

Report by the Jury President to the International Gliding Commission

Event details

Title: 20th FAI European Gliding Championships in the Standard, Club and 15m Classes

Date: 6th to 20th July, 2019 **Location:** Prievidza, Slovak Republic

Organizing NAC: Aeroclub of the Slovak Republic

Number of Competitors: 82, **Number of Competition Days:** 12 in each class.

Event Personnel

Championship Director: Jozef Šnirc, **Deputy Director:** Jozef Kutlák

Task Setters: Tomáš Bobok, Drahoš Sitár

Chief Scorer: Gabriela Beláková

Chief Steward: Patrick Pauwels (Belgium), **Steward:** Ojvind Frank (Denmark).

FAI Jury

President: Peter Ryder (Germany), **Remote Members:** Gisela Weinreich (Germany), Jaroslav Vach (Czech Republic).

Complaints and Protests

There were no official complaints, and only one protest, which was presented several hours after the end of the protest time of the day concerned and was therefore not admitted.

General Remarks

- First and foremost: This was a very well prepared and excellently run contest. All important competition officials were experienced, and they displayed dedication and enthusiasm in performing their respective tasks. The less experienced staff members, such as the young people who helped on the grid, had been well prepared and also did an excellent job. With very few exceptions, a friendly, relaxed atmosphere pervaded throughout the event.
- The organisers had prepared very well for the technical inspection of the gliders. They even offered the pilots the possibility of making an appointment for the inspection in advance on line, but few made use of this possibility. Quite a few pilots arrived very late, and some were totally unprepared as far as the necessary documents are concerned.
- Despite the fact that the meteorological conditions were not always ideal, there were 12 competition days for each of the 3 classes. Air space restrictions did not make the task setters' job easier.
- Apart from a few minor hitches with the gridding in the first few days, all operations went smoothly. WhatsApp was used for communications; this worked well and made it easy to include the remote Jury members in all communications.
- During the contest, some team captains and competitors commented to the organiser, in only one case aggressively, about alleged cloud flying. However, there were no official complaints, only the one late protest, and no use was made of the Safety Committee or "FlyTool".
- The Stewards made a very thorough investigation of the proximity analysis software and are planning to publish their conclusions in a separate report.
- Flarm was used for tracking, but many pilots, especially the leaders, switched off the tracking function, so that the resulting display was uninteresting from a sporting point of view.
- Unfortunately, little effort had been made to advertise the event to the local population. There were very few spectators, even during the weekends.
- A few minor problems with the scoring were usually corrected in time for the final scores. One rather strange error was noticed too late, but the difference was so small that it did not affect the final placings. The team scores for Croatia and Austria as published on Soaring Spot are incorrect, because the scoring software did not invoke Annex A, Paragraph 8.5.4b correctly, and no help from Naviter was forthcoming. I gave the CD a spread sheet with the correct scores. The leading positions were not affected.