

11th FAI World Advanced Aerobatic Championships

Dubnica nad Váhom, Slovakia

August 7th – 16th, 2014



Item Agenda 8.2b

Report of the Contest Director

Vladimir Machula

Introduction

Thoughts, ideas and opinions in this report are based on experience from the point of view of the CD and organizing team. Report should be also understood as thanks to all people who participated in WAAC 2014. Special thanks are to the pilots because without pilots, there will be no championships.

WAAC 2014 website: <http://www.waac2014.sk> or <http://www.awac2014.com>

Video summary from every competition day is available at:

<http://youtu.be/Kw0eYGHITXY?list=PLgcLVYLKuc-mT-oGUEm8PKJNzpv91Xj9>

Training Flights

Training flights were possible starting from July 30th until August 6th with fully marked box. Everyone who wanted to fly had the opportunity to make more than 3 flights. Training slots were arranged using web based system at <http://slots.waac2014.sk> to allow pilots to make booking as easy as possible. Slots were set to 15 minutes per pilot and last 5 days of training were completely full.

Competition Days

In total there were 66 competitors from 17 countries. All four programs were flown. Programme 4 – 2nd Free Unknown was cut to 32 pilots. Two pilots were cut out after Programme 2 due to the 60% rule. They were both offered to fly as H/C in upcoming Programmes.

We were constantly fighting with low cloud base. Few times with passing thunderstorms, rain showers, but surprisingly not with wind at all. Wind was within limits during the whole competition flights. I personally have to admit that this summer weather forecast should rather have said what the weather would not have probably been like. All the models were mostly off reality even when forecasting 12 hour periods. I understand that many pilots had hard time to accept conditions and proceed with their competition flight. In addition I would like to thank them personally and on behalf of Organizer. Moreover, some pilots during championships accepted weather which was out of limits (mostly cloud base issues) and they finished their flight. Thanks to this behavior, we were capable to finish with all four programmes. These pilots are real athletes!

During the flight of Melanie Astles (FRA) in the last programme a technical issue with broken throttle stick occurred. She landed safely and the team of France was trying to fix this malfunction until the

end of Programme 4. With short time to finish the repair it became impossible to use the same aircraft. Mr. Rodolfo Natale (ITA) offered his aircraft for Melanie's flight. She used this opportunity and flying a different aircraft for the first time in her life she finished the programme on the fourth place. Both Melanie and Rodolfo are heroes.

Drawing of starting order was done manually using beer cans. It took a bit longer time, but thanks to awesome mood, it was a lot of fun and I hope all participants enjoyed it.

Airfield

The grass airfield Dubnica is well known place in aviation mainly for a successful organization of FAI Championships like Precision Flying, Rally, Gliders Cross-country and Para Buggy. In 2011 the airfield hosted EAAC and in 2012 WGAC&WAGAC and EAC. The site is well equipped with a good infrastructure, capability and capacity. Even the manpower is at an excellent level.

Airfield restaurant was capable to serve all participants as well as other observers without any issues. No complaints in this matter have been received.

Scoring Office

Scoring office was operated by Pawel Szcapanowski (POL) accompanied by Zuzana Danihelova (SVK) as his assistant. They are both well experienced and did an outstanding job.

In total they produced over 9500 printouts. During Programme 4 – 2nd Free Unknown a set of A forms for competitor Craig Gifford (USA) was wrongly marked by different sequence selection letter. Every judge had his own set of BC forms, used during the whole programme to save space, time and woods. Judges had A form for every pilot with marked letter of selected sequence in the upper right corner. It was passed to Judging Line as usual. Judges had problems with evaluation of Craig's flight due to wrong sequence letter on A form. CJ station had a separate hardcopy of start number – sequence selection list which was included in delivered paperwork. This issue and its solution were addressed to Int. Jury which made decision to assemble and combine collected marks and use them for pilot's flight evaluation.

Contest Office

Mr. Stefan Pohanka as a CD assistant was taking care about all matters resulting from his position of the President of Dubnica Aeroclub. Mr. Jiri Dodal (CZE) as a second CD assistant was in charge of box quality assurance as well as Judging line operations. Thanks to their long aviation experience as well as tremendous experience with international championships, I was not overloaded and I was able to focus on the top level of championships management as well as on sporting part of the event.

Mrs. Katarina Pohankova was serving as a head of the Information center providing registration, support and payment handling. This was also done with tremendous efficiency and she was one of the most important pillars of all championships stages.

Championships Operations

Starter was Mr. Jan Varga and together with flagman Mr. Miroslav Porubcan and ATC were able to hold appropriate tempo and smooth operation of flights during trainings as well as during competition.

Accommodation for Int. Jury and Judges was arranged in different hotels in Trencin and Triencianske Teplice. We were facing problems with accommodation service in Trencin. Therefore, I would like to apologize for inconvenience. Nevertheless, these issues were caused mostly by difficulties in communication with hotel management.

Upper wind measurement was done by balloons with electronic windsound operated by Mr. Juraj Danihel. Wind measurements were smooth, precise and quick thanks to his devotion and professional approach. Electronic windsound was used as a primary system for the first time and effectivity of such solution is very high compared with classical balloon sounding or even when using airborne GPS (during glider championships). Nevertheless, the system still needs tuning and quite experienced operator, but is already step forward.

Official Judging Video

Official judging video was recorded using a professional camera operated by an experienced cameraman Mr. Josef Porubcan who performed his function alone during the whole competition. Moreover, he did his job perfectly.

All videos are available at www.waac2014.sk for downloading.

Warm-up Pilots

This was the first time when new rule of warm-up selection was done by Int. Jury. Only one single pilot (RSA) submitted the application, however, he was unable to participate in the end. Int. Jury also nominated Mr. Nikolay Timofeev (USA). With expectation of possible issues I have arranged a backup warm-up Mr. Marek Hyka (CZE). Thanks to understanding and support of the team of Russia, who rented him an E330SC, we were able to have two warm-ups as required by FAI Sporting Code, Section 6 Part 1.

I believe that the rule adopted in 2013 which transferred warm-up responsibility to Int. Jury is wrong! I also believe that having two warm-ups is also a luxury we do not need. During WAAC2014 both of them were flying only prior to Programme 1. After that only a single warm-up flight was carried out for the rest of the Championships.

Sequences Drawing and Submission

Free sequence submission, checking, publication and use at Judging line was without any mistakes and all procedures were smooth. All pilots submitted their sequences in advance and all the necessary check was done without any time pressure. I am sure this is a crucial step to avoid problems that arose in the past.

All of the sequences were redrawn to OpenAero to have a unified look. Since there is an option to have pilot's identification using forms header and sequence drawings itself I decided to unify all of them. It was a bit more work (68 sequences), but I was then also sure that the whole set was complete, properly numbered and easy to distribute.

OpenAero by Ringo Masa is a very good and useful application as it makes user experience with sequence drawing really easy and makes this job easy.

Closing and Awarding Ceremony

Opening ceremony was organized in the Elizabeth hotel, Trencin. Closing ceremony was organized at the airfield. Closing and awarding ceremony were done according to FAI Sporting Code, Section 6 Part 1 as well as according to other FAI rules and guidelines. Mr. Lars-Goran Arvidsson as the highest FAI representative declared the Championships for open as well as closed.

Closing ceremony had been originally planned to 17.00 according to the competition schedule. Due to the will to finish Programme 4 and constant problems with low cloud base I postponed beginning to 19.00. During official protest time for Programme 4 results one protest was submitted. Decision making process of Int. Jury delayed the beginning of the Closing ceremony for another 25 minutes. I was trying to speed the ceremony up as much as possible, but sunset and dusk were uncompromising and the end of the ceremony was really dark. Therefore I would like to apologize for this situation.

However, there were a couple of problems we faced regarding the closing ceremony. Numbers of diplomas and set of medals sent by FAI were not according to the statements in rules. The problem was that we were missing medals for both Free Unknown Programmes. Medals and diplomas will be sent to their owners later when available from FAI.

There was also a problem with the number of FAI diplomas passed to competitors. Rules are very unclear in this matter as there is no specification if particular diplomas should be FAI or Organizer's diplomas. Nevertheless, competitors were expecting to be awarded by FAI diplomas. In fact rules are not in compliance with FAI guidelines for awarding.

Conclusion

Issues that I stated above in this report were mostly caused by inauspiciously patched rule book. CIVA delegates as well as the executive board should understand that rash decisions in rule making process are increasing the costs of the whole contest and that must be paid by someone. I am sure that it is not an intention to ruin the Organizer; therefore it must be reflected in the future amount of the entry fee.

Organization of WAAC 2014 was a big experience for the whole Organization team and especially for me. I really enjoyed this competition thanks to all friends who were participating.

Vladimir Machula
November 2, 2014
Brno, Czech Republic

