WEYMOUTH SPEED WEEK 2023

Saturday 7th to Friday 13th October

EVENT GUIDE

To be held at the Weymouth & Portland National Sailing Academy,
Osprey Quay,
Portland, DT5 1SA
Telephone 01305 866000

Content

Important Notices to all Competitors

- The safety of the sailing craft and her entire management, including insurance, shall be the sole responsibility of the Owner/Competitor whilst competing or using the craft for any purpose.
- The issue of sailing instructions, or any other directives, either verbal, written, or implied in no way limits or reduces the complete responsibility of the Owner/Competitor for their crew and the management thereof.
- The Event Organisers, the Host Club, or any Class Association will not be liable for any loss, damage, death, or personal injury howsoever caused to the Owner/Competitor or any of their crew because of their taking part in the event.
- Moreover, every Owner/Competitor warrants the suitability of his/her craft for the trials, race, or races.
- All craft be insured against Third Party Liability for a minimum of £2,000,000. This is a condition of entry to Weymouth Speed Week.

Briefing

All competitors must attend the morning briefing and must, before going on the course, ensure that they have received the Race Officer's brief and been made aware of any safety instructions pertinent to that day.

Tally Bands

When you go on the water take your Tally Band from the race office and when you come off the water return your Tally Band promptly.

Youth Entries

Weymouth Speed Week encourages the participation of young people wishing to become involved in speed sailing. We run a two-day event specifically over the first weekend with prize giving early on the Sunday evening for those less than 18 years old for both days of the event. But please be aware that the parent or guardian will need to be responsible for their supervision.

Motion GPS

The RULES:

1. **DON'T touch the button**
2. **Wear it securely – lost units = £120**
3. **Bring it back promptly each day**

All competitors will be provided with a dedicated GPS unit for each craft type that they wish to sail. These will be provided to you each morning labelled, charged, and turned on. DO NOT press the button. The LED will flash red every 10 seconds to indicate that the unit is running. When you have finished sailing bring the unit back to the office with the LED still flashing. DO NOT try to turn it off. We will read the data, charge, and prepare the unit ready for you to collect the next morning.

Entry to the Event

For practical and safety reasons we must limit the total number of competitors. **Entry is only secured on payment of the appropriate fee following completion of on-line registration.** Competitors may compete with any wind powered sailing craft

The entry fee includes use of the Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy and all launching and mooring fees due to the Portland Port Authority. Weymouth Speed Week volunteers provide the overall organisation, the Saturday night 'Welcome Supper', Event shirts, rash vests, flags, buoys & anchors, GPS units, result software and equipment, safety boats, fuel, and crews.

The event is non-profit making. Prizes are provided by our generous event sponsors. Please support them. Event T shirts will be provided to all entrants registered and payment confirmed two weeks before the event.

If you wish to enter with multiple craft types e.g., sailboard and wingboard then only the one entry fee is needed, however in order to correctly process the results you will require to hire additional GPS unit(s) for each additional craft type.

The Organisers

Chairman	Nick Povey
Event Manager & Hon Treasurer	Norman Phillips
Promotions Manager	Pete Davis
Race Officer	Karen Battye
Speed Results and Web Site	Nick Povey/Mike George
Graphic Design	www.natural-design.co.uk
Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy	Sally Reynoldson

Contact details during Weymouth Speed Week

During the Weymouth Speed Week event the following people will have access to 2-way radios and remain in contact with the timing boats, club house, beach and rescue boats.

WPNSA Reception	01305 866000	
Pete Davis	07795 183243	(press and related enquiries)
Nick Povey	07801 757505	
Norman Philips	07763 224585	
Karen Battye	07376 105967	

The Weymouth Speed Week bank account details:

Account name	"Weymouth SW"
Bank:	HSBC Business Account
Sort Code:	403810
Account Number:	01462288
SWIFT or BIC:	HBUKGB4108V
International Bank Account Number:	GB38HBUK40381001462288

Introduction to Weymouth Speed Week

An event with a rich history of innovation, passion, and fun, driven by the need to go faster.

Weymouth Speed Week began in 1972 under the direction of the Royal Yachting Association. It was the premier event at which boats could demonstrate their prowess, reach world-record breaking speeds and further the advancement of sailing technology.

The speed trials of the 1970's and 80's attracted many thousands of pounds of sponsorship money and competitors attended by invitation. Several world speed records were set and then broken during these years, firstly with the boats and then, as technologies improved, by the windsurfers.

In recent years we have seen the development of foils for kites and sailboards and now these craft can experience sailing at three times the wind speed. Last year we saw further innovation with the introduction of wing foilers sailing alongside Icarus, one of the first craft to sail successfully on foils, which was competing at Weymouth Speed Week again 50 years after achieving 21.6 knots at the very first Weymouth Speed Week in 1972.

Weymouth witnessed the development of windsurfing and its rapid development until these boards dominated speed events.

Weymouth saw the development of the first kite powered craft and some of the very first kite boarding, with Cory Roseler taking part in the 1980's.

And Weymouth was the testing ground for Sail Rocket which was developed into Vestas Sail Rocket II and now holds the World Speed Record of 65.45 knots. Soon to be challenged by another Weymouth Speed Week competitor, Benoit Gaudiot, with the SP80 project he co-founded.

Portland Harbour

Portland Harbour provides a great location for speed sailing. It is bounded on its southwestern side (the direction from which the prevailing wind blows) by Chesil Bank. Chesil Bank is a huge natural breakwater that stops the waves but not the wind. Shortly after the Autumn Equinox the wind conditions become most favourable and it is at this time that Weymouth Speed Week takes place to provide the best chance of getting ideal speed sailing conditions, that of smooth, strong winds and flat water.

An open competition

Weymouth Speed Week is a unique event; there are NO restrictions as to who may enter, and all types of sailing craft are welcome. If it's wind-powered, it is eligible. The lack of rules provides the ideal proving ground for both experts and dreamers to build the type of craft which, but for Weymouth Speed Week, would never otherwise see the light of day. Many early boat and board designs have since been refined and some of today's fastest craft owe their origins to designs and ideas that were first seen at Weymouth Speed Week.

Today's competition

Speed, position and distance are recorded by GPS units; each competitor wears an individual GPS data logger that continuously records their location.

Although an outright World Record may be out of reach at Weymouth Speed Week, the competition is on for breaking the Weymouth Speed Week 500m Harbour Record of 41.21 knots set by James Longmuir in 2019 on a kite board.

Courses are laid out in the harbour each day by the event organisers. Depending upon the prevailing wind conditions, they may set one or more courses that are best suited to the competition and the achievement of the highest speeds. Competitors are free to make as many qualifying runs as they can whilst the course is open; a good run normally takes around 25 to 30 seconds.

Accurate measurement of the 500-metre course and plotting of each competitor's movements are performed in software based on the recorded GPS location.

Details of the 2023 Event

The Weymouth and Portland National Sailing was the 2012 Olympics sailing venue and has all the facilities of a world class sailing club, refreshments are available throughout the day. There is adequate parking for cars and trailers. Campers and motor homes are allowed on the site. For people who want to camp on the site it is important that arrangements are made with the Academy, telephone 01305 866000. Local by-laws, which limit the area for camping, are strictly enforced and the instructions given by the WPNSA must be followed.

Motor vehicles and trailers should be kept in the designated car parking areas. Slipways must be kept as clear as possible and launching trolleys moved to the boat park.

Insurance
All competitors must have third party insurance cover for £2,000,000.

Briefing
All competitors must attend the 09:30 briefing and must, before going on the course, ensure that they have been briefed by one of the course managers and made aware of any safety instructions pertinent to that day.

Safety
If you intend to go on the water, ensure that you have adequate protection from the weather. Life jackets or buoyancy aids should always be worn when on the water. Only buoyant weight jackets are permitted. Always remember to look out for people in the water and if you see someone check that he or she is not in difficulties - do not assume anything. Safety must be of paramount importance. If someone falls overboard from a boat or is seen to be in danger, then everything stops until he or she is rescued.

At the race office, the launching areas, and all rescue boats there will be someone with a radio and a telephone. If you are aware of any safety problem, report it to them promptly.

When you go on the water take your Tally Band from the race office and when you come off the water return your Tally Band promptly.

Photographs
Photographs and video of the event will be taken by several photographers who will be present throughout the week. Competitors entering the event provide their consent to the use of any images in which they may feature.

Vests
To distinguish Weymouth Speed Week competitors from other people on the water you will be asked to wear a Weymouth Speed Week rash vest. These will be available from the event office; a £20 refundable deposit will be required.

Support Boats
Competitor's support boats are included in the entry fee. However, all boats need a receipt to be shown to the Portland Port 'traffic warden' if you are asked to do so. If you require a receipt, they will be available from the event office.

Courses

Courses are set each day and are announced at the morning briefings. On any given day, we may choose to set one or more courses depending upon the prevailing and anticipated wind conditions. The start line is defined by anchored buoys that will display the course open/close flags.

- **Beach Course**

When using a beach course, the inner buoy may be on the beach, depending upon tides, and the outer buoy may be several hundred metres out. At the end of day when all the GPS data is collected our software will analyse the track and find the point when the competitor crosses this line. From that point a 500m arc is defined and the run is completed when the competitor is 500 metres from their start point. Each competitor can sail their own preferred course angle, but they must cross the arc which is 500m from their start point. In this way a catamaran could sail a square course whilst a kite may wish to sail a much broader course. For both competitors they must cross the arc which is 500m from their start point, irrespective of their course angle or where they crossed the start line. The result is based on the average speed between the start point and where they cross the arc at 500m, not the time taken

At the end of the course a line of buoys is positioned to indicate a distance just more than 500m as a visual guide to competitors on the course.

- **Harbour Course**

On the harbour course the same applies as for the beach course except that a narrower start gate is used, as in the diagram below, and competitors need to pass between, or as close to the buoys as safely possible. An arc of buoys is positioned just more than 500m as a visual guide to competitors to see when they have completed the course.
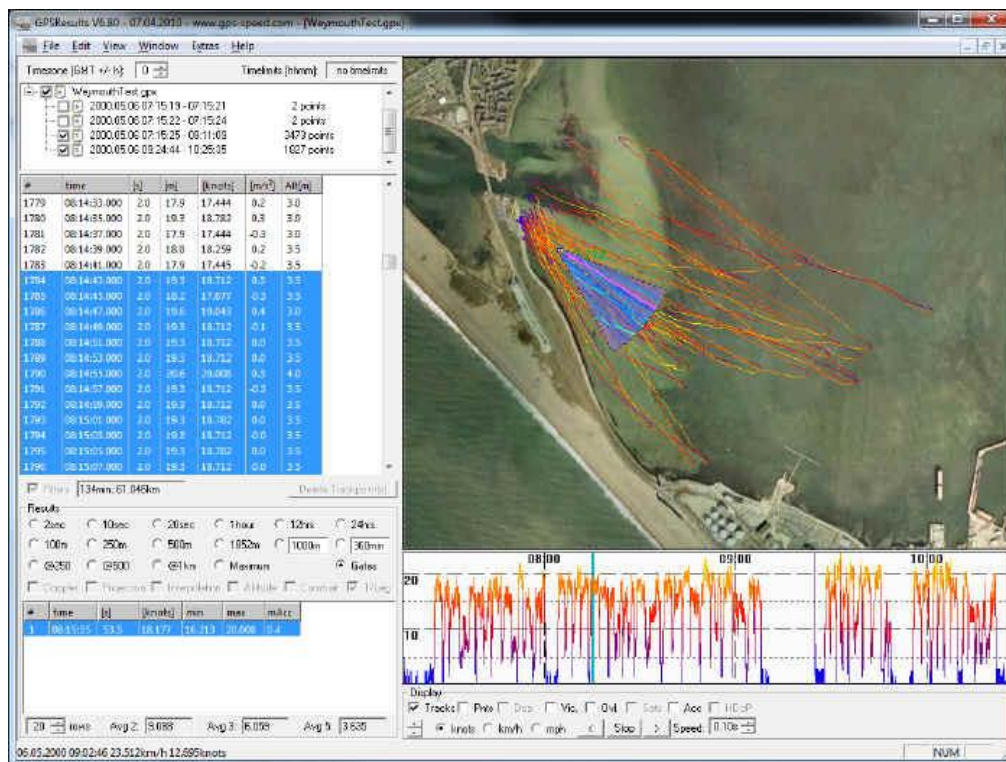
- **General Points**

It's in your interest to start your run 100m or more from the start of the course and keep sailing fast well beyond the course end marker buoys to ensure the best possible run speed is obtained. Competitors must continue beyond these course markers, so they can safely turn and return to the start line without impeding other competitors. It is NOT acceptable to go up the active course the wrong way competitors will be warned, and if necessary, removed from the competition if they do this.

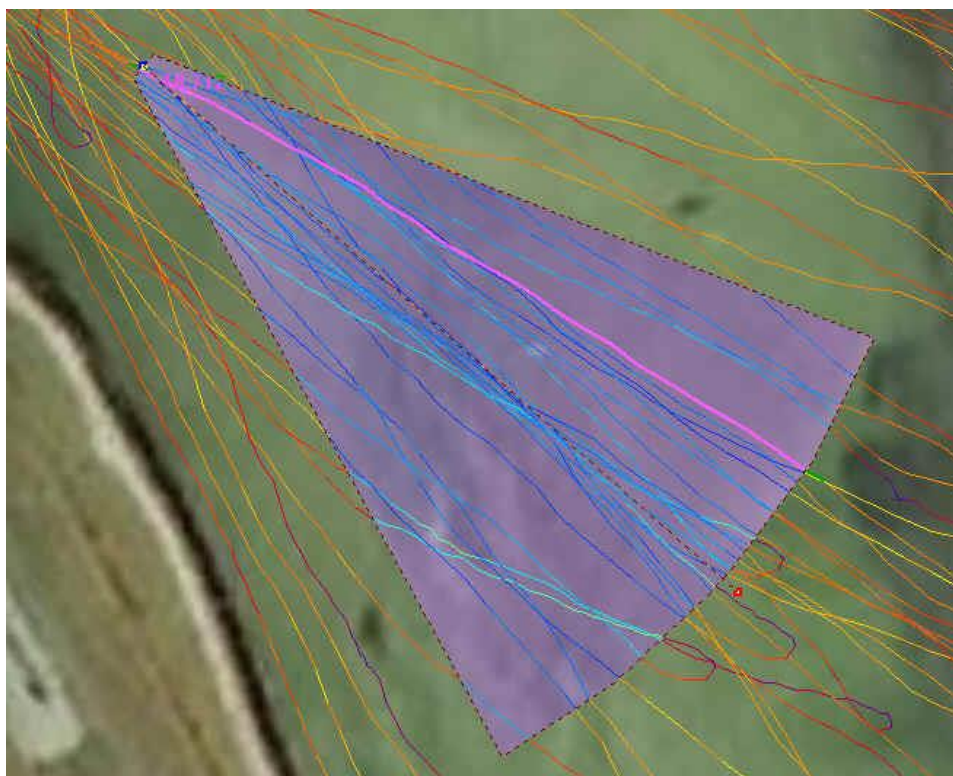These courses have several advantages: The main being:
- wind shifts of 20 degrees or so can be accommodated without the need to reposition the course buoys
- different types of craft can sail on their individual fastest wind angle
- relatively quick and easy to set up

- **Plotting of course and GPS run data**

The image below is an example of the run data for a "Harbour Course", albeit set very close to the beach, being processed in the GPS Results software; it shows the course as a blue area, and a multitude of runs through the course and around the harbour.

The image below shows, in greater detail, the 'hot' area of the course in which competitor's runs are deemed to be qualifying. The course begins at the narrow end with a 20 to 50m wide line and extends in a "pie segment" shape for 500m. The red marker determines the centre line of the course. Each competitor's tracks are shown as the individual lines, heading both up and down the course. Software processing ensures that only those runs heading up the course the right way are selected.

One of the questions that we are frequently asked is. Why does my GPS show a faster 500 m speed than you have published? The reason for this is that the results we generate are for the course set on that day. The faster run is most likely to have occurred because the run in or run out of the course was faster when compared to the other end of the run and the 'best' 500 m was therefore not on the designated course, but slightly before or after the course.

Sessions
The course(s) are scheduled to open at 10:00 and close at 16:00. Exceptions to this are the first day of Weymouth Speed Week when the course(s) open at 11:00 and Sunday and Friday when the course will close earlier to allow for prize giving if weather conditions are not improving for high speeds.

If exceptionally good conditions are being experienced the organisers will endeavour to take advantage of these by extending the normal session a further 30 or 60 minutes – In this event yellow flags will be prominently flown by the rescue boats which will endeavour to signal to all on the water, in addition Tannoy announcements will be made in the launch areas and by the Zello app. Similarly, if the forecast winds and tides look exceptional then an early morning start may be declared, check the event notice board before leaving the academy each night.

Flags
The meaning of the flags flying on the course buoys or rescue boats are as follows:
- **Red** flag - the course is closed.
- **Green** flag the course is open.
- **Yellow** flags flying means that the course is staying open beyond the advertised time.

Definitions

Craft Types

Sailboard Fleet, Craft definition:
- has a sail, or sails, with a pivot at the base attached to the board such that the rider supports the sail. May or may not use foils.

Kiteboard Fleet, Craft definition:
- propelled by kite(s) with lines attached to or held by the rider who then stands on a board. May or may not use foils.

Wingboard Fleet, Craft definition:
- has a wing attached to or held by the rider who then stands on a board. May or may not use foils.

Boat Fleet, Craft definition:
- anything that sails which is not defined above. It may have sails, kites or rotors to propel it and only uses non-stored wind energy as the power source.

Craft Type Sub Fleets

Due to the large number of competitors and to encourage competition, the following classes are sub-divided as follows:

Sailboard

Status: Amateur
- has no sponsorship and receives no financial support from others e.g., their employer or local shop.
- and hasn't won an Amateur prize at Weymouth Speed Week before.
- and does not race regularly.

Status: Gold Fleet
- has won an Amateur prize at a previous Weymouth Speed Week competition.
- or receives some assistance from a sponsor, such as discounted equipment or financial support, to attend events.
- or they race regularly.

Status: Pro Fleet
- someone who derives financial benefit from taking part in the sport, e.g., is a paid instructor, paid by sponsors or promotes their own products.
- has won the top prize in the Gold Fleet.

Status: Women's Fleet
- all women sailboard competitors excluding those in the Pro-Fleet.

Kiteboard

Freeride
- receives no direct financial benefit from taking part (but may get a discount for equipment from a supplier).
- and does not use specialist race equipment.

Open Class
- uses specialist race equipment.
- or someone who derives financial benefit from taking part in the sport, e.g., is a paid instructor, paid by sponsors or promotes their own products.

Wingboard

Amateur
- receives no direct financial benefit from taking part (but may get a discount for equipment from a supplier).
- and does not use specialist race equipment.

Professional
- uses specialist race equipment.
- or someone who derives financial benefit from taking part in the sport, e.g., is a paid instructor, paid by sponsors or promotes their own products.

Youth Fleet, Definition:

- Less than 18 years for both days of the Youth Weekend Event. All Youth runs are included in the overall end of week results so potentially a youth can feature in the end of week prize giving as well.

Note: The Youth Fleet competition is during the weekend only and concludes when prizes are awarded on the Sunday evening.

First Time, Definition:
- Hasn't competed in Weymouth Speed Week before and qualifies to enter in the Youth, Sailboard Amateur, Kite Freeride or Wingboard Amateur Fleets or,
- The boat hasn't previously competed at Weymouth Speed Week.

Prizes

There are 'traditional' Weymouth Speed Week prizes each day. These are engraved tankards donated by the Amateur Yacht Research Society and are for the fastest Boat, the fastest Sailboard, the fastest Wingboard and the fastest Kiteboard each day. These are presented the following morning at the 09:30 briefing. In addition, sponsors are presenting prizes that will be awarded at the end of the week and to the Youth Fleet following their two days of competition. These will include as a minimum:

- First Time Sailboard – 1st Prize
- First Time Wingboard – 1st Prize
- First Time Kiteboard – 1st Prize
- Amateur Sailboard Fleet – 1st 2nd 3rd Prizes
- Gold Fleet Sailboard – 1st 2nd 3rd Prizes
- Pro Fleet Sailboard – 1st Prize
- Women's Fleet Sailboard - 1st Prize
- Freeride Kiteboard Fleet – 1st Prize
- Open Class Kiteboard Fleet – 1st Prize
- Wingboard Amateur Fleet – 1st Prize
- Wingboard Professional Fleet – 1st Prize
- Boat Fleet – 1st Prize
- Overall Fastest Kiteboard – Trophy
- Overall Fastest Wingboard – Trophy
- Overall Fastest Boat -Trophy
- Overall Fastest Sailboard – Trophy
- Overall Fastest Lady – Trophy
- Overall Fastest - Trophy

Motion GPS

At Weymouth Speed Week we provide dedicated GPS units for the event. These have been designed and supplied with custom firmware to enable the easy running of the event. Specifically, they are:

- of the same technical capability
- set to the correct logging frequency and speed threshold
- very accurate
- small, lightweight, and easily worn
- extremely rugged
- have no display
- have one LED light and one button
- sealed and fully waterproof and do not require a secondary "Aquapac"
- charge wirelessly
- automatically connect by Wifi to the Weymouth Speed Week system to download the data at the end of day

Using these dedicated units, also means that we can set everything up and allocate them before your arrival so that registration should be very quick and stress free.

All competitors can use their own unit in addition so they can see how they are performing and / or as a backup, so long as the unit meets the minimum standards required (see below).

After the event we will make available all the GPS data so you can keep a copy of your data from the WSW units. We will also publish the gates used and the course times.

GPS back up devices

Locosys	Motion
GT-31 GW-52 GW-60	LCD Mini

Configuration of backup units so that, if necessary, we can download data meeting the requirements of Weymouth Speed Week:

GT-31

Memory card
log switch = on-fix
min speed = 5
NMEA items = SBN
file size = card size
Data logger
interval = 1 sec
min speed = 5
Please be sure to clear the data logger before the first day of WSW

GW-52 and GW-60

Logging frequency = 5 Hz
Minimum speed = 5
Please be sure to clear the log before the first day of WSW
Motion LCD and Mini
Logging frequency = 5 Hz
It is the responsibility of competitors to ensure their personal "backup" devices are configured correctly.

Please ensure that internal logs have been cleared prior to the first day of WSW, if using a GT-31, GW-52 or GW-60.

Results

The results are reviewed and approved by the official adjudicator whose decision is final. As Weymouth Speed Week is not controlled by any other organisation or governing body, any decisions taken by the committee are final and not subject to review by third parties. The ISWC, UKWA and BKSA will separately adjudicate any results utilised by these organisations.

Results are processed based upon the contents of the GPS Data files recorded by each competitor's Data Logger and with the published gates; the position of which is defined using the same GPS technology.

The Organisers are not responsible for the quality of the data recorded by the GPS unit and any variances or exclusions caused by loss of satellite signal.

Itinerary for the Week

Saturday 7ᵗʰ October
- Briefing 10:00
- Course opens 11:00 close 16:00.
- From 18:30 at the WPNSA -Welcome Supper - free entry for all competitors £10 for additional tickets.

Sunday 8ʰ October
- Briefing 09:30
- Course opens 10:00 close 16:00.
- 18:00 Youth Prize giving.
- From 19:00 - The Marquis of Granby, 387 Chickerell Road, Weymouth, DT4 9TW. Tables will be set aside for Weymouth Speed Week competitors and partners.

Monday 9ᵗʰ October
- Welcome & Briefing 09:30
- Course opens 10:00 close 16:00.
- Skittles evening from 20:30 – The Wyke Smugglers. 76 Portland Rd, Wyke Regis, DT4 9AB

Tuesday 10ᵗʰ October
- Briefing 09:30
- Course opens 10:00 close 16:00.
- ENZO's Ristorante & Pizzeria, 110 Esplanade, Weymouth, DT4 7EA, an area for Weymouth Speed Week has been booked from 19:00.

Wednesday 11ʰ October
- Briefing 09:30
- Course opens 10:00 close 16:00.
- Amateur Yacht Research Society evening at the Weymouth Sailing Club (at the end of Nothe Parade) in Weymouth. All welcome. Bar open from 19:00

Thursday 12ᵗʰ October
- Briefing 09:30
- Course opens 10:00 close 16:00.
- 19:00 The Fat Badger, 90 Camp Road, Weymouth, DT4 9HF.

Friday 13ᵗʰ October
- Briefing 09:30
- Course opens 10:00 close at 16:00 or earlier if conditions are not improving.
- 18:00 (or earlier) Grand Prize giving - WPNSA main restaurant/meeting room.
- End of event meal, likely to be a return to the Marquis of Granby.
- Book in with Norman please for this evening.

Portland Harbour

Zello

We use the Zello app to communicate during the week. It enables you to have all announcements sent to your phone so that you never miss anything. Download the app and join the Wsw18 network.