



Vereinigte Ausbildungsverbände Wassersport

Weilheim Februar 2023

40 years VAW

2023 is the 40th jubilee year of the VAW!

The VAW (Vereinigte Ausbildungsverbände Wassersport) is a federation made up of independent watersport associations from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland.

VAW is presently made up by the following associations:

VDWS - Verband Deutscher Wassersport Schulen e.V.

VÖYWS - Vereinigung Österreichischer Yachtsport- und Windsurfschulen

VÖWS - Vereinigung der Österreichischen Windsurf- und Wassersportschulen

SWAV - Schweizerischer Windsurf-Ausbildungsverband SWAV-ASEW

The VAW oversees guidelines for training and examinations. This has led to common standards and internationally recognised competency tests in windsurfing. The result of this work is (The International Basic Licence Windsurfing).

As many windsurfing schools now also offer sailing training, the VAW has accordingly acted in 2008 and has officially incorporated sailing into the association. This step meant it was necessary to change the name of the association to "Vereinigte Ausbildungsverbände Wassersport". The affiliated associations now also issues catamaran and sailing certificates based on VAW guidelines.

To date 1.8 million certificates have been issued.

In the 70's the basic certificates for windsurfing were originally conceived to give more safety with regard to water traffic and promote a better safety awareness for the among windsurfers.

This concept was unfortunately copied by many other associations and individuals, with the result that at the start of the 80's many local authorities were concerned about what qualification could be trusted when rental stations were to be opened. This was the why windsurfing and sailing schools from Germany, Switzerland and Austria came together and formed the VAW. After this common standards for basic certificates and competency tests were implemented. All together the VAW has issued over 1.816.967 basic certificates to watersport enthusiasts. (Status: 01.01.2023)

The vast majority of watersport rental businesses and local authorities now insist that a basic licence must be shown as proof of competency before equipment can be rented. That's why it's well worth your while to get a basic licence.

VAW – Association Members :

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