600 days to go: Jessie Kampman tells her comeback story in her own words

PRESS RELEASE

In a new short film, the kitefoiler looks back on her severe crash in 2023, her switch to the Netherlands and the fire that is burning again. Exactly 600 days before the first Olympic Formula Kite race gets underway in Long Beach.

On Sunday 16 July 2028, the first Olympic Formula Kite race will start off Belmont Shore, Long Beach. It also opens the entire Olympic sailing programme of Los Angeles 2028. As of today, that is exactly 600 days away. Kitefoiler Jessie Kampman (26) marks the moment with a short film in which, for the first time at such length, she tells her own story.

Anyone who knows Kampman from the results sheets sees a record that adds up: world champion in 2025, silver at the 2026 World Championships. What that record doesn't show is the summer of 2023.

"A game of chess at 70 kilometres per hour"

Formula Kite is one of the youngest Olympic disciplines, and one of the fastest. The rider stands on a board that lifts clear of the water on a hydrofoil, with an eleven or fifteen-square-metre kite overhead. Kampman explains it herself in the film: "Basically trying to play a game of chess while going at 70 kilometres per hour on the water. The adrenaline is definitely there. Just on the edge, trying to keep the whole system under control without exploding and ventilating and crashing."

That last part is exactly what happened. "I had a really severe crash in August 2023. It broke my ankle, my fibula, my collarbone and one of my vertebrae as well. I was in hospital for two and a half months, and I then spent three months in an athlete rehab centre."

She is matter-of-fact about that period, but doesn't hide what it did to her. "I think I've always had a spark in me. Being burnt out and my accident almost dimmed that light that I had towards the sport. But I knew that if I could put myself in the right environment and surround myself by the right people, that it would only brighten and become stronger."

One place per country

Kampman was born in Crawley, England, to a British mother and a South African father with a Dutch passport. She grew up in France from the age of four. For years she raced for the French team. But at the Olympic Games each nation may send only one kitefoiler per event, and at Paris 2024 that French place went to Lauriane Nolot. Kampman herself says plainly that everyone knew the rules of the game.

In July 2025 she switched to the Dutch sailing federation, the Watersportverbond. Her new teammate Annelous Lammerts, bronze medallist in Paris, had told her they look after their athletes well. It proved no empty promise. On 16 July 2025, racing as part of Team Allianz, Kampman won her first event in Dutch colours in Long Beach, on the same water where the Olympic races will be sailed in 2028. On 5

October that year she went on to become world champion in Cagliari. In May 2026 came silver at the World Championships in Viana do Castelo.

What is different in the Netherlands, she sums up in the film in a couple of lines: "Everyone is just great in the federation and really helpful. They've understood quite well that to do well you actually need to be happy, and that both go hand in hand."

On the road to Los Angeles

Kampman trains with Team Allianz and surrounds herself with a team of specialists. "There's a lot of experts that are involved in my campaign. I think that's really important to have when you're chasing something as big as the Olympics."

The road to Long Beach still runs through qualification and selection. But anyone who watches the film to the end hears where she stands: "I can really feel that fire burning in me again, and I don't think there's any amount of water that can put it out."

The film closes with an invitation to come along, and she means it. Her own website, jessiekampman.com, carries her full story, her results and the latest news. For a day-to-day view, follow her on Instagram at @jessiekampman.

Watch the film: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK-2xe6Xl4k

About Jessie Kampman

- Born 16 May 2000 in Crawley, England; raised in France
- Kitefoiler in the Olympic Formula Kite class.
- Racing for the Netherlands since July 2025 (Watersportverbond / TeamNL); previously France
- Formula Kite World Champion 2025 (Cagliari), silver at the 2026 World Championships (Viana do Castelo)
- Website: jessiekampman.com · Instagram: @jessiekampman

About the film

600 days to LA2028 | Jessie Kampman TeamNL in her own words · approx. 3 minutes · spoken in English. Online on YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nK-2xe6Xl4k

---

Note to editors (not for publication)

For interview requests, high-resolution images and stills from the film:

Bart Salemans
bart@87knots.com | +31 6 13 75 64 20
Management Jessie Kampman