

2024 F9 Drone Sport Technical Meeting - Saturday 16th March 2024

Minutes

Report by: Bruno Delor, F9 Subcommittee (S/C) Chairman

ATTENDEES: 22 participants from 18 countries

First and family names	Country	Position
Bruno DELOR	France	F9 S/C Chairman
Fernando Dario MAZZAFERRO	Argentina	F9 S/C member
Sotir LAZARKOV	Bulgaria	CIAM Delegate & F9 S/C member
Chi WEN CHEN (James)	Chinese Taipei	Observer
Frédéric THEUREL	France	F9 S/C member
Peter UHLIG	Germany	CIAM Delegate
Matthias MÖEBIUS	Germany	F9 S/C member
Massimo SEMOLI	Germany	CIAM Secretary
Antonis PAPADOPOULOS	Greece	CIAM President
Oscar CHINELLO	Italy	F9 S/C member
Tooru TAKAHASHI	Japan	F9 S/C member
Aya KAWAKAMI	Japan	Observer
SoonCheon PARK	Korea	CIAM Alternate Delegate & F9 S/C member
JH PARK	Korea	Observer
Zdravko TODOROSKI	North Macedonia	CIAM Delegate
Basel HABIB	Saudi Arabia	Observer
Srdjan PELAGIC	Serbia	CIAM Delegate
Zoran PELAGIC	Slovakia	CIAM Bureau member
Yvette STEYN-CHURCHMAN	South-Africa	F9 S/C member
Marek DOMINIAK	Poland	CIAM Delegate
Jose Manuel MARTINEZ-IBANEZ	Spain	F9 S/C member
David ROBERTS	USA	F9 Technical Expert

Beginning of the meeting at 13:05 CET time

The meeting had been recorded.

The pdf file of the slides presented during the meeting and the recording file of the meeting will be uploaded with the present Minutes on the following webpage: <https://www.fai.org/page/ciam-plenary-2024>

After thanking the CIAM President, Antonis Papadopoulos, for his support to organise the meeting, the F9 S/C Chairman, presented slides covering the following items:

- 2023 F9 Drone Sport Technical Meeting
- F9 Drone Sport Subcommittee
- F9 Drone Sport Volume
- Status of the F9U class (official vs. provisional)
- CIAM General Rules Volume
- Drone Soccer development
- Drone Racing World Cup
- World Drone Racing Championship
- The World Games (TWG)
- 2024 e-Drone Racing World Cup

F9U CHANGE FROM PROVISIONAL TO OFFICIAL CLASS (Slides 13 and 14)

Drone Racing had been introduced in the FAI Sporting Code on 1st January 2016 as F3U provisional class in category F3 Radio Controlled Flight. This class had been referred as F9U on 1st January 2019 after creating a category F9 Drone Sport.

Regarding the change from provisional to official class, last year Technical Meeting unanimously recommended to refer back the topic to the F9 Subcommittee for further consideration before to finalise a position.

No objection had been formulated by the F9 Subcommittee to consider F9U Drone Racing as an official class instead to keep it provisional.

No participants to the Technical Meeting objected to that proposal.

CIAM General Rule C.14.1 states that there must be a minimum period of two years from the time the class becomes official before the class can be considered for a World and/or Continental Championship. But, an exemption may be applied for F9U considering the history of the class with the World Drone Racing Championship (WDRC) introduced in 2018.

The consequences to become an official class are:

- Period of two years of no changes to model aircraft model specifications (CIAM General Rule A.10.2), while provisional classes are not subject to this two-year rule cycle.
- Each World Championship is held the year for which the rules are not changed (2-year cycle) with possibility to hold Continental Championships the other year (General Rule C.2.1.1), while actually a WDRC may be held every year.

2024 CIAM PLENARY MEETING - SPORTING CODE PROPOSALS

VOLUME CIAM GENERAL RULES (Slides 16 and 17)

The agenda for the 2024 CIAM Plenary Meeting Agenda includes proposals from the CIAM Bureau for changes concerning Drone Sport.

a) A.7 SUBCOMMITTEES

The CIAM may set up Subcommittees, which are consulted for advice on sporting and technical matters in the special category concerned.

Note: The current permanent Subcommittees are:

F1 Free Flight	F4 Scale
F2 Control Line	F5 Electric
F3 Aerobatics	F7 Aerostats
F3 Helicopters	F9 Drone Sport Sports
F3 Pylon Racing	S Space Modelling
F3 Soaring	Education

Reason: Now the Drone Sports are more than one.

Recommendation of the Technical Meeting: unanimously in favour.

Note: If the proposal is adopted by the CIAM Plenary Meeting, plural for Drone Sport must also be considered in page 4 and in the following provisions of the CIAM General Rules Volume: A.7.1 - A.8 - B.1.2.7 - C.5.1 - C.8.

c) B.1.2.7 Category F9 - Drone Sports

This category includes the following classes: ~~(provisional classes):~~

F9U - Drone Racing (**official class**)

F9A - Drone Soccer (provisional class)

Recommendation of the Technical Meeting: unanimously in favour.

The official class status for F9U will be effective on 1st January 2025. In that situation, it will be still possible to update the F9U class rules at any time during the present year 2024.

According to the CIAM General Rules Volume A.10.2, changes for the F9U class will be adopted by the CIAM Plenary Meetings holding on even years (2026 and so on) to become effective the following January unless a different date will be specified and approved at the Plenary Meeting. The only exceptions allowed to that procedure may be for genuine and urgent safety matters, indispensable rule clarifications and noise rulings.

Note: For the transitional 2025 year, amendments of the F9U rules may be considered subject the rules to be effective on 1st January 2026 are not changed from rules effective at the end of 2025.

f) C.15.1 CIAM championship naming policy

Introduce F9U Drone Racing on the table, with the name World Drone Racing Championship (WDRC).

Recommendation of the Technical Meeting: unanimously in favour.

h) C.15 Organisation of World and Continental Championships

For the class F9U the even years is proposed by the F9 S/C.

Considering a WDRC will be organised in 2024, the F9 S/C Chairman suggests to consider the even years for the F9U class World Championship.

Recommendation of the Technical Meeting: unanimously in favour.

2024 CIAM PLENARY MEETING - SPORTING CODE PROPOSALS

VOLUME F9 - DRONE SPORT (Slide 11)

The agenda for the 2024 CIAM Plenary Meeting Agenda includes two proposals from Germany concerning the F9A Drone Soccer class rules.

a) B.2.2 Padding of the cage (new provision)

All hard surfaces (if there are any) of the cage must be covered by padding to protect the material of the drone balls.

The F9 S/C Chairman mentions that this had been already introduced as follows in the 2024 edition:

B.2.2 Flying zone - Protection cage

Hard parts of the protection cage must be covered with a shock absorbing material to protect the drone balls.

CIAM Delegate for Germany accepted to withdraw the proposal.

b) B.9.2 Warning

Add the following cause for a warning:

- The enemy model is attacked when it is on the ground

The F9 S/C Chairman mentions that this had been already introduced as follows in the 2024 edition:

B.9.2 Warning

- Unintentional contact during a set of a flying drone ball on a drone ball which is on ground.

B.9.3 Yellow card

- Intentional contact during a set of a flying drone ball on a drone ball which is on ground.

Based on a comment of the F9 C/C member from France, the Technical meeting to modify as follows the last part of both sentences: "... on an **opponent** drone ball which is on ground".

CIAM Delegate for Germany accepted to withdraw the proposal.

DRONE SOCCER (Slide 19 to 22)

Four CIAM Drone Soccer Open International events are actually registered in the FAI Calendar for 2024.

The German Drone Ball Cup event had been held as planned on beginning February during the Hannover Fair. The competition has been finally run only with the F9A-B subclass (20 cm). There were 6 teams participating

from 3 countries (Germany, Turkey and Germany) with 3 active players per team.

The German Drone Ball Cup event had been held as planned on beginning February 2 to 4 during the Hannover Fair. The competition had been finally run only with the F9A-B subclass (20 cm). There were 6 teams participating from 3 countries (Germany, Turkey and Germany) with 3 active players per team.

The FAI F9A Drone Soccer USA Open International Cup will be organised conjointly with the U.S. Drone Soccer National Championship 2024 on April 26 to 28 in Alexandria, Virginia, USA. In addition to the 16 teams from USA, one team from Turkey is expected. The competition will be run with the F9A-B subclass (20 cm) and with 5 active players per team.

Regarding the FAI Korea Drone Soccer Open International, Mrs. SoonCheon Park confirmed that the event will be held on June 1 and 2 conjointly with the FAI Korea Drone Racing World Cup in the Drone Park in Han River, Seoul city. The event will be organised in both subclasses (40 cm and 20 cm). Drone competitions in Korea are run with 5 active players per team in both subclasses but this is still on discussion for the FAI Korea Drone Soccer Open International. KAMA expects to be in situation to circulate information before end March.

End February, FAI had been contacted by the Széchenyi Istvan University which looks motivated to develop Drone Soccer in Hungary. They ask FAI for a support to organise for a Drone Soccer demonstration during the National Gaming Expo organised for E-Sports in Győr on March 22 and 23 by the Hungarian Association. Mr. Matthias Moebius confirmed the participation that a junior team from Germany with transportation of the necessary equipment, and Mrs. Sooncheon Park the participation of a team from KAMA. Both teams will do matches with 20 cm drone ball and 3 active players per team. The F9 S/C Chairman thanks them for their support and asks for a feedback after the event.

The F9 S/C Chairman presented the guidelines of a concept for a Drone Soccer World Cup based on what is done in team sports (e.g. such Football World Cup) with preliminary tournaments to qualify for the FAI Drone Soccer World Cup Grand Final tournament. The Drone Soccer World Cup will be announced as soon as a potential organiser will be identified for a 1st FAI Drone Soccer World Cup Grand Final.

The F9 S/C Chairman also reminds the participants that it still possible to consider additional Drone Soccer Open International events for the present year.

DRONE RACING WORLD CUP *(Slide 24 to 26)*

The F9 S/C Chairman pointed the difficulty to recover the situation before COVID regarding the number of Drone Racing World events and level of participation in the events. But, it may be noted that the numbers of events and participants increased in 2023 compared to 2022.

There are actually 12 World Cup events registered for the present year 2024, all in different countries. 3 events concern countries which have until now never organised a Drone Racing event within FAI (Philippines, Saudi Arabia and Turkey) which is promising.

The F9 S/C Chairman mentioned that the first World Cup event held this year was in Philippines and had been run in an aquatic centre. This had been an interesting experience with environment a bit challenging for the competitors. The participation had been good for a first edition with 19 competitors from 6 countries.

On request of the F9 S/C Chairman, Mr. Basel Habib presented the Riyadh Drone Racing World Cup planned in Saudi Arabia on September 19 to 21.

2024 FAI WORLD DRONE RACING CHAMPIONSHIP *(Slide 30 and 31)*

The 2024 WDRC will be held from Thursday 31th October (Opening Ceremony) to Sunday 3th November 2024 (Closing ceremony) in Hangzhou, People's Republic of China and will be organised by the Aero Sports Federation of China (ASFC) with the China National Sports Group (CNSG). The venue will be the stadium of the Shangcheng District Sports Center.

The Bulletin 1 had been distributed and published on March, 2 2024 with the 2024 WDRC Sporting Rules document.

The registration and payment of the entry fees will be done by using the eNavigator application as proceeded last year. So, the F9 S/C Chairman pointed the importance for the NACs to return their Preliminary Entry Form before the deadline fixed on May 15 in order to an eNavigator personal access to the contact person appointed by the NAC for the registration of the national team .

THE WORLD GAMES 2025 *(Slide 34 to 36)*

The World Games (TWG) 2025 will be held in Chengdu, People's Republic of China. FAI will be only concerned for this edition by Drone Racing sport.

The venue retained for the Drone Racing event is the secondary stadium in Dong'an Lake Sports Park, Longquanyi District, Chengdu.

For the Drone Racing event, the arrival for the participants is planned on August 11 (with an acclimatisation day on August 12) and the departure on Monday August 18 (with a reserve day on August 17).

The event will be run on a format similar to TWG 2022 in USA. The process for the qualification of the athletes will be also close to what has been done for TWG 2022.

An information document will be distributed as soon as possible to the NACs and CIAM Delegates.

E-DRONE RACING WORLD CUP *(Slides 38 and 39)*

By considering the success of the 2023 FAI e-Drone Racing Cup organised as sub-event of the 2023 WDRC, an e-Drone Racing World Cup will be launched soon by the FAI/CIAM. For the present year 2024, the World Cup will be based on a series of 4/5 virtual international events run on different racing circuits.

It is expected to publish no later than end March the e-Drone Racing World Cup rules and the provisional calendar for the 2024 events.

End of the meeting at 14:40 CET time