

21st FAI European Aerobatic Championship

Chateauroux - Déols, France

August 22nd – 31st, 2019



Report of the International Jury

WAC 2019 website: <https://wac2019.fr>

Introduction

International Jury: Vladimir Machula (CZE) – president, Philippe Kuechler (SUI) – member, Pierre Varloteaux (FRA) – member

Number of competitors in programs 1 to 4: 61

Number of NACs in programs 1 to 4: 17

Number of complete teams: 9

Number of competitors in program 5: 20

Number of NACs in program 5: 11

All programs (4 + Final Freestyle) have been flown by all pilots participating (no cut).

Results available at https://civa-results.com/2019/WAC_2019/index.htm

Pre-championship

Championship documents have been published in time and with all necessary details.

Entry Fee rise has been set to inappropriate levels and deadlines against previous decisions of CIVA.

Briefings

The opening briefing took place on Wednesday 22nd Aug at 1400LT in the meeting room of airport facilities. The briefing was organized by CD and FD. There was missing information about minimum altitudes, which were different (raised by 20 meters) from the prescribed values in S6 P1 due to high obstacles within the Box. Other provided information was understandable and describing well the contest operations.

All other briefings were conducted in a similar fashion and without any significant issues.

Warmups

Warm-up flights were provided by Loic Lovicourt and Romain Fhal. They have been doing a great job by being always ready on time and flying sequences on a very high level. They were both very helpful to other teams as intended by S6 P1.

Flying days

Flying started with the usual first-day delay after the first-morning briefing. The organizer did not provide the info boards (wind, judges position, official wind and break allowed) for the apron and the holding point. Info boards have been fixed later with flight number 4 of P1. During the first day, there was also missing fire extinguishing equipment. Those “little things” in the beginning are perfectly

normal and do not need to be considered as systematic errors. Flight line operations were conducted with a sufficient level of quality during the rest of the contest.

Booklets with Free Knowns were not distributed, as said in S6 P1, before the first flight. Organizer distributed booklets with approximately flight number 8. Furthermore, again, after the usual settle down of contest operations, distributions of documents have been in time during the rest of the Championship.

Competitors had been asked to fill the need for the amount and type of oil in the registration form. The organizer did not provide different requested oil types. In this event category and with this type of used engines, it is imperative to provide the correct oil type specified by engine manufacturers SB and recommendations. I am sure that with Total as title partner of Championship, it should be easy to get appropriate oil supply, as well as proper know-how on oil type substitution.

Communication

Operative communication has been conducted mostly by WhatsApp. WhatsApp worked well and fulfilled most of the information demand. However, an organizer must respect if some key personnel is not willing, not able, or willing to use this kind of technology. There must be an available fallback to SMS messaging. WhatsApp and other kinds of messengers require Internet connectivity, which can be tricky to guarantee. In the case of WAC, the WiFi has been available at the apron, but without connection to the internet during the first five days of competition. It was necessary to use mobile broadband services, which means to use roaming for most of the participants.

Scoring and administration

Event administration was directed by Mady Delcroix. She and her team did a tremendous job, and flawlessly provided all necessary support, know-how, and warm hugs.

Scoring has been done by Scoring Director Antoine Rogues and his team. It was done extremely efficiently and without errors. They also did an excellent job when producing all necessary paperwork even though they have been forced to use the slowest printer on Earth. The simple single-user small-office printer is suitable for the job, and with such a type of event organizer should be ashamed of not arranging such essential equipment.

Due to a lack of equipment for the production of booklets with binding, the quality of those materials was inferior. It was not crucial to contest operations, but again, with such size of organization operations, it would be wise to provide appropriate equipment for scoring office.

Programs 1 - 4

All available programs have been flown by all eligible competitors.

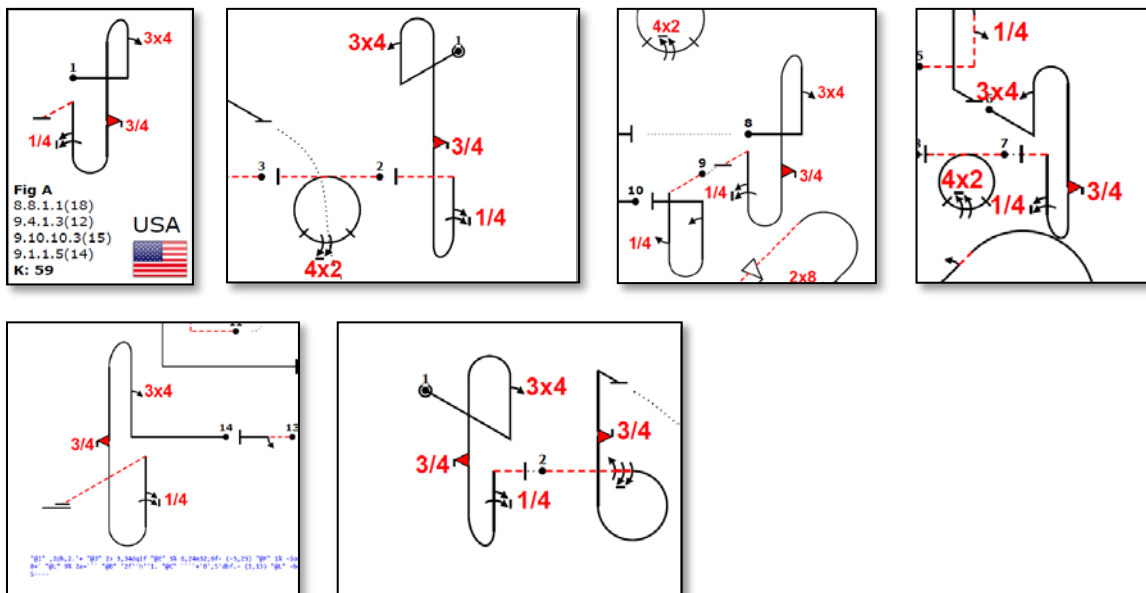
The jury was responsible for checking and publishing proposals of Free Unknown programs, as said in S5 P1. This has been done with following details.

The number of received proposals for P2 - 19, for P3 – 17 and for P4 – 13 sequences. Except for 2 or 3 individual mistakes in drawings, proposals were delivered in time and without errors. However it is not duty of International Jury to fix badly drawn sequences. Many of them were difficult to read when printed to A4 sized sheet. Teams must bear in mind that the way of presentation of drawing also plays a significant role in judge ability to evaluate flight properly. Two of selected proposals had to be modified/fixd to allow judges to be able to understand them properly.

Open-aero is a powerful tool to help with sequence design and their representation, but a producer of such drawing must think of printing limitations that cannot be avoided by any computer-aided tool.

The number of submitted proposals was not an issue in the mean of processing by Int. Jury or by the organizer. However, it is necessary to have experienced staff capable of such a job also in future events because the trend of raising the complexity of such process is evident.

One issue had been found in sequence proposals submitted by the teams. The following diagrams show the figure submitted and then possible variations constructed to sequences. Due to an ambiguous representation of this problem in S6 P1, the jury decided to allow both options as valid. It is more philosophical rather than a question of compliance by the rulebook.



Program 5 – Freestyle

Organizer originally planned (Bulletin No. 1) to fly P5 during Saturday 31st of August airshow as it is part for 3 hours. On Thursday 29th it has been announced that there will be just one hour available

for flying due to airshow arrangements. This kind of plan change is inappropriate. The jury tried to negotiate with CD and airshow director more time during Saturday for P5 without success. Thus later it has been decided to move P5 to Friday afternoon and but still with limitation due to airshow rehearsal. The jury has been able to negotiate a 2-hour window in the evening just before sunset.

This kind of behavior is impossible to accept. P5 is an official part of Championship, and any airshow arrangement is just a side thing during official event period. The organizer is obliged to follow program as stated by S6 P1 by accepting to host the Championship. Also, agreed Friday evening times were not kept by the Organizer, and P5 started with a 30-minute delay.

Music for P5 has been controlled remotely by ground radio on command from the judging line. This is not optimal, and music should always be played from the station in close distance of judging position.

Ceremonies

Opening and closing ceremonies had been organized to attract as many as possible of the general public. I believe this was well done and much appreciated by all participants. One of the critical role of Championship is a presentation of sportsmen, flying, and aerobatics to the general public.

However, I would like to point out that FAI specifies a protocol on minimal requirements of ceremonies. Those requirements were not precisely followed. National anthems of any kind should not be cut from their original length. Most of the nations offer short versions of anthems, and those should be used instead of cutting.

Publications / media

The organizer produced the official program booklet of WAC 2019. This material was, however full of misleading information with propagandistic character. This must not happen at any time. FAI events are based on non-political, fair play and honest cornerstones.

Protests and disqualifications

No official protest has been received by the International Jury.

Melanie Astles has been DSQ from P3 due to failing to establish a two-way radio comm with Chief Judge. She started her programme and realized her error in fig. 3. She had a wrong radio comm frequency from the previous test of radio.

Gianfranco Cillario interrupted his P4 sequence in figure no. 12 and reported problems with electrically actuated elevator trim. Aircraft was checked by Technical commission, a technician with CAP 232 type rating, and International Jury. No issues with the trim tab actuator had been discovered. The competitor most probably failed to perform before-aerobatic checklist according to flight manual where it is necessary to trim aircraft and then pullout trim actuator circuit breaker. The competitor was not allowed to re-fly due to unavoidable technical error.

Heiner Wehberg reported before the start of Programme 3 that he is not feeling fit for flying and requested to postpone his flight as late as possible. He supported his claim by the report from the medical examination. International Jury allowed Mr. Wehberg to fly at the end of the P3 start order. After almost two days of rest, he was feeling fit to fly and finished P3 as well as consecutive P4 without further problems.

Juan Socias reported before the start of Programme 3 that he is not feeling fit for flying due to stomach related issues. He did not present any medical report and withdrew himself from the remaining programs.

Conclusion

World Aerobatic Championship 2019 in France was organized with a sufficient level of quality. All the problems mentioned above were possible to solve onsite during the event, but they were avoidable by better event preparation. I hope that none of mentioned else influenced competitors feeling of Championship fairness and overall experience.

I would like to especially thank Emmanuel Foulon, Mady, Antoine Rouges, and their teams of volunteers for energy, dedication, and precision they have put into daily operations. It was a pleasure to work with them.

I would also like to thank Officials, especially those dedicated judges who spent their vacation in the middle of a dusty field, frying in temperatures over 30 °C and still did tremendous job.

President of International Jury

Vladimir Machula

7th November 2019