

2018 FAI F3J World Championships for Model Gliders

Seniors and Juniors

22nd to 28th July 2018, Brasov, Romania

This 2018 FAI F3J World Championships for Model Gliders was organised by the Romanian Modelling Federation.

Venue

The competition took place on the Brasov Airfield, near the village Ghimbav. Shortcut grass area was prepared with dimensions about 450 x 300 meters. The whole meadow area of the airfield was much larger but covered with thistles. A rather small area near the hangar was designed for camping.

Participation

The Championships were entered by 46 senior competitors from 16 countries and 21 junior competitors from 9 countries.

Organisation

For launching and landing there was prepared an area 440 m long and 250 m wide parallel to the runway of the full-size aircraft. So the lanes for towing were oriented to NE (35°) and SW (215°). Unfortunately, during the competition, the wind often blew from NW, which made the launching of model gliders more difficult.

For car parking and shades of competitor a neighboring area 60 m x 300 m, declared as safety area was designed. For teams which asked in advance, the organiser prepared shadows for pilots and their model gliders.

TM meeting was held in the building of Brasov Aeroclub. The processing of models took place in the smaller hangar of the local Aeroclub.

During the competition, the Contest Director and Starter had their shade at the entrance of the launching corridor. For the Jury, the organiser prepared a similar shade nearby.

In general, the World Championships were well organised. Mr. Sotir Lazarkov (BUL) was the Contest Director, Mr. Vasile Petre Pop (ROM) the Deputy Contest Director and Mrs. Penka Garabetova (BUL) the Starter. Timekeepers and other members of organising staff improved their skill and knowledge during the F3J World Cup Competition, which was held on 20th and 21st July on the same airfield.

The organisers used an automatic timing system borrowed from the Bulgarian staff for the announcing of the preparation and working time. The Working time was shown on two big displays at each end of the launch corridor. The sound signals were brought to pilots through 6 loudspeakers evenly distributed along the launching corridor.

The good organisation allowed the completion of 14 qualifying rounds with 6 fly-off rounds for seniors (12 pilots) and 14 qualifying rounds with 6 fly-off rounds for juniors (10 pilots). Two mistakes were done by timekeepers at the junior fly-off, which caused two re-flies of the junior group.

The software used for the evaluation of results worked reliably.

Accommodation and catering

Some competitors and helpers used the camping provisions on the airfield. Most of the participants stayed in hotels at Brasov (about 10 km driving).

Lunch, for people who ordered it, was delivered in plastic packages to. The meals were good and in sufficient amount. Breakfast and dinner were not provided by the organiser.

Refreshment was possible to buy at a shade on the field.

Weather

In general, the weather from the beginning of the competition flying was not good. On Monday, the first flying day, it was possible to fly in the morning. At two o'clock the rain started and later the thunderstorm reigned, up to the evening.

On Tuesday the rain shower again caused an interruption of flying and the fifth round of senior was flown in the evening, up to seven thirty. The prevailing wind was from the west-northwest, which was mostly perpendicular to the towing direction. Unfortunately, it was not possible to turn the orientation of the launch corridor.

On Wednesday the weather in the morning was agreeable and lasted up to the evening. Rounds 9 of seniors and juniors were completed.

On Thursday in the morning the sky was covered by clouds, but soon the blue sky appeared. The weather somewhat cloudy allowed to fly up to rounds 13 of seniors and 12 of juniors. The thunderstorm started at about half past six, so the 13th round of juniors was postponed to Friday.

On Friday the start of competition flying was announced for 8.30. The clouds were just high enough. It was flown the round 13 and 14 of juniors and round 14 of seniors. The fly-off started at 13.30. The clouds covered almost all the sky. The last rounds of fly-off were flown in the evening when the thermal activity was lower and approaching the 15 minutes maximum was more difficult.

Flying Performance

The performance of the majority of pilots was excellent. At fly-off Arian Hucaljuk skipped the last round, because after the fifth round he was loosing only 1.6 points from the absolute maximum (5000 points) and was 9.6 points in advance of the second Jody Miller. After all 6 fly-off rounds the difference between the second Jody Miller and the third Cederic Duss was only half a second.

Safety

There was no serious safety problem during the World Championships.

Processing

For all model gliders entering the championships, the nose radius and the correct marking were checked. The organisers supplied stickers to identify the different models of each competitor. The validity of licenses was checked in the database in advance. The organiser prepared 3 tables and 6 people, so the processing was running fast.

Opening and Closing Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was run on the airfield, on Sunday Morning. The short opening speech was held by the secretary of the Roumanian Aeroclub. Each team stood behind its sign. Then The Opening Ceremony was concluded by the Jury president, who officially opened the World Championships and then the FAI Anthem was played and the FAI flag was raised.

The Closing Ceremony with the medal and diploma awarding of took place on Saturday evening in the Hall Dacia of the hotel Lux Divina at Brasov. The Awarding Ceremony was concluded by the Jury president, who officially closed the World Championships and then the FAI Anthem was played and the FAI flag was lowered. The FAI flag was then handed over to Dr. Jan Littva from Slovakia, the organiser of the 2020 FAI F3J World Championships.

Protests

There was no protest submitted during the championships.

Technical Meeting

On Wednesday evening, after the last flight of the day a Technical Meeting was gathered. About 25 people took part. The new rule changes for 2019 were discussed. Some present people expressed their concern about the safety of the launch with winches. After a long discussion, it was decided to invite a small group of experts which should prepare a recommendation for the organisers, especially for the organiser of the next F3J European Championships in Poland.


Jury

The composition of the FAI Jury was: Tomas Bartovsky (CZE), president, Marek Dominiak (POL) and Andrei Petre (ROM), members.

The composition was changed during the last month before the Championships, because Mr. Marin Kordic, who was nominated by the CIAM Bureau on December could not come to Brasov. Therefore the reserve, Andras Ree was addressed, but he also was not available. In June 2018 the CIAM Bureau agreed by e-mail with Marek Dominiak, the Polish delegate, to replace Marin Kordic in the FAI Jury.

Conclusion

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, these were a very successful World Championships carried out in a friendly atmosphere. The organisers are to be commended for an excellent event.



Tomas Bartovsky (CZE)
President

Marek Dominiak (POL)
Member

Andrei Petre (ROM)
Member