



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## **The World Games: Japan's Yuki Hashimoto wins gold**

Chengdu, China, 16 August 2025 – **Yuki Hashimoto from Japan won the gold medal in Drone Racing at The World Games on Saturday 16 August after a fast and furious final round of competition.**

**Chun Yan Kwan of Hong Kong, China** won silver and **MinJae Kim from Korea** won bronze. Fourth place went to Liechtenstein's Marvin Schäpper.

Afterwards Yuki, who is the current FAI World Drone Racing Champion, paid tribute to his friend and rival MinJae Kim, calling him a *"legend"*. MinJae entered the final leg of the competition as favourite but ended up crashing and literally burning up in his final race.

After three days of Qualification and Elimination rounds the final of the competition consisted of a possible total of five races, with the four pilots racing against each other. The first pilot to win two races would be declared The World Games Champion and win the coveted gold medal.

MinJae Kim won the first race, and then Yuki won the second.

However, in the third race a collision between Marvin Schäpper and MinJae saw both pilots knocked out. MinJae's drone went up in flames with a punctured battery. Under the rules the race had been stopped for obvious safety reasons.

The race was then re-started when safe to do so, but without the two pilots who had already crashed out. That meant Yuki flew against Chun Yan – and won that race.

That gave Yuki the two required wins for first place – and the first place on the podium.

*"I got a little bit lucky,"* Yuki said afterwards, *"but I spent a lot of time [training] for this race, so I am really happy."*

He added: *"I actually can't believe I won the race. I always feel like this!"*

He explained it was the first time he had flown a final at night. *"It was really, really cool. The LEDs were amazing. The quality of the video was really cool and what I could see through my goggles was amazing."*

He paid tribute to his friend MinJae and said that the win, along with his World Championship title, meant, *"I am almost coming to MinJae's level – almost legend level."* Laughing, he added: *"I am not there yet! I need to practise more, practise more."*

Immediately after The World Games he planned to take some time off to decompress. *"I have been flying 10 hours a day, I think it's too much. I will chill with my friends, hang out, and maybe fly drones!"*

Before that though there was the medal ceremony, where he received his gold medal from FAI President Greg Principato in front of an audience of drone fans.

## The World Games

Yuki's triumph came after an intense four days of competition Drone Racing in Chengdu, China. Held as part of The World Games, an international multi-sports event that is second only in size to the Olympics, 31 drone pilots from 19 countries came together to race on what is one of the biggest competition drone tracks ever built.

Designed in the shape of a panda's face when seen from above, the track featured more than 40 twists, turns and obstacles, creating a complex and difficult track to fly.

The track truly came alive at night when it was lit by thousands of LED lights. With spectators watching live in the stadium and each pilot's point of view being shown on the large screens, the competition atmosphere was charged and exciting.

The competition was held at the Dong'an Lake Sports Park Athletics Field on the eastern edge of Chengdu city. This two-year-old multi-purpose stadium complex hosted several sports during The World Games.

Closing the event, competition manager Bruno Delor said he was thrilled that the competition had been so successful. *"The competition was wonderful. We have never had such a good competition in Drone Racing. Here at The World Games we saw the best of the best."*

Yang Zhuoyue from the Aero Sports Federation of China and an FAI Delegate and Jury Member at the competition said that The World Games was a *"huge stage"* for drone sports in China. *"It shows we know how to organise high level drone racing competitions, and that we have a very active population of young people involved. Drone sports in China are in the schools and they are growing."*

## Results

1. **HASHIMOTO Yuki (JPN)**
2. KWAN Chun Yan (HKG)
3. KIM MinJae (KOR)

### **Editor's note**

The World Games: 7-17 August 2025  
The World Games drone racing event: 13-16 August 2025  
Chengdu, China

FAI provided extensive coverage of the Championship with regular updates on its website, Facebook, and Instagram. Images are available for editorial use on Flickr, please credit: FAI/Marcus King.

- [Pictures of the medallists](#)
- [All pictures](#)
- [The World Games 2025 - Drone Racing event - Website](#)
- [Full results](#)
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## About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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