



PRESS REPORT

Organizers:

MAMAAFRICA.SURF (a Czech surf house in Morocco)

SALAS.SURF (a Slovak surf house in Morocco)

For the second time, Czech and Slovak competitors and surfing fans had the opportunity to conquer the waves on the Moroccan Atlantic coast, this time in the small town of Imsouane.

After a very successful first stop in Sidi Ifni, where last year's competition was organized under the direction of the Slovak surf house SALAS.SURF (based in Sidi Ifni) and the Czech surf house MAMAAFRICA.SURF from Imsouane, the event was marked by excellent organization, an electric atmosphere, and international participation.

In addition to the CZ and SK divisions, two international divisions, U15 and U22, made their debut. These divisions not only showcased impressive surfing but also provided invaluable experience for our young riders, who had the opportunity to test their skills against local rippers! The Berber Cup returns in full force, this time in a new destination – Imsouane.

BERBER CUP pushes the boundaries of Czech-Slovak surfing

For its second stop, the Berber Cup moved to Imsouane, promising a week full of experiences and top-notch surfing performances. On the beach known as La Cathedrale, which offers a constant supply of waves due to its location, we witnessed fierce yet high-quality battles between our riders, surfers from around the world, and the mighty Atlantic Ocean.

For the first time in the history of the Czech-Slovak surfing cup, the competition was scheduled during peak season, ensuring ideal conditions. The Berber Cup was the third stop of the Czech-Slovak surfing cup this year—and more.

The competition structure was modified, with the original junior categories U15 and U22 being changed to U14 and U18. Additionally, an international division for adults was introduced. To the organizers' delight, this division attracted big names from the elite of Moroccan surfing, including Redouane Regragui, Khafi Solomon, and Bachir Kindi, along with four riders from other countries—one from France, two from the UK, and Kayle Enfield from Australia. Interestingly, three of these international riders secured podium finishes.

A terrifying forecast must have given the organizers heart attacks, as prediction apps were showing massive swell numbers with the competition just around the corner. Unlike the usual Czech contests, where organizers often struggle to find decent waves, this time the concern was the complete opposite. The seven-day scheduling window was squeezed between two world-class competitions in Taghazout (Morocco)—the IBC World Bodyboard Tour and the WSL QS 3000 event, featuring some of this year's Berber Cup competitors.

Despite these unfavorable forecasts and external challenges, the skies cleared, and the Atlantic provided a rare window of opportunity, which was seized without hesitation.

Originally set to start on Saturday, February 15, the competition had to be moved up to the morning of February 14, as Friday offered a dream forecast favoring the U14, U18, and Women's divisions. There was no time to waste, and the organizers' decision paid off.

U14 International Division - opening the door to surfing for more than just Czechs and Slovaks

In the U14 competition, Moroccan **Rayan Elouedrhiri** dominated, securing first place with a score of 10.50 under the guidance of his father and coach. Close behind him was French representative **Colin Bonneau**, followed by local talents **Adam Idabou** and **Hicham Bifri**. For the local community, this event was more than just a competition—it was a gateway into the world of surfing.

The proud faces of parents urging their children forward told the story of new opportunities unfolding.

U14 International Results:

1st: Rayan Elouedrhiri (MA) – 10.50

2nd: Colin Bonneau (FR) – 8.00

3rd: Adam Idabou (MA) – 6.35

4th: Hicham Bifri (MA) – 5.55

U18 International Division - rising stars, including our own

On the same day, the U18 division delivered highly skilled performances, featuring 20 competitors, including five Czech riders (**Matěj Rejman, Timon Matěna, Tobias Martinek, Ines Marta Kramná, and Matěj Hroneš**). A French and British competitor, George Rule-Hodson, also joined the event, with Rule-Hodson ultimately securing third place.

For the Czech competitors, this was an unforgettable experience and an invaluable opportunity to face surfers like Makoua Driss, who dominated with a commanding victory, or rising stars **Khalil Belachgar** and **Lhassan Orchim**. Notably, Makoua Driss was later granted a wild card entry into the WSL QS 3000 event, allowing fans to see his surfing on an even bigger stage.

Czech surfing is still in its infancy compared to the rest of the world, but events like the Berber Cup provide crucial motivation and learning experiences for young talents. This model ensures that anyone, regardless of their background, has a fair shot—especially younger generations who get to learn from more advanced riders.

U18 International Results:

1st: Makoua Driss (MA) – 11.45

2nd: Lhassan Orchim (MA) – 9.45

3rd: George Rule-Hodson (GBR) – 9.25

4th: Nourdine El Hihi (MA) – 7.15

CZ/SK WOMEN'S DIVISION – Extreme Conditions Tested Their Preparation

Due to the challenging conditions, the first competition day had to be fully utilized, and this meant the first round of the women's division took place. Unfortunately, only eight competitors registered. Among them were familiar names from the Czech-Slovak Surfing Cup, such as Ines Marta Kramná and Lucie Hůzová, as well as newcomers making their competitive debut. Fresh faces like Anna Davidová and Eliška Vystrčilová, who had recently joined the Czech-Slovak Surfing Cup, had the opportunity to fight for top rankings.

By this time, the swell was already gaining momentum, forcing the women to switch into **survival mode**. Although four out of the eight surfers had prior experience with the local break, only one managed to make full use of it—**Radka Vášová**, who turned her debut heat into a victory. Equally dominant was **Ines Kramná**, securing her heat win with confidence. Unfortunately, Eliška Vystrčilová missed her heat entirely and, after consultation, was placed into the repechage round.

The repechage, semifinals, and women's final were all scheduled for the last competition day—Monday, February 17th—and it was a spectacle worth watching. **Milena Wetterová** and **Lucie Hůzová** fought their way out of the repechage round, securing their places in the semifinals. However, it's important to acknowledge that the conditions the women had to face would have intimidated even some of the male competitors. It was a heart-wrenching battle where experience, physical endurance, and sheer determination made the difference. In the end, **Ines Kramná**, **Lucie Hůzová**, **Ingrid Jakubechová**, and **Martina Vrzalová** advanced to the grand final.

In the harsh conditions with powerful waves, **Ines Kramná** claimed an undisputed victory, solidifying her win at the inaugural Berber Cup and securing the top position in the overall tour rankings. **Martina Vrzalová** had an impressive debut, finishing in second place, followed by **Lucie Hůzová** in third and **Ingrid Jakubechová** in fourth.

We must acknowledge the outstanding performances of all the competitors, as many had to push themselves to their absolute limits. Their efforts were met with admiration—not only from the enthusiastic local crowd gathered on the cliffs but also from the judges. The competitive atmosphere drove the women into the water, even under conditions that would have normally kept them on shore.

And this is what surfing is all about—pushing boundaries.

We salute them.

Final Results – CZ/SK WOMEN:

- **1st:** Ines Marta Kramná (CZ) – 7.00
- **2nd:** Martina Vrzalová (SK) – 3.80
- **3rd:** Lucie Hůzová (CZ) – 2.50
- **4th:** Ingrid Jakubechová (SK) – 2.30

INTERNATIONAL OPEN DIVISION – Pro Surfing and a Surprise from the Other Side of the World

The second competition day, Saturday, February 15th, belonged to the highly anticipated CZ/SK Men's and International OPEN divisions. But it also belonged to the expected swell, coming from the WNW direction at 2.2-2.5m, with energy ranging from 2000-2700kJ and a period of 14-16 seconds. Thanks to this long period, the competition could take place, as it provided large windows between sets, giving competitors more room to paddle out.

For the first time, this division also introduced a prize pool of 13,000 DH (32,500 CZK), which was split among the top four competitors.

The first heat of the International OPEN division kicked off with a chance for multiple-time Moroccan champion **Redouane Regragui** to shine. Alongside local charger **Anouar Bouzmit**, he advanced to the next round. Morocco's best surfers battled it out on overhead waves, turning the local beach into a cheering crowd. A spectacular **air 360** by **Bachir Kindi** and powerful surfing from **Khafi Solomon** and **Kayle Enfield** from Australia electrified the atmosphere.

However, a few fearless Czech surfers also stepped up to challenge the local talent, shaking their confidence. Let's honor them in this written record: representing the Czech colors and risking their lives were **Jan Vítek**, **Tobias Martinek**, and **Ines Kramná**, who missed advancing to the second round by just **0.80 points** against local legend **Bamboo (Abdeljalil Mahfoudi)**.

International Open Finals

The final day of the International division drew a large crowd to the cliffs, with spectators from Morocco and across Europe. The lineup was stacked with big names, promising a spectacular showdown. The forecast delivered a consistent, high-quality swell, setting the stage for an epic battle.

Out of an initial **32 riders**, only **the top 8** remained. After intense and evenly matched heats, **the final four** emerged:

- **Bachir Kindi**
- **Redouane Regragui**
- **Kayle Enfield**
- **Hbekaa (Abdelhak Er-Rays)**

The heat was a fierce showdown featuring airs, radical moves, and vertical snaps—everything expected from professional surfers. In the end, **Bachir Kindi** dominated with a **15.30** score, securing a convincing victory. **Kayle Enfield** and **Redouane Regragui** fought an intense battle for second place, with the Australian ultimately coming out on top. **Local favorite Abdelhak Er-Rays (Hbekaa)** secured fourth place.

Final Results – INTERNATIONAL OPEN

- **1st:** Bachir Kindi (MA) – **15.30**
- **2nd:** Kayle Enfield (AUS) – **11.40**
- **3rd:** Redouane Regragui (MA) – **8.90**
- **4th:** Abdelhak Er-Rays (Hbekaa) (MA) – **8.00**

CZ/SK MEN'S DIVISION – Experience vs. Courage

This division attracted 19 surfers from the Czech Republic and Slovakia, eager to take on the full power of La Cathedrale. Since the first competition day focused on the youth and women's divisions due to more favorable conditions, Saturday was an all-out battle day for the men's divisions, with both the International OPEN and the first round of the CZ/SK Men's competition taking place.

Some riders were thrilled by the massive waves, while others felt the nerves of an unpredictable Atlantic Ocean. Adrenaline was everywhere, and spectators could feel it from every vantage point overlooking the break.

Right from the first round, it was clear that experience and courage would be the key to success. After the opening battles, 10 riders advanced to the quarterfinals, including:

- Slovak surfing veterans **Benjamin Štuller, Matuš Hubka, Robert Šutek, and Ralph Zyzak**
- Czech standouts **Timon Matěna and Sebastian Čelák**
- Brothers **Matěj and Filip Rajman**, strong contenders for the overall championship
- **Martin Mikyna and Vojtěch Štříbrský**, who sent **Jan Vítek** into the repechage round

Unfortunately, Slovak legend **Maroš Nemec** withdrew due to injury, and Czech icon **David Gajdoš** stepped back out of fear for his safety. Instead, he found refuge in the commentary booth, keeping the crowd entertained alongside **Kuba Chamrád**.

Sunday Lay Day & Monday's Final Showdown

Due to monster conditions and strong winds, Sunday was declared a lay day. This left Monday as the final chance to finish the competition. The repechage heats went as expected, with **Jan Vítek, Maroš Nemec, David Gajdoš, and Martin Valenčík** advancing. Meanwhile, young Czech hopeful **Tobias Martinek** and Slovak competitors **Jakub Cypřich** and **Marek Slávik** were eliminated.

Quarterfinals

The **quarterfinals** featured high-level battles, with **Maroš Nemec and Timon Matěna** dominating their heat. Slovak surfers **Ralph Zyzak and Benjamin Štuller** also secured their spots, as did **Sebastian Čelák and Matěj Rajman**. **Jan Vítek** and surprise contender **Peter Poliak** advanced through the repechage.

Semifinals

The **semifinals** showcased endurance and skill, with **Maroš Nemec and Jan Vítek** excelling, alongside **Sebastian Čelák and Peter Poliak**. It became clear that surfing is not just a **physical battle** but a **mental game as well**. Those who handled the pressure best made it to the **podium**.

CZ/SK MEN'S FINAL

The finals of all three divisions were held back-to-back, drawing a massive crowd to the cliffs. The electrifying atmosphere helped fuel the competitors' performances.

The intense Czech-Slovak final was a reward for all the riders, but **Sebastian Čelák** ultimately dominated the heavy break, scoring **6.40** to take the win. **Jan Vítek** followed closely behind, just **0.1 points** away.

Slovak powerhouse **Maroš Nemec** secured third place, taking home the award for **Best and Biggest Wave of the Event**. The surprise of the competition, **Peter Poliak**, secured fourth place.

Final Results – CZ/SK MEN'S

- **1st:** Sebastian Čelák (CZ) – **6.40**
- **2nd:** Jan Vitek (CZ) – **6.30**
- **3rd:** Maroš Nemec (SK) – **4.50**
- **4th:** Peter Poliak (SK) – **0.50**

Conclusion – Czech-Slovak Surfing Takes Another Step Toward the Global Stage

Words from Berber Cup Organizers (Martin Mikyna & Robert Šutek)

The essence of the Berber Cup is to improve and elevate Czech-Slovak surfing to an international level. We aim to provide riders with conditions similar to those of world-class competitions—to push them, challenge them, and expose them to stronger and more experienced competitors.

We want to prepare them for the real world of competitive surfing, where there are no friends on the judging panel and no buddies in the lineup—only rivals. **Surfing** is a sport that demands discipline, responsibility, and dedication.

The Berber Cup grows every year, but it's not a race between organizers—it's simply our way of doing things the best we can. It's time to push the limits even further.

A massive thank you to all sponsors, competitors, fans, and local communities **for their support!**

Next Stop: **BEERBER CUP in SIDI IFNI – We invite you all!**

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