



## AMAZING 1<sup>st</sup> ROUND OF THE 2021 UIM FORMULA 2 WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

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“Local hero” Edgaras Riabko won the opening round of the 2021 UIM F2 World Championship held for the first time in Kupiskis, Lithuania.

Starting from pole position, Riabko was initially beaten off the dock by reigning World Champion Duarte Benavente who took the lead on the first lap.

However, Mansoor Al Mansoori was forced out of the race on the first lap after being rammed from behind by Sweden’s Daniel Segenmark.

The race was yellow flagged and the positions reverted to the starting order. This time Riabko didn’t look back.

The accident taking out Abu Dhabi driver Al Mansoori was similar to the one the day before, during qualifying when another Swede, Johan Österberg, crashed into Rashed Al Qemzi, wiping out the 2017 and 2019 F2 World Champion’s hopes of a third Grand Prix win in Lithuania.



Al Qemzi eventually started 15<sup>th</sup> on the grid from the incident the day before and battled his way to a sixth-place finish.

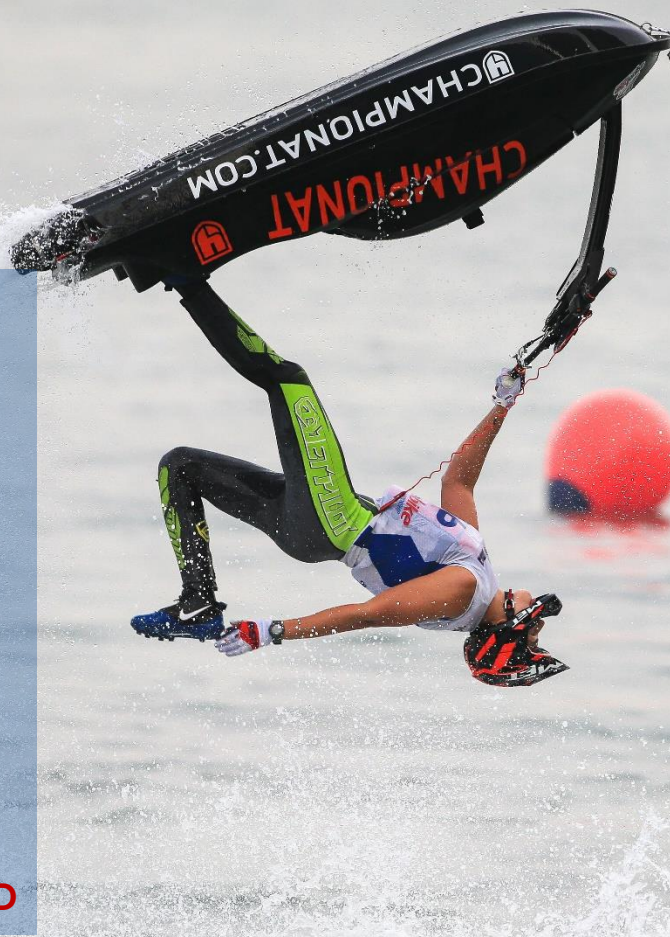
There was more drama to follow at the end of the race when Portugal’s reigning World Champion Duarte Benavente, originally placed third behind Team Sharjah’s Dutch driver Ferdinand Zandbergen, who eventually finished second, was disqualified for missing a buoy.

Benavente’s penalty, along with the one of Latvia’s Nikita Lijcs, (Rule 313.01) came because both missed a buoy dislodged by Russian Konstantin Ustinov, who fell foul of UIM rule 313.02.





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# OLBIA ALL SET TO KICKSTART UIM-ABP AQUABIKE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

**SHARJAH, WC ROUND  
F1H2O & UIM-ABP  
AQUABIKE ANNOUNCED**

H2O Racing announces that Italy will host the opening round of The UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship. After a forced stop due to the pandemic the World Championship will start again from Sardinia, one of the most beautiful regions of Italy and well known around the globe.

The "UIM ABP Aquabike Regione Sardegna Grand Prix of Italy" will take place in Olbia, on September 3-5 in the traditional location of *Molo Brin*, with riders participating from all over the world;

"We are very pleased to resume our racing activity in Olbia – said Raimondo di San Germano- General Manager Aquabike Promotion – and I really want to take the opportunity to thank all the people who, in the last difficult months, have always believed in our Organization and with their work and efforts have helped us to realize the Grand Prix.

H2O Racing, Promoter and organizer of the UIM F1H2O World Championship and UIM-ABP Aquabike World Championship, also confirmed the 2021 Grand Prix of Sharjah, UAE which will take place from 13 to 18 December.

Since the year 2000, the splendid scenery of Khalid Lagoon has always hosted the final stage of the World Championship, thus becoming the "longest-running" location in the history of H2O Racing and the one where the most exciting "battles" for the title of F1 World Champion took place.

Appointment taken for Sharjah, from 13 - 18 December for the UIM F1H2O Grand Prix of Sharjah.





# LAURA LAKOVICA- LAKOVICA (LAT) BRINGS HOME GOLD MEDAL IN ALUKSNE LAKE (LAT)

The UIM GT30 World Championship took place in Aluksne, Latvia on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of July. Participants from eight countries were registered, some having traveled up to 6000 km to get there. The Latvian Water Motorsports Federation was proud to host the 2021 UIM GT30 World Championship and even more so with Latvian driver, Laura Lakovica-Lakovica, taking the top spot on the podium.

The President of the Latvian Water Motorsports Federation, Mr. Atis Slakteris, was particularly proud by the above-mentioned achievement of Laura, saying:

“This race demonstrated the joy of seeing each other again and the athletes were extremely eager to compete. We are very happy that so many participants from different countries made it to Aluksne for this UIM GT30 World Championship.

“On behalf of the Federation I would like to express my satisfaction about the perfectly organized Event and I thank the Municipality of Aluksne for their excellent cooperation and support for many years. Our thanks also go to the Team “Nord Ost Aluksne” for being such good hosts and organizing this competition so efficiently. Thank you to all drivers and Team members, UIM officials, referees, supporters and general public, this is just the beginning of the season, let's look forward to seeing additional powerboat racing activities in the coming weeks and months”.

The race was held in four heats and the events saw Laura in the top position for the first, second and third heat while in the fourth heat, she arrived second behind Estonian driver Karol Soodla, who finished second on the Podium, ahead of William Sjostrom from Sweden.





## 8<sup>th</sup> EDITION OF THE MONACO SOLAR BOAT CHALLENGE & TROPHY HANDOVER OF UIM ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD

Taking advantage of the 8<sup>th</sup> edition of the Monaco Solar and Energy Boat Challenge, organized by the Yacht Club de Monaco in cooperation with the International Powerboat Federation, UIM President Dr. Raffaele Chiulli handed over the prestigious Trophy to Agathe Fiorano, rewarding the Winner of the 2020 UIM Environmental Award, SunReef Yachts, for their distinguished project "In-House Engineered Solar Power System".

The Monaco Solar and Energy Boat Challenge was once again a resounding success, with an impressive turnout from all over the world - 32 participating teams, 22 universities and 17 nationalities represented. The highly interactive concept made it possible to share knowledge and to address the issues with heterogeneity and keen interest, especially on occasion of the round table "Monaco Hydrogen Working Group". The conclusions evidenced once again that hydrogen appears to be the fuel of the future. Not having a need for recharging, hydrogen can be stored and used on request as a green fuel or it can be reconverted into electricity via fuel cells. As regards the boat racing practice, the Event offered many moments of entertainment and curiosity for enthusiasts, with boats competing in three classes: "Energy Class", "Solar Boats" and "Open Sea Class".



"It was a very important day for sustainability, for world boating in general and powerboating in particular", said UIM President, Raffaele Chiulli. "Here in Monte-Carlo we experienced a great moment of exchanging ideas on important issues such as the energy transition and hydrogen propulsion. But the best thing - continued Chiulli - is having seen so many young engineers who seek to put into practice innovative solutions, to ensure that there is an increasingly sustainable mobility at sea. At the UIM we are proud to contribute to ensuring that there is ever greater protection for the marine environment"

