HS6KOawo15t>

**SFT Full Year Membership Fee (EUR 40):**  
<https://buy.stripe.com/9AQaHM4rCglodIAeWk>

### **Eligibility**

A competitor is eligible to enter this SFT event if the following conditions are met:

- The competitor holds valid personal medical insurance with worldwide coverage. Proof of coverage may be requested at registration.
- The competitor holds a valid SFT competitor membership for the current season.
- Competitors under 18 years of age must provide a signed parental authorization from a parent or legal guardian before registration can be confirmed.
- Competitors enter at their own risk and may not hold the SFT, GKA Event GmbH, Deep Ocean Consulting Ltd, or the event organizer liable for insufficient insurance coverage or third-party claims arising from their participation.

### **Entry Allocation**

This is an **Open SFT Tahitian Foil Festival**.

A discipline will be considered valid only if a minimum of **6 participants** are registered in that discipline.

For a gender category to be valid, there must be a minimum of **3 men** or **3 women** registered in that category. If a gender category does not reach the minimum of 3 participants, race management reserves the right to merge categories or apply the most appropriate competitive structure for that discipline.

## Disciplines

The event will feature the following disciplines:

- **Surfoil**
- **Downwind**
- **Pumpfoil**
- **Wakefoil**

Additional **Foil Assist divisions** may be run within **Surfoil** and **Downwind**, subject to final event confirmation and sufficient participation.

## Divisions and Categories

### Competition Division

All riders compete in the **Open division**. The minimum age to compete is **14 years old in the year of competition**.

### Award Categories

Subject to participation numbers and final confirmation by the organizer, the following award categories may be recognized within the Open division:

- **Open Men**
- **Open Women**
- **Masters Men**
- **Masters Women**
- **Youth Men**
- **Youth Women**

For clarity:

- **Masters** refers to riders aged **40 or older** in the year of competition.
- **Youth** refers to riders **under 18** in the year of competition.
- **Youth and Masters are additional award categories within the Open division**, not separate racing divisions.
- A valid discipline requires a minimum of **6 registered participants**.
- A valid men's or women's category requires a minimum of **3 registered competitors** in that category.

In selected disciplines, an additional **Foil Assist division** may be run if confirmed by the organizer and supported by sufficient participation. If run, it will follow the core format of the relevant discipline, with any discipline-specific technical or safety requirements communicated by race management.

## Event Seeding

Where applicable, seeding, heat structure, and starting order may be determined by a combination of prior SFT ranking, qualifying performances, initial scoring rounds, or draw, depending on the discipline and the number of participants. Final competition formats will be confirmed by race management according to the discipline concerned.

## Important Information

Competitors must wear the official event lycra at all times when proceeding to the water, including during training, and whenever required during interviews, official presentations, and podium ceremonies. Each rider will receive one official competition lycra at registration and is responsible for it throughout the event.

Competitors must place the required SFT board stickers on both the top and bottom of their board and comply with the event advertising rules at all times. Breaches may result in warnings and fines of up to **USD 500**.

All official rider meetings and opening or closing ceremonies are mandatory. Riders must be on time and ready. Riders are not permitted to publicly associate their names with unauthorized parties, events, or autograph sessions during the event period.

## Membership

Every competitor must hold a valid **SFT membership**, either for one event or for the full season. Membership fees are determined by the SFT and may be updated during the year. SFT membership does not replace the rider's obligation to hold valid accident insurance and civil liability insurance. A medical certificate may also be requested where necessary.

## Travel Information

The main international airport for the event is **Tahiti International Airport (Faa'a)**. Riders travelling with **Air Tahiti Nui** may benefit from one free **23 kg boardbag** included per person, provided tickets are booked directly through the airline's website.

Rental cars are available at the airport through providers such as **Hertz, Avis, Europcar**, and others. For accommodation assistance, riders may contact Bastian directly:

### **Bastian**

**WhatsApp: +689 87 78 42 82**

**Email: b.cattabrini@gmail.com**

The organizer is also arranging Airbnb and rider accommodation options where possible. In case of logistical issues, competitors should contact Bastian directly.

## Travel Documents and Visa

Participants are responsible for verifying all passport, visa, and transit requirements applicable to their nationality and travel route. Depending on the itinerary, a valid **U.S. ESTA** may be required for transit.

If an invitation letter is required for travel purposes, riders may request one by emailing **carlos@surffoilworldtour.com**.

## Event Site and Locations

Event locations will be announced **one week before the start of the festival**, in order to secure the best possible weather conditions for each competition day. Competitors

should follow [@surffoilworldtour](#) and [@tahitianfoilclub](#) on Instagram for the latest updates.

## **Planned Competition Areas**

### **Surfoil**

Baie de Papenoo or Gecko-Atimaono, depending on conditions.

### **Downwind**

Two planned routes are identified in the draft: **TOA DW** and **TOA Cross DW**.

### **Wakefoil and Pumpfoil**

Banc de sable de Taapuna, including the Vaipoopoo / pontoon area.

## **Registration and Riders Meeting**

The official registration and riders meeting will take place at:

### **Reeftop, Kon Tiki Hostel, 8th Floor**

In front of Gare Maritime de Papeete

**Friday, May 8th at 4:00 PM**

## **Organizer Contact**

### **Bastian**

**Email:** b.cattabrini@gmail.com

**WhatsApp:** +689 87784282

## **Accommodation for Competitors**

For accommodation information and assistance, competitors may contact:

### **Bastian**

**Email:** b.cattabrini@gmail.com

**WhatsApp:** +689 87784282

## **Weather**

At the time of the event, competitors can expect warm tropical conditions in Tahiti. Light competition apparel is generally sufficient, although some riders may prefer a shorty wetsuit depending on personal comfort and conditions. Sunrise is typically around **06:00** and sunset around **18:00**.

## **Equipment**

Only **hydrofoils** are eligible for use in competition. There are no restrictions on the dimensions of foil equipment, boards, or quivers unless specifically stated for a particular discipline. Both serial production and prototype equipment are allowed. Footstraps, pads, and wax are allowed.

For **Wakefoil**, a **strapless** category may also be run if more than 6 competitors are registered in that category.

For **Wakefoil**, the use of a **helmet and impact vest is mandatory**. For **Surfoil, Pumpfoil, and Downwind**, the use of a **helmet and impact vest is strongly recommended**.

For any **Foil Assist division**, additional equipment and safety requirements may apply and will be communicated by race management. For **Foil Assist divisions**, the use of a **helmet and impact vest is mandatory**.

## Competitor Obligations

As a competitor, I agree:

- to display my competitor number visibly
- to wear the official event lycra as required
- to place the required board stickers on the top and bottom of my board
- to follow the instructions of the race crew and officials
- to attend all mandatory rider meetings, ceremonies, and official media activities

Failure to comply may result in fines or disciplinary action, including fines of up to **EUR 500** and, in serious cases, additional sanctions or suspension from the next event.

## Event Formats

### Surfoil Event Format

The surfoil competition is conducted in a surfing-style format. Competitors enter the water with their equipment, perform take-offs on waves, and are scored by a land-based judging panel according to a predefined scoring system. Two waves are counted for a total score out of 20 points. Each individual wave is scored out of 10 points. Heats last **25 minutes**, while semifinal and final heats last **30 minutes**.

Judging criteria include:

- variety of maneuvers performed
- commitment and fluidity
- originality and diversity
- number of maneuvers
- wave optimization

The first heat allows judges to establish an initial ranking in order to determine the heat structure for later stages. Priority is determined through a buoy system. Interference will be assessed by the judges according to its effect on the rider's wave and scoring opportunity.

An additional **Foil Assist Surfoil division** may also be run, subject to final event confirmation and sufficient participation. A minimum of **6 participants** is required for the division to take place, with at least **3 men** or **3 women** to form a valid gender category. If run, it will follow the same general format and judging logic as the Surfoil discipline, unless otherwise specified by race management.

### Downwind Event Format

The downwind event consists of a long-distance race in which riders use wind, swell, and personal technique to travel from a start point to a finish line as efficiently and quickly as possible. Course length may vary depending on weather and ocean conditions. Safety boats, markers, and race support units will be deployed as required.

The event may use a mass start from the ocean or a modified start procedure depending on conditions. Riders must rely only on natural energy and personal technique. The race ends when a rider crosses the finish line or is no longer able to continue. Ranking is based on the fastest overall time. In the event of a tie, a photo finish, timing system, or shared position may be used. Final mandatory safety requirements for downwind, including any compulsory leash, flotation, or communication equipment, will be confirmed by race management according to the final course and conditions.

An additional **Foil Assist Downwind division** may also be run, subject to final event confirmation and sufficient participation. A minimum of **6 participants** is required for the division to take place, with at least **3 men** or **3 women** to form a valid gender category. If run, it will follow the same general format and ranking principles as the Downwind discipline, unless otherwise specified by race management.

### **Wakefoil Event Format**

The wakefoil discipline is run as a towed foil freestyle format. The scoring system is similar to surfoil, but without the wave optimization category. Riders have **3 minutes** to perform as many tricks as possible on the boat wave.

Judging criteria include:

- variety of maneuvers
- commitment and fluidity
- originality and diversity
- number of maneuvers

In the case of a fall, the first fall is free. The second fall results in a **1-point deduction**, the third in a **2-point deduction**, and the fourth in a **5-point deduction**. A fall is considered to occur when the participant can no longer follow the boat wave and the boat must turn around.

**A strapless category may also be run if more than 6 competitors are registered in that category.** For Wakefoil, **helmet and impact vest are mandatory.**

### **Pumpfoil Event Format**

#### **A) Pumpfoil Individual Event**

The pumpfoil individual event consists of completing a buoy-marked slalom or directional course using pumpfoil only and without external assistance. Riders must maintain continuous flight while correctly following the designated route. Starts may be made from a dock or another authorized launch method. Each participant completes **2 runs**, with the best time counting toward ranking. Finals may be organized for the top riders.

Penalties may apply for missed buoys, course errors, or external assistance. Touching the water is allowed, but falling ends the run. Rankings are based on the fastest valid time, with tie-breaks resolved by second-best time or an additional run if necessary.

## **B) Foil Relay Team Format**

A foil relay team format may also be organized as a **show format**, subject to time, conditions, and final event logistics.

## **SFT Team Tahiti 2026**

**Sports Director / Contest Director:** Carlos Saez

**Local Organizer Contact:** Bastian Cattabrini

Any questions may be directed to [carlos@surffoilworldtour.com](mailto:carlos@surffoilworldtour.com) or to the local organizer contact listed above.

We look forward to welcoming you to Tahiti for a unique and historic edition of the **SFT Tahitian Foil Festival 2026**.