



#### **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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### **33rd Annual Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix Race** **Race Team Participation Increases - Televised Coverage To Over 100 Countries**

The 33rd Annual Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix Festival returns June 24-July 4 with events for the entire family to enjoy. Powerboat and AquaX Pro race teams will compete for the checkered flag on July 1 & 2 just off Lido Beach with televised coverage to over 100 countries beginning in late July. This year the Grand Prix Race will air on Fox Sports and Comcast Regional Sports Networks, with the addition of national broadcaster Eleven Sports. Eleven Sports boasts a reach to over 60 Million homes within the United States.

“The Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix includes 3 different platforms of marine motorsport – P1 SuperStock, P1 AquaX as well as the larger Offshore Powerboats. Powerboat P1 strives to replicate the model of the Sarasota Powerboat Grand Prix at other race sites to continue to grow the series as a whole. This event is one of the most highly attended powerboat races in the world and this has elevated the level of racing, participation and sponsorships,” said Azam Rangoonwala the Director of Powerboat P1.

Changes and new events this year include a Grand Prix Comedy Night at McCurdy’s Comedy Theatre, a venue change for the Festival Kickoff Party to Michael’s on the Bay at Selby Gardens, and a “Grand Prix Fan Fest” on July 1 & 2 in the Van Wezel parking lot. The Fan Fest is free to the public and will feature large interactive displays from sponsors, a large tent where guests can watch the boats launch and watch the races live, music, food, plenty of vendors, and a chance to meet the teams up close in the dry pit area. “This year there are no competing races on the calendar near the Festival resulting in an increase of large powerboats expected to compete. The number of boats pre-registered to compete in the 750 Super Cat Class alone has significantly increased, which should heat up the competition out on the water for race fans. The spectator line for boaters has also been moved closer for better viewing,” said Festival Director Lucy Nicandri.

Last year’s Festival generated an economic impact of \$37 Million and 18,300 hotel room nights. Over the past five years, documented economic impact reports total \$116 Million for the local area. “The Sarasota Superboat Grand Prix is one of the most anticipated events of the year in Sarasota. We are proud to welcome back Powerboat P1 for the 33rd annual Grand Prix Festival. The Grand Prix ranks near the top of the list for our sports event offerings,” said Rob Wells Director of Sports for the Sarasota County Sports Commission. Sarasota County and Visit Sarasota County are Presenting Sponsors for this year’s Festival. Major Sponsors include Gold Coast Eagle Distributing, FCCI Insurance Group, Sarasota Ford, Ocean Properties, and Hyatt Regency Sarasota.

Suncoast Charities for Children produces the entire Festival, including the July 4th Bayfront Fireworks. Net proceeds raised from this event enables Suncoast Charities for Children to provide an annual grant to the Suncoast Foundation. The Suncoast Foundation then invests support towards five area non-profit agencies here in our community that combined serve over 8,000 clients with special needs (Loveland Village, Sarasota County Special Olympics, Children First, The Haven, and Florida Center for Early Childhood). Suncoast Charities for Children is also the Official Charity Partner for Powerboat P1 USA the official sanctioning organization for the Grand Prix Race.

**For Info and to purchase VIP Race Viewing Tickets visit: [sarasotapowerboatgrandprix.org](http://sarasotapowerboatgrandprix.org)**

**Watch the AquaX races livestream on: [facebook.com/p1aquax](https://facebook.com/p1aquax)**

**Watch the Powerboat races livestream on: [facebook.com/p1SuperStock](https://facebook.com/p1SuperStock)**

**Catch all the race highlights from Sarasota in late July/Early August on: Fox Sports Florida (Air Schedule T/B/A)**

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