Max Maeder

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Maeder with other Singapore Olympians at the open-top bus parade in 2024

Personal information

Birth name	Maximilian Maeder
Nationality	🇸🇬 Singapore
Born	12 September 2006 (age 17) Singapore
Height	1.80 m (5 ft 11 in)[1]
Weight	91 kg (201 lb)[1]

Sailing career

Class	Formula Kite
Coach	Jonny Dolenc

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Competition record

Men's sailing

Representing 🇸🇬 **Singapore**	
Olympic Games	
🅱 2024 Paris	Formula Kite
World Championships	
🅶 2024 Hyères	Formula Kite
🅶 2023 The Hague	Formula Kite
🆂 2022 Cagliari	Formula Kite
Asian Games	
🅶 2022 Hangzhou	Formula Kite
Youth World Championships	
🅶 2023 Buzios	Formula Kite
🅶 2022 The Hague	Formula Kite
🅶 2021 Al Masnaah	Formula Kite

Maximilian Maeder (Chinese: 墨士廉; pinyin: *Mò Shìlián*;[2] born 12 September 2006) is a Singaporean kitesurfer.[3] He is the reigning Formula Kite World, Asian, and European champion and holds the distinction of being the youngest winner in any Olympic sailing class competition, achieving this at the age of 16.[4]

He competed at the 2024 Summer Olympics in the inaugural Men's Formula Kite event, where he reached the finals and won the bronze medal.[5] Maeder is also a three-time Formula Kite youth world champion in consecutive years from 2021 to 2023[6] and won various open championships across Europe, Asia and Pan America.[7]

Early life

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Maeder was born in Singapore to a family with mixed Eurasian heritage. His father, Valentin Maeder, is an ethnic Swiss German who emigrated to Singapore and became a Singaporean, and his mother, Teng Hwee Keng, is Singaporean.[8] He is the eldest among his siblings and has two younger brothers.[8] At the age of six, his father introduced him to kiteboarding[9] at his parents' dive resort in Sulawesi, Indonesia.[10] When he was 10,

his father encouraged him to venture into kitefoiling, a more advanced form of the sport. By the age of 11, Maeder had already competed in his first competitive pro racing.[3]

Career

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2018–2021: Early career and World #1

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Maeder's achievements began when he won his first competitive tournament in the Formula Kite Asian Championships in 2018.[9] He later emerged victorious at various tournaments such as the 2021 Formula Kite Youth World Championships (U19), Formula Kite Individual European Championships, Youth Sailing World Championships and KiteFoil World Series.[7] He also took part in his first Formula Kite World Championships in the same year, where he finished fifth.[11] On 20 September 2021, Maeder achieved his highest IKA - Formula Kite men's ranking of World No.1.[12][13]

2022: World Championships silver

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In 2022, success continued to follow with his second Formula Kite Youth World Championships (U21), Youth Sailing World Championships and Formula Kite Individual European Championships titles, as well his first Formula Kite Asia-Pacific Championships, Formula Kite Pan American Championships and Semaine Olympique Francaise De Voile victories.[7] In his second appearance at the Formula Kite World Championships, he finished as runner-up to Slovenia's Toni Vodišek.[14][15]

2023: World and Asian Champions

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In 2023, Maeder began his new season by winning the World Cup Series held on the Spanish island of Mallorca.[16] In July, he achieved a significant milestone by capturing his third consecutive Formula Kite Youth World Championships victory.[13][17] Additionally, in August, Maeder also secured his first Formula Kite World Championships title.[18] This accomplishment came as he defeated his rival, Toni Vodišek, and set a new record as the youngest winner in any Olympic sailing class competition, all at the age of 16.[5] Maeder good form continued at the delayed 2022 Asian Games where he won Singapore's first gold medal at the quadrennial games.[4] He finished the season strongly by winning the KiteFoil World Series and clinching his third Youth Sailing World Championships title.[19]

2024: Consecutive World title and Olympic debut

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Maeder, who was ranked 6th in the world at the time, opened the 2024 season by winning the European Championships.[20] He followed this success with victories at the World Cup Series[21] and the Semaine Olympique Française De Voile.[22] In May, he claimed his second Formula Kite World Championships title by overcoming Italy's Riccardo Pianosi, the world's top-ranked Formula Kite men's sailor, who finished in second place ahead of Austria's Valentin Bontus.[22][23] That same year, Maeder debuted at the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris, competing in the Men's Formula Kite.[24] There, he won a bronze medal on 9 August 2024, Singapore's National Day, becoming the youngest Olympic medalist of Singapore at the age of 17.[25]

Personal life

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In addition to his native English, Maeder also understands Mandarin, German and French.[9] In 2024, he was granted a deferment from his National Service (NS) obligations where he could continue to train and compete until after the 2028 Summer Olympics.[26]

Awards and nominations

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Maeder was nominated for the following lists and awards :

- Nominated for The Straits Times' Athlete of the Year 2021[27]

- Nominated for The Straits Times' Athlete of the Year 2022[28]

- Won the SNOC Sportsboy of the Year 2022[29]

- Won the SNOC Sportsboy of the Year 2023[30]

- Nominated for Rolex World Sailor of the Year 2023[31]

- Won the SNOC Sportsboy of the Year 2024[32]