



2023 CIVL PLENARY – ANNEXE 11A – V2 CHAMPIONSHIPS REVIEW

CHAMPIONSHIPS

5th FAI Pan American Paragliding XC – Governador Valadores, Brazil

Very well organised event with super efficient team from scorer, Meet Director, drivers... Good weather and terrain to fly. Organizer provided translators for Steward and Jury. No relevant problems during the event, everything ran well.

122 pilots represented 11 nations (10 from Pan-America).

- Individual – Rafael Saldini (BRA), Rafael de Maraes Barros (BRA), Alexandre Gernani (BRA)
- Women – Galen Kirkpatrick (USA), Marcella Pomarico Uchoa (BRA), Violeta Jimenez (USA)
- Team – BRA, USA, ARG

Igor Erzen

4th FAI Asian Paragliding Accuracy – Taldykorgan, Kazakhstan

Very well organised event with friendly atmosphere, good weather and efficient organisation. Many new Asian nations participated which is promising good for the future. The organisation ran the event calmly but fast and on the resulting rest days social activities were organised and greatly appreciated.

70 pilots represented 9 nations, including 12 pilots from 5 nations in the junior category.

- Overall: 1. Jirasak Whiteetham (THA), Mohsen Monsouri (IRI), Nawaf Al-Rehaili (KSA)
- Women: 1. Chantika Chaisanuk (THA), Donghwa Yang (KOR), Eunyoung Cho (KOR)
- Junior: 1. Jihun Yoo (KOR), Tanapat Luangiem (THA), Chantika Chaisanuk (THA)
- Team: THA, KOR, KAZ

Riikka Viikuna

21st FAI World Hang Gliding Class 2 Championship – Aspres-sur-Büech, France

Very well organised, very well run, and the pilots enjoyed it. Good weather, good tasks, friendly atmosphere yet competitive. Using e-motors for launching was considerably more efficient than aerotow. Monitoring their use is achievable.

The numbering of the event – 21st – has nothing to do with reality. It is in fact the 13th Rigid hang-glider championship, first called Class 3. It is suggested to just forget about the numbers and state only the year from now and on.

12 pilots represented 6 nations.

- Overall – Manfred Rhumer, Jacques Bott, Franz Pacheiner

Louise Jocelyn and Stephane Malbos

21th FAI European Hang Gliding Class 1 – Sigillo, Italy

A great event. The 9 tasks flown show that weather was perfect and the organisers used it in the best way. Good vibes throughout the whole competition. No relevant problems during the event, everything run well.

93 pilots represented 19 nations (15 from Europe)

- Overall: Alessandro Ploner (ITA), Christian Ciech (ITA), Primoz Gricar (GER)
- Team: ITA, GER, CZE

Fabio Loro

16th FAI European Paragliding XC – Nis, Serbia

The competition was very well organised and run. Challenging weather allowed only 6 tasks. The atmosphere during the competition was very good. We had some issues with the scoring system but all the persons involved (organisers, meet director, team leaders, FAI officials) worked very well together and the outcome was a fair and safe event.

Overall: 130 pilots, 30 countries (23 from Europe). Junior: 11 athletes, 6 nations.

- Overall: Luc Armant (FRA), Maxime Pinot (FRA), Honorin Hamard (FRA)
- Women: Meryl Delferriere (FRA), Constance Mettetal (FRA), Elisabeth Egger (AUT)
- Junior: Lois Goutagny (FRA), Simon Mettetal (FRA), Meryl Delferriere (FRA)
- Team: FRA, CZE, ITA

Fabio Loro

7th FAI European Paragliding Accuracy – Sibiu, Romania

The event was held in Sibiu, Romania, during early September following postponement by 2 years due to the pandemic crisis. Overall, the event was successful with a 10 rounds achieved, albeit the organisers had various challenges that affected the running of the event. Least critical was the weather: a lack of ideal consistent wind direction affected the winch tow operation on the airfield site and the weather was somewhat variable and on occasion inclement with a fair bit of rain.

The most significant concern involved an ongoing political situation where the organiser had done a good job in negotiating with his governmental sport ministry department to allow one national team to compete, where their government is not formally recognised by the Romanian government. The ministry official had allowed the Meet Director to accept the team's attendance but introduced pre-conditions with regard to the flying of flags and National emblems during the event. Unfortunately, during the competitions and public ceremonies, these provisos were deliberately not met by the team concerned. This led to heated discussions between the Meet Director and the Team Manager. The Jury President had to intervene and this dispute eventually involved the CIVL President and the FAI Sec Gen to provide ongoing information and to ascertain further direction. Fortunately, and more by the understanding of the MD and Romanian government officials, this situation did not escalate to a major incident involving the disqualification of the team involved.

Unfortunately, the event was also marred somewhat by a couple of disputes between competitor(s) and the event officials, that resulted in at least one formal warning and protest. Consequently, these led to a couple of disruptions between participants, officials and eventually included the CIVL officials. These concerns were probably due to an unfortunate lack of mutual understanding between some pilots and officials, possibly exacerbated by the heat of the competition. All issues were eventually addressed and resolved.

Another concern that was raised during the event were the financial challenges for the organiser, where inflation, due to the covid crisis between the time of the bid and the date of the postponed event, meant there was a significant difference between the original costings and those actually incurred during event itself. It is understood that this regrettably resulted in the organiser running the event in deficit.

In an incredibly tight competition that was literally decided in the last round, with George Cotet from Romania, a local popular pilot holding his nerve by scoring a zero, taking the individual gold, closely followed by Goran Djurkovic from Serbia. Vlatimil Vachtl of the Czech Republic was only point behind Djurkovic to take the bronze medal. In the female event, Catherine Devos from France won gold, with the renowned Marketa Tomaskova of the Czech Republic

winning the silver medal and Spela Krnc from Slovenia taking the bronze medal. Serbia was crowned the Team champions, followed by the Czech Republic and Slovenia. During the closing ceremony, it should be noted that the pilots showed their great appreciation and complimented Valentin Poppa for what he and his team had achieved, despite the challenges encountered during the event.

Finally, during the event, the PGA Committee Chair held a meeting with pilots and officials to inform all about what he was doing to progress the accuracy discipline, including how a new AMD system was currently being developed that had the potential to assist accurate and consistent scoring.

Andy Cowley

TEST EVENTS

18th FAI World Paragliding XC – Chamoux-sur-Gelon, France

None received.

23rd FAI World Hang Gliding Class 1 – Krushevo, N. Macedonia

5th FAI World Hang Gliding Class 5 – Krushevo, N. Macedonia

Cancelled.

12th FAI World Paragliding Accuracy – Sopot, Bulgaria

The competition was organized in an almost family atmosphere. The local terrain offers excellent conditions for the competition in paragliding accuracy. The competition was affected

by the late date (the World Championships will be 14 days earlier) and the bad weather on Sunday. Even so, 5 rounds were completed and the competitors were satisfied. Prior to the competition there was a training session for the judges who then, under the supervision of Zlatko Spirkoski, judged the competition without any problems. Problems in the organization that occurred in the competition were discussed with the organizers and it was suggested what

is needed to be improved for the Championship.

- 32 pilots, 6 countries.
- Overall: Sergei Usanov Sr (EST), Valery Tzvetanov (BUL), Adam Spirkoski (MKD)
- Women: Silvana Pashova (BUL), Vladimira Hristozova (BUL), Alexandra Ufceska (MKD)

Kamil Konečný