

**23rd FAI World Rally Flying Championships
30th July to 5th August 2023
Macon / France**

Report of the President of the International Jury

General:

The 23rd FAI Rally Flying World Championship took place at Macon Aerodrome (LFLM) in France according to the FAI Rules and Regulations for Air Rally.

A total of 44 crews from 11 FAI member countries took part at the event.

The Competition was on according to the approved FAI Rules and Regulations for Rally Flying, edition 2023.

Accommodation and transportation:

This was included in the Entry Fee during the competition.

The Mercure and Ibis hotels were of a good standard. Transport was by bus at fixed times.

Competition Map:

Unfortunately, the 1:200,000 competition maps were a bit older, and the features on the map sometimes didn't quite match nature. This was compensated for by special sketches in the task.

Hire of aircrafts:

The hire of aircrafts worked well.

Training Practice:

The weather at the trainings days was good.

4 training routes were available for the practice week, prepared by the organizers.

Judges / Jury:

Ralf Grunwald, the International Chief Judge arrived about one week before the start of the competition. He checks all routes in agreement with the route planner.

The Jury had their own car for transport and necessary venues for meetings and protests were available.

The Jury received all the necessary information's at all times and there was very good and friendly cooperation between the International Jury, the Chief Judge, the Competition Director, the Route Planner and the Evaluator.

Communication/briefings/quarantine:

The General Briefing was held in the hangar.

All daily Briefings were held in the hangar before all crews entered the quarantine.

Quarantine entry time and quarantine exit time were specified to all. Effective and appropriate communications were sent through WhatsApp messenger.

Competition flights and landings:

5 routes were prepared, 3 of which were used in the competition.

The International Jury constructed all of the prepared stages according to the instruction, given to the competitors in the envelope. Some recommendations for changes were received and implemented by the Route Planner, Chief Judge and Competition Director. The International Jury did not perform check flights before the competition flights.

On days 1 and 3 there were also landings at intermediate airfields.

The landing fields were very well marked.

The official landing results were taken by judges and each 4 independent video cameras.

Weather conditions complied with Rules and Regulations on all competition days.

Competition Day 1:

14 complains were solved by the Chief Judge.

The International Jury received 2 Protests, 1 Protest was withdrawn, 1 was denied.

Competition Day 2:

The second day of competition was canceled after the Championship Director suffered a heart attack at the Group 1 briefing. Among the pilots were 2 doctors who revived him, he was rushed to the hospital and fortunately survived and is already somewhat recovered.

Since the entire 1st group had witnessed this emergency, no one wanted to fly that day, so this day was cancelled.

Competition Day 3:

Jacky Carriquiribary, previously Local Chief Judge, assumed the role of the Competition Director.

15 complains were solved by the Chief Judge.

The International Jury received 2 Protests, both Protests were upheld.

Competition Day 4:

18 complains were solved by the Chief Judge.

The International Jury received 1 Protest, this Protest was denied.

Deposit and Protest Fee:

The entry fee for 5 crews were given to the President of the International Jury before the General Briefing.

The President of the International Jury received € 200.- as the fee for denied protests.

Ceremonies:

The opening ceremony took place at the City Hall of Macon with the standard programme points according to the FAI procedure.

GAC President Hans Schwebel officially opened the 23rd FAI WRFC 2023, with the required FAI flag and anthem.

The award ceremony took place again in the City Hall in Macon.

It was the standard closing ceremony with speeches by the officials.

Deposit: The event had been conducted correctly and according to the rules, so the President of the Jury returned the deposit to the FFA President.

The award ceremony was carried out by the Chief Judge, and the prizes were handed over by various dignitaries.

GAC President Hans Schwebel officially closed the 23rd FAI WRFC 2023.

The FAI anthem was played, the FAI flag was taken down and handed over to Mr. Marek Kachaniak (Poland).

GAC FAI Trophies awarded:

2023 FAI World Air Rally Champions – Petr Jonas/Marek Velat CZE

2023 FAI World Air Rally Team Champions – Olivier Rivere/Jerome Jireau, Alexis Fuchs/
Jean-Baptiste Trouche FRA

2023 AIR BP TROPHY for best navigation and observation – Petr Jonas/Marek Velat CZE

2023 FAI World Air Rally Landing Championship – Lukas Behounek/Krystof Bobek CZE

2023 FAI World Air Rally “Low time category” Championship – Matous Adam/Stepan
Sedlacek CZE

The missing Trophies will be reported the GAC rally subcommittee for following up.

Jury recommendations:

Internet:

Internet/WiFi must available at the whole airport and all other competition locations.

Competition maps:

It should be ensured in good time that the competition maps are of a very good level and match the features on the ground.

Conclusion:

The event was very successful.

There was also a large pin wall with life tracking for the audience. Life tracking was also available to everyone outside of the quarantine.

The preparation and organization was very good, all employees were friendly and helpful.

Thanks to the members of the International Jury, Mr. Hans Schwebel and Joao Francisco, for the successful cooperation.

Also thanks for the excellent cooperation to the Chief Judge Ralf Grunwald, to the Competition Directors Philippe Muller and Jacky Carriquiribery, Route Planner Philippe Odeon, the evaluation team, as well as to all the organizers, judges and helpers.

Macon, 5th August 2023

Paul Szameitat

President of the International Jury