

JURY REPORT

24th FAI World Hot Air Balloon Championship Murska Sobota, Slovenia 23rd September 2022

Overall this was a well organised first class event, the organisation team are to be congratulated on delivering such a spectacular show at the Murska Sobota airfield, with large numbers of spectators.

Entry Process

The entry process worked well with only some minor difficulties. 3 entrants were changed by their NAC's prior to the General Briefing.

Check in

This was very smooth and well organised.

General Briefing

This was well presented and highlighted all details for the competition map and rule clarifications. A detailed description of the BLS and WatchMeFly app requirements were given, and competitors were reminded to run a simulated test flight to ensure that all functions were available and updated.

The ED informed the Jury that there were 2 entrants missing at the roll call. Entrant 46 had informed the organiser some weeks earlier that he was having difficulty obtaining a visa, and confirmed that he would not be able to attend as he had not received his visa prior to the GB. Entrant 76 had no contact with the organisers since June, which only concerned the entry fee. An email was received at 04:17 on 18th September 2022, stating that he would not be attending. This was nearly 24 hrs after the GB. The subsequent jury meeting declared the entrant a NO SHOW.

Opening Ceremony

This was well attended by organisers, competitors, crews, officials and city members from Murska Sobota. All flags were displayed. The event was held outdoors in overcast and wet conditions under foot. All competitors were presented to the public, Oaths made and the event was declared open. A key grab over the lake was the final visual display for the many public present.

Competition

The competition was conducted using the Watchmefly app. This was its first use in a World Championship, although it had been previously used in many smaller events.

The first competition flight was on 18th September AM, and consisted of 5 tasks. HWZ, GBM, HWZ, FON and FON, launching from individual launch sites. There was one collision but no other incidents.

Flight 2. 18th September PM consisted of HWZ and LRN, launching from the common launch site at the airfield. Many public were in attendance. There were no incidents.



Flight 3. 19th September AM, consisted of HZW and HZW, launching from the common launch site at the airfield. There were two collisions but no other incidents.

Flight 4. 19th September PM, consisted of FIN, launching from individual launch sites. The FON was cancelled at the supplementary briefing. There were no other incidents.



Flight 5. 20th September AM, consisted of CRT, MDD, WSD, HWZ, and FON, launching from individual launch sites. There were three collisions but no other incidents.



Flight 6. 20th September PM, consisted of HWZ and HWZ, launching from individual launch sites. There was one collision but no other incidents.

Flight 7. 21st September AM, consisted of ELB, CRT, HWZ, FON and FON, launching from individual launch sites. There were four collisions but no other incidents.

Flight 8. 21st September PM, consisted of HWZ and FON, launching from the common launch site at the airfield. There were no incidents.



Flight 9. 22nd September AM, consisted of HWZ, XDD, HWZ, WSD and a FON, launching from individual launch sites. There were no incidents.

Flight 10. 22nd September PM. The last competition flight, consisting of GBM, HWZ and FON, launching from individual launch sites. There were no incidents.

Scoring

This was the first use of Watchmefly in a large competition. The pilot interface with the App seemed to work well. There were some issues during the week with the server overload and the scoring, which were resolved at various times and overall the system seemed to work well.

It should be noted that for future events with 100+ competitors, that a thorough test of the system should be made prior to the event.

Media

Throughout the competition the media team were doing a fantastic job of producing content for live shows and social media feeds. Overall an excellent production.

Results

The Official Final results were published at 12:00 on 23rd September 2022.

Complaints / Protests.

There was one complaint which resulted in the penalties of tasks 4 and 5 being removed for competitors with similar issues. No protests were received.

Awards Ceremony

The awards ceremony was held in the hanger on the airfield. All FAI protocols were observed and all flags were flown.

The Medal holders were presented with Medals, Trophy and Gifts.

Jury recommendations:

That future investment will be required for the infrastructure of Watchmefly to ensure that large events with multiple downloads can be accommodated without interruptions.

That FAI should increase the number of Nations Diploma's to a minimum of 20. 18 were required this year, but only 12 supplied. One for each team member, and one for the NAC.

Les Purfield (GBR)
Jury President

Paolo Oggioni (ITA)
Member

Maury Sullivan (USA)
Member

Murska Sobota, Slovenia.
23rd September 2022