

14th WAAC 2021 CONTEST DIRECTOR REPORT



Mr. President, Dear Delegates

I had the pleasure and honour of being the Contest Director of the World Advanced Aerobatic Championships for the first time. So far I have only had experience in being the Contest Director on the national level so it has definitely been a challenge for me.

It was not easy to organise the 14th WAAC. Because the place of the event had been changed only a month prior the event, all the staff in Torun had to work really hard to make it happen. The previous experience of Torun Aeroclub in organising the world class events was clearly crucial here.

The competition was planned from 27th July to 7th August 2021 in Torun, Aeroklub Pomorski, POLAND. The duration of the championship was shortened, however, due to a very efficient use of each flying day. After all Programmes had been completed, with the consent of the Jury, Organisers and all Team Managers, the Closing Ceremony was held two days earlier than planned.

With the help of many supporting staff, the registration of participants, which was located at EPTO airfield, was carried out very smoothly. It was extremely important for us to comply with all the Covid rules that were in force at that time: Covid Time Rules as well as additional restrictions and rules imposed on the organisers by the world, European and national organisations, and institutions.

The Performance Zone was located on the airfield parallel to RWY, which was in accordance with the Section 6 of FAI Sporting Code. Every day before the first flight everything was checked and confirmed by the weather check crews.

The weather check (tendencies, cloud base, visibility, wind, and possible precipitation) was mainly done with the use of a light plane utilising its onboard GPS system for the measurements. The check was carried out several times per day or whenever there was a need for that because of some doubts or ambiguities. The use of experienced crews was essential for planning a day and conducting Programmes. Morning briefings, led by Jury President Pierre Varloteaux, Chief Judges, Flight Director and myself were also very useful for the decision making process, e. g., about the time to start Programmes, the day forecast, breaks for judges, draws, planning next days, changing procedures, coordinating events with organisers, preparing information for Main Brief or daily briefings, etc...

As far as websites are concerned, we mainly used TopMeteo.de and meteo.pl for forecasting. We found these websites highly recommendable - there was about 95% verifiability, even for an hourly forecast. We also used another Polish website, awiacja.imgw.pl, for current observation and additional radar content.

Ground Procedures depended mainly on radio communication and informational blackboard, which was located close to the holding point of the runway in use. The Flight Director controlled Ground Procedures and was responsible for giving clearance for line-up and departure and clearance for landing. This system worked well as it was safe, operative, and effective. No serious incident occurred throughout the whole event.

Air procedures consisted mainly of two-way circuits – always t/o different from landing and with no crossing ways. This system worked really well and was very efficient. Sometimes the Flight Director, Mikolaj Makula, who is experienced in flying on this airfield, used opposite to t/o direction for landing to shorten flights and taxi time.

The main technical and refuelling services were provided by organisers. The work of Technical Team, with its leader Stanisław Kogut, was reliable and professional - technicians helped pilots to the best of their knowledge. The championship airplanes experienced a few minor mechanical failures, mainly before or during the start-up procedures, which resulted in changing the starting list during competition sometimes. I believe that a very good communication and a three-sided understanding between the Chief Judge Jerome Houdier, the President of Jury and myself was the core of success.

Opening, Award and Closing Ceremonies were prepared in the hangar at the EPTO Torun airfield.

A very good cooperation with the Aeroclub Pomorski in Torun contributed to the professional preparation of the infrastructure – especially with a comfortable hangar for all planes, which was also used for daily briefings, etc.

Despite Covid restriction the majority of participants felt it was a safe competition and they had a good time there.

Wojciech Krupa

WAAC 2021

Contest Director