

CASE STUDY



Quiksilver Pro Junior UK / King of the Groms 2011

ASP European Surfing Event

CLIENT

Quiksilver



SECTOR

International Sporting Event

REQUIREMENT

Communication Infrastructure

The Challenge

To provide a communications infrastructure versatile enough to serve a major European surfing event. The communications network would consist of five individual networks, each hosting a broadband connection, voice communication, judging system and distribution of live scoring to screens throughout the event site. The final requirement was a satellite link to allow a live broadcast of the event to be fed over the internet.

The site itself carried its own challenges. The main Fistral Complex was occupied in the lead up to and during the event, so all cabling would need to be installed without disruption and out of hours. Additionally the network would be exposed to sand and salt air, high winds, rain and the occasional spot of sunshine.

The Solution

It became clear early on that equipment, end users requirements and locations were not set in stone and could change at a moment's notice. A Category 5e solution was chosen to negate any delay skew issues which might arise from the audio visual equipment but at the same time provide sufficient bandwidth to serve all other network requirements. This solution had the added advantage of keeping costs down for the organisers, yet still allow for a robust network.

By temporarily flood-wiring certain internal areas of the main complex and feeding the network cable back to a central cabinet, changes could be made quickly and easily. Routers, switches and other active equipment were secure within the cabinet and gave us the flexibility to patch in services anywhere in the complex efficiently.

Backbone cables for each of the required networks were run to key locations around site, to overcome the issue of over length cables creating attenuation and signal loss. Secondary hubs were created using switches and broadcasters which allowed us to boost signals and distribute feeds to the networks as required.

The Result

There is only one chance to get it right when participating in the production of a live event. By liaising with the organisers, reviewing all the requirements and producing a project plan, the network installed by Voicepath proved its worth and cost effectiveness. Our team was able to deal with all of the predicted and unpredicted changes quickly and efficiently, with no network interruption during event. This enabled organisers to concentrate on running the event smoothly from start to finish with no interruptions, other than weather and surf conditions .

