

Report of the President of the International Jury

22nd World Glider Aerobatic Championships
10th World Advanced Glider Aerobatic Championships
Deva, Romania
18 July – 28 July 2019



Manfred Echter

Venue and Local Organisers

Deva-Saulesti airfield is perfectly suited for an event of this kind. It had already been the venue of the 9th EAAC in 2015.

Contest Director was Mr. Gelu Luca. He did an outstanding job, competently managing all aspects of the competition.

There were always more than a sufficient number of volunteers to assist the competitors and officials and all were very friendly and helpful.

Judges and officials were housed in the same hotel in the center of Deva city, ca. 10 min. from the airfield. The hotel, although rated three star, was by no means up to the expected standard. The rooms were not clean, the carpets stained and the room service poor. Although the Contest Director repeatedly contacted the management, urgently demanding an improvement, conditions remained unsatisfactory throughout our stay.

Teams and Competitors

After one complete team had withdrawn at short notice, the Unlimited championships comprised only 19 competitors from 7 nations. There were 4 complete teams of three.

The Advanced championships had 31 competitors from 12 nations and 4 complete teams of three. Two competitors withdrew after Programme 2, leaving 29 pilots.

Preparations

Familiarisation flights were conducted from 14 till 17 July.

On 17 July the judging seminar was held in the forenoon and judging practise was done in the afternoon.

The opening ceremony took place on 17 July in the center of Deva city in pleasant surroundings.

The opening briefing was held in the morning of 18 July followed by selection of figures for Unknown Programmes in both categories.

Towing

There were mostly three tow-planes in operation. Despite differing climb performance, timing was always right to maintain a steady flow of flights.

Warmup Flying

Originally, France had offered to provide an experienced warmup pilot. This person however, withdrew his application in May.

Luckily, I found a qualified German pilot, who was able to secure use of a Swift glider. He performed very satisfactorily in both categories.

Positioning System and Height Measuring

There was no electronic positioning system available after the Polish "Red Van"-team had withdrawn their offer to make their system available to CIVA.

The Czech Aero Club dispatched two persons with their HMD equipment. Height measuring functioned without major problems throughout.

Meteorology

Weather data were provided through a local forecaster. The weather situation posed no problems during the time of the championships.

Wind measurement was by airborne GPS on board an aeroplane. Due to prevailing light winds, only occasional flights were required.

Judging

Chief Judge Philippe K uchler performed in his usual way: Perfectly!

A large-screen-TV was available at the judging line to view videos without the need to withdraw to the judges' room.

For more details on judging at this event, see the Chief Judge's report.

Scoring and Publication of Results

Scoring director was Ms. Florentina Custura.

Results were always on time and published on CIVA-Results as soon as practicable.

Communications

Contest information was distributed by WhatsApp. The system functioned reliably, however, the use of this App is considered problematic, as not everyone is willing to establish a WhatsApp account. Another drawback of WhatsApp: It can be interfered from outside if it is not specifically protected.

Contest Flying

Flying operations were speedy and efficient. Spacing of launches was controlled in the usual manner by the Chief Judge.

Competition flying started in the afternoon of 18 July with the Free Known of the Advanced.

In Programme 2 of the Advanced, the chief judge had to order one pilot to break off the sequence and land for safety reasons. Otherwise, there were no incidents or unsafe situations during contest flying.

By noon on 26 July the Unlimited finished Programme 6. By then both categories had flown the maximum of 6 Programmes each and the championships were terminated.

Results

By 1700 hrs. on 26 July all results were declared final.

World Champion Unlimited Glider 2019 is Ferenc T oth from Hungary, who defended his title from 2018.

World Champion Teams Unlimited Glider 2019 is the team from Germany, also defending their title from 2018.

World Champion Advanced Glider 2019 is Patrycja Pacak from Poland. She is the very first woman to win the overall title in an aerobatic world championship.

World Champion Teams Advanced Glider is the team from Romania. In the last programme they beat the French who had been leading so far.

Protests

There were no protests.

Conclusion

From the sporting point of view these were highly successful und very well managed championships. Thanks to excellent flying weather throughout we were able to complete the full six Programmes in both categories.

Thank you to Contest Director Gelu Luca and all his team for organising and conducting good and successful championships.

In the Advanced championships the top pilots' scores were always close together and the competition remained open to the very last Programme, both in the overall and the team championships.

Young Patrycja Pacak, by winning the Advanced overall title, proved that gender distinction, at least in glider aerobatics, is a thing of the past.

I thank all the competitors for their good sportsmanship and attention to safety at all times.

I thank the International Judges and their chief Pik for an outstanding job. They marked nearly 3000 figures on 8 long days in hot weather. And they deserve better accommodation than what was provided in Deva. CIVA must update the guide for championship organisation, define more clearly minimum standards for the accommodation and make single rooms standard for judges.

And finally thank you to my colleagues Mady and Jurek for their support and their fine work as jury members.

September 2019,

Manfred Echter
Jury President