

ADVANCE PROGRAM

Hydro GP 2026

World Powerboat Championship F500

European Championship GT15

21-23 of August, Ruse, Bulgaria



Министерство на
младешта и спорта

UIM
UNION INTERNATIONALE MOTONAUTIQUE

ROUND OF HYDRO GP 2026

**F500 GRAND PRIX
OF
BULGARIA, RUSE**

POWER SPEED | CHAMPIONS COMPETE | LEGENDS | RUSE BULGARIA |

21-23.08.2026

**EUROPEAN
CHAMPIONSHIP
GT15 2026**

**RUSE
BULGARIA**

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21-23.08.2026



ADVANCE PROGRAMME

HYDRO GP WORLD POWERBOAT CHAMPIONSHIPS F-500

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP GT 15

Ruse, Danube River, Bulgaria 21-23 of August 2026

1. SERIES AND CLASSES

- HYDRO GP World Powerboat Championships F-500
- EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP GT 15

2. DATES AND LOCATIONS

Dates: 21-23 of August 2026
Venue: Ruse, Danube River
Address: "Pristanishtna" str.24, 7000, Ruse, Bulgaria GPS 43.851313, 25.948775
<https://maps.app.goo.gl/rdeUs8JwQe8yDjDcA>
Schedule: According to Time Schedule in the end of this Advance Programme.

3. RULES

- 3.1. The races are held under the current UIM rules, homologations and Bulgarian Powerboat Federation rules.
- 3.2. The organizer and race directorate retain the right to announce additional rules and regulations specifically for the races mentioned in this programme. These rules and regulations must be in conformity with the rules and regulations of the UIM and are obligatory as any other rules and regulations of these races. Drivers must be informed about these additional rules and regulations during the first official drivers briefings. The modifications must be communicated, by written means, to the officials and participants, at least 1 hour before the first start.
- 3.3. The official language of the HYDRO GP World Powerboat Championships F-500 and EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP GT 15 is English.

4. ORGANIZER

National Authority:
website: Bulgarian Powerboat Federation
<https://www.championship.jetski.bg/infobg/5>

Main Organizer:
website: Bulgarian Powerboat Federation
email: bulgarian.powerboat.federation@abv.bg

Project Manager: Todor Hristov phone number: +359888731578

Race official email: t.r.hristov2011@gmail.com

Co-organizers: Municipality of Ruse, "Powerboat club Riahovo"



5. ENTRIES

5.1. . Entries can be submitted:

- online not later than 21/07/2026 [on-line https://forms.gle/ZFqhLKebV1wcKNzB9](https://forms.gle/ZFqhLKebV1wcKNzB9)
- onsite: entry form can be filled during registration in the Race Office (see Time Schedule).

5.2. **There will be no entry fee.**

5.3. All registrations will be confirmed by the organizer. If a competitor does not receive such confirmation, it is his responsibility to contact the organizer to verify his registration.

5.4. At the request of drivers applying for visas, the organizer will prepare invitations.

If a visa is required, it is the driver's responsibility to obtain it in order to enter **BULGARIA**.

5.5. The entry form signed by the driver will be treated as the acceptance of this Advance Programme.

6. MINIMUM AGE OF DRIVERS

6.1. According to UIM Rule:

1) 203.04.01 classes:

- F-500 – 16 years,
- GT-15 – min. 12 years , max. 16 years,

6.2. Parents/Guardian consent to start in the competition, name, signature, contact information are mandatory on the entry form for all participants that are under 18 years old.

7. REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

7.1. Original documents must be presented and copies handed over to the Race Office:

- filled and signed entry form,
- original National Authority signed ratification document (UIM rule 203.01),
- current racing license,
- measurement certificate,
- current immersion test certificate (only F-500 drivers),
- documents of medical examination,
- insurance documents in English or in local official language (in accordance with UIM Rule 205.09 and point 15 of this Advance Programme),
- identity document (ID or passport),
- signed acknowledgement of the anti-doping rules (can be signed at the registration),
- consent to the processing of personal data.

7.2. Jury members must present a signed N/A authorization form at the Race Office upon arrival (UIM rule 402.01)

7.3. After successful registration each driver will receive a written and stamped inspection card.

8. RACE COURSE

8.1. UIM Water Registration:**BUL03/0925**

8.2. Maximum number of boats on the race course: 16

8.3. Lengths and number of laps:

Class	Number of laps	Length of one lap
GT-15	start lap + 6 laps	1 100 m
F-500	start lap + 8 laps	1 500 m



8.4. Number of laps in case of qualification heats: 4.

8.5. The race course will be a closed circuit (heptagon) with a length of **1 100 m for GT15 and 1 500 m for F500 m** (see the map at the end of this document).

8.6. Upon agreement with the UIM Sport Commissioner the race course may be slightly changed for safety reasons before the heat due to unforeseen circumstances.

8.7 Testing/practicing outside the race circuit and in race venue three days before event and before or after the authorised hours during the event is prohibited.

9. RACING FORMAT AND STARTS

9.1. **F500 have three heats, which are to be considered for the results, and GT15 have four heats .**

9.2. 16 starting places will be prepared on the start jetty. On the start jetty at the start procedure each driver can be accompanied by a maximum of two team members and in class F-500 three. In case of a larger number of drivers in particular class UIM rule 305.04.03 will be applied.

9.3. All heats will have a dead engine start as per UIM rule 307. Starting position for first heat will be determined by time trial. Boats qualifying for first heat via second chance qualification will be positioned at the lower end of the jetty.

9.4. The start of the starting procedure will be signalled by the firing of a white flare, a green flag or a whistle.

9.5. Late start is understood after the moment when the leading boat passes first turn buoy or red light is turned on again (detailed explanation at drivers briefing). Such late boat will be allowed to join the race only after signal and instructions of the Jetty Marshall.

9.6. Time limits for late drivers to the start and finish will be discussed during the first drivers briefing.

9.7. The start remains open until the first racer has made three laps.

9.8. Safety lap after checkered flag is obligatory for all classes. Not fulfilling this requirement results with disqualification.

9.9. The first crossing of the finish line after the start counts for the first lap.

9.10. In case of a heat with a restart UIM rule 311 will be applied.

10. SAFETY REGULATIONS

During training and heats the driver in a boat must wear:

- protecting helmet as per UIM rule 205.07,
- racing vest as per UIM rule 205.06,
- clothing protection as per UIM rule 205.11.

11. FUEL

11.1. In accordance with UIM rule 508.

11.2. Drivers of GT-15 class can start only on fuel with an octane number of **95** purchased at the "Lukoil" petrol station in Ruse - <https://maps.app.goo.gl/VoGkWBoCwi8HZs5f7>.

The proof of purchase should be retained and shown to the Technical Commission at the request. Fuel will be checked during the event.

11.3. Technical Commission will take a fuel sample for inspection from the same petrol station.

11.4. Drivers in classes using alcohol-based fuel must bring their own fuel.

11.5. Refuelling is forbidden in the launching area as well as at the starting jetty. The only exception to this rule is a permission to refuel given by the Officer of the Day before the restart.

12. TRANSPORT FACILITIES AND CONCESSIONS

12.1. Drivers participate in the competition at their own expense.

13. PRIZES

13.1. The six top drivers of each HYDRO GP World Powerboat Championships classes will be awarded with trophies. In class GT-15 all drivers will be awarded with trophies.

13.2. Prize money will be paid for F-500 drivers as per UIM rule 108.03.

14. OTHER MANDATORY REGULATIONS

- 14.1. Obligatory drivers briefings will be held according to the time schedule and will be organized in the pit area.
- 14.2. Scrutineering will take place in the pit area according to the time schedule. During the scrutineering all elements required by the UIM rules will be checked and drivers must produce their engines homologation sheets and measurement certificates.
- 14.3. Practice will be allowed only after a successful technical inspection and only during the official practice sessions as listed in the final time schedule of the event. At any other time if the driver is on water without the Officer of the Day permission, he will be disqualified from the whole event. Each driver during time trial is obliged to make at least two full laps (i.e. he must cross the finish line three times).
- 14.4. In the **WC and EC** classes the winning boats indicated by the Technical Commission must be immediately **brought to the Parc Ferme** for technical inspection after the competition.
- 14.5. Any protest must be submitted to the Race Secretary in English according to UIM rule 403. The protest fee is 150 € payable in cash at the time of lodging the protest.
- 14.6. If necessary, the International Jury meeting will be held at **hotel "Riga"**.
- 14.7. The penalty for dislodging or damaging a buoy is maximum 200 € (with anchors) The penalty shall be paid immediately in cash at the Race Office. Should the responsible driver fail to pay the penalty fee, s/he is prohibited from participating the following events of the schedule. Once payment is made the driver is allowed to rejoin the events of the schedule. Remaining buoys and anchors belong to the organizer.
- 14.8. During drivers briefings as well as at any other time of the competition an alcohol test may be carried out according to UIM rule 205.02.02.
- 14.9. Every driver is responsible that his engine does not exceed noise levels at all times as specified in UIM rule 505.
- 14.10. Every driver is responsible to take care of the environment – an absorbent carpet to avoid any spillage to the ground must be used according to UIM rule 703. Wasted fuel and used oil must be thrown into specially designed containers located in the pit area.
- 14.11. Each driver and the team of mechanics are obliged to participate in the official opening and closing ceremony of the competition.
- 14.12. On the start jetty team members are obliged to wear close-toe shoes.
- 14.13. Results will be operatively published at the website: <https://time4.racing/> and on the official notice boards placed in pit area.
- 14.14. The organizer will provide personal trackers for each competitor for live tracking of each competitor. The competitor must find a place in the cockpit of the boat to place the tracker, which is battery-powered and the size of a matchbox, equipped with a Velcro strap. Live tracking: <https://racetracking.org/bg/>



Dimension
44 x 43 x 20 mm

15. INSURANCE REGULATIONS

- 15.1. Each driver need to purchase local third party liability and accident insurance for group at the cost of 80 €.
- 15.2. Scope of the insurance bought at the race office:
- Third Party Liability of a driver – guarantee amount for all events 100 000 € with the extension on damages to third parties during championships.
 - Accident insurance of a driver - compensation in case of death or permanent damage to health 15 000 €
 - Accident insurance of a driver - compensation in case of persistent disability 1 200 €
 - Accident insurance of a driver - medical treatment costs 1 500 €
- 15.3. To buy insurance onsite the following data: name, surname, address, email, phone number and the scan of a passport or ID card need to be send on Organizer's email **before 15 August 2026**.



16. RACE OFFICIALS

Officer of the Day (OOD)	Todor Hristov
Deputy Officer of the Day (DOOD)	Elek Kozma
UIM Commissioner	Vahur Joala
Jury Chairman	Angel Angelov
Medical Officer	TBA
Race Secretary	Ms.Gabija Savonyte
Official Timekeepers	https://time4.racing/
Technical Committee	Algo Kuus
Rescue Team	Hungarian Rescue Team

17. ORGANIZER ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS

17.1. Race Office:

- The Race Office will be located in "Pristanishtna"str.24, 7000, Ruse, and will be open during the hours indicated in the time schedule.
- On the day of arrival in **Ruse**, the driver is obliged to submit in writing members of his/her team (mechanics, team leader, accompanying persons, etc.).
- The organizer will very rigorously issue badges allowing access to the pit area. Each driver has the possibility to receive 6 badges for his team members (1 for driver and 5 for team members).
- Drivers who will come by camper have to inform the organizer about that on the entry form and write the registration number of the vehicle.

17.2. Pit area (DEPO):

- Pit area will be open and guarded from Friday **August 21 10 h** till **Sunday 23 19 h**
- Entry to pits will be allowed only with badges provided by Organizer.
- Staying at night in the pit area is forbidden.
- In the pit area smoking, parking the car and overnight are forbidden.
- In the pit area a fire extinguisher must be at each boat.
- Siren sound will be used as signal to leave the pit area.
- Additional requirements regarding behaviour in the pit area may be presented to drivers during registration in the Race Office and will be placed on the information board located at the pit area.

17.3. Boat launching:

- F-500 and GT-**15** boats will be launched by a crane.
- Only boats with hooks and their own slings will be operated. Slings must comply with the safety rules and regulations of UIM rule 205.12.
- The boat can be operated with a crane only in the presence of the driver and under her/his responsibility.
- It is forbidden to remain on board of the boat or within the working range of the crane.

17.4. Other regulations:

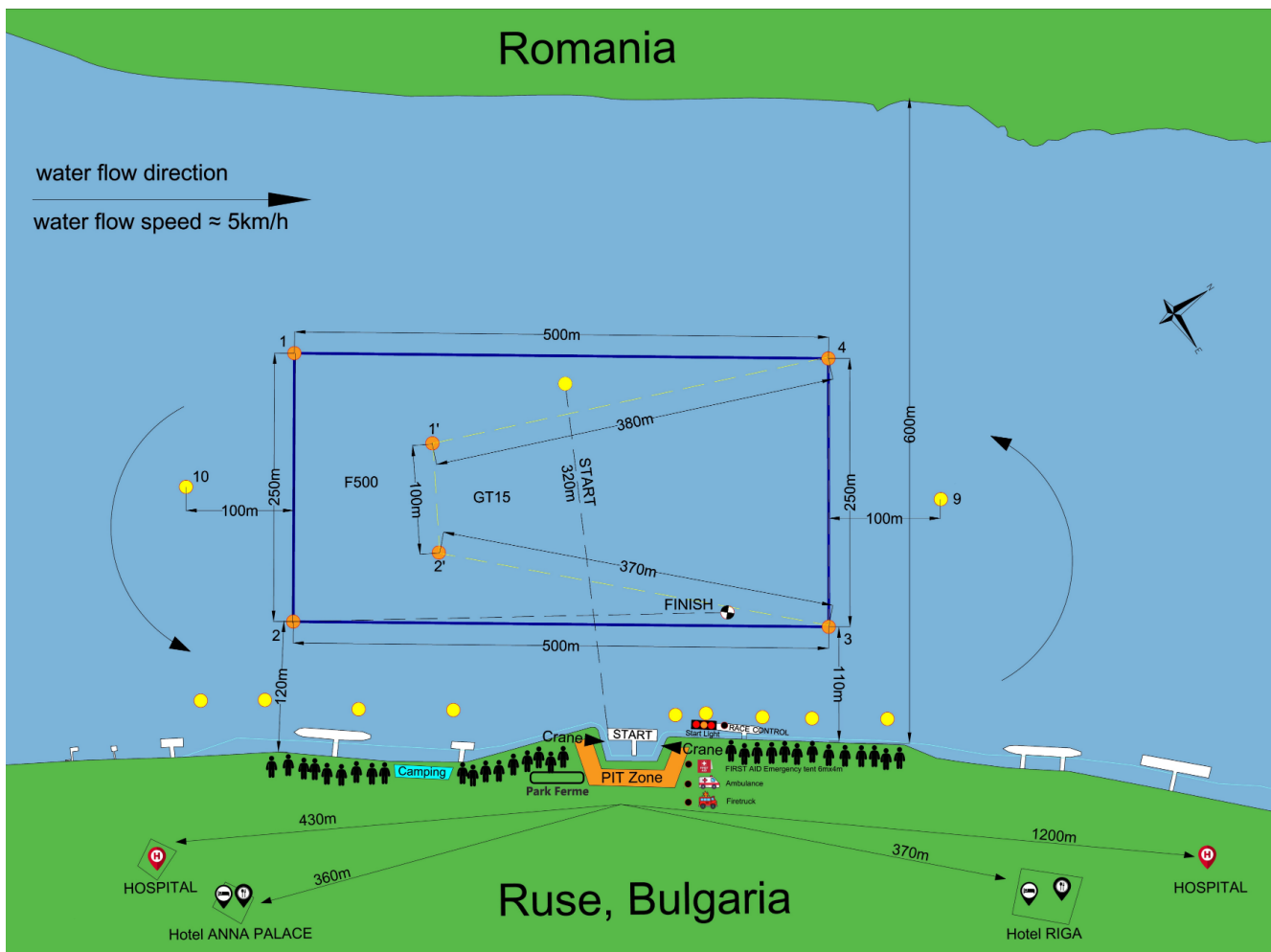
- Organizers in no way shall have any responsibility towards the drivers, mechanics, or other participants of the event for any material damages incurred during or in connection with the event.
- Boat drivers and other participants acknowledge that they are fully aware of risks associated with participation in the event and shall take part in the event at their own risk.
- During the competition, each participant gives consent to the organizer, co-organizers, partners, sponsors of the event and media to record and disseminate his image in order to promote the event.



17.5. Accomodation information

- Main hotel of the event - Hotel "Riga" <https://maps.app.goo.gl/yHTLdUU6CrtB2wBv9>
- Hotels in Ruse : [CLICK HERE](#)

18. RACE COURSE





ADVANCE PROGRAM - TIMETABLE

F500 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND

GT15 EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Ruse, Bulgaria | 22-23 August 2026

DAY	TIME	CLASS	ACTIVITY
FRIDAY, 21 AUGUST 2026			
Friday	12:00	All	Pit Area Open
	12:00 – 20:00	All	Race Office Open & Registration
	14:00 – 20:00	All	Scrutineering
	20:30	All	Opening Ceremony
SATURDAY, 22 AUGUST 2026			
Saturday	08:30 – 09:00	GT15	Drivers' Briefing
	09:00 – 09:30	F500	Drivers' Briefing
	09:30 – 10:30	All	Scrutineering
	10:30 – 11:30	GT15	Free Practice
	11:30 – 12:30	F500	Free Practice
	12:30 – 14:30	-	Lunch Break
	14:30 – 15:30	GT15	Time Trials
	15:30 – 16:30	F500	Time Trials
	17:00 – 17:30	GT15	Heat 1
	18:00 – 18:30	F500	Heat 1
	19:00 – 19:30	GT15	Heat 2
SUNDAY, 23 AUGUST 2026			
Sunday	08:30 – 09:00	GT15	Drivers' Briefing
	09:00 – 09:30	F500	Drivers' Briefing
	10:00 – 11:00	GT15	Free Practice
	11:00 – 12:00	F500	Free Practice
	12:00 – 12:30	GT15	Heat 3
	12:30 – 14:30	-	Lunch Break
	14:30 – 15:00	F500	Heat 2
	15:30 – 16:00	GT15	Heat 4
	16:30 – 17:00	F500	Heat 3
	19:00	All	Prize Giving Ceremony