

2019 FAI F3J European Championships for Soaring Model Gliders Seniors and Juniors 28th July to 3rd August 2019, Wloclawek, Poland

This 2019 FAI F3J World Championships for Soaring Model Gliders were organised by the Aero Club Włocławek and the Aero Club of Poland.

Venue

The competition took place on the Airfield of the Aero Club Włocławek, near the village Kruszyn. Shortcut grass area was prepared with two courses with total dimensions about 320 x 150 meters. The whole meadow area of the airfield was much larger. Along the course there were place for competitors' shelters. After the shelters there was marked a wide area for spectators, but almost not used.

Participation

The Championships were entered by 25 senior competitors from 9 countries and 16 junior competitors from 6 countries.

Organisation

Processing: The validity of licenses was checked in the FAI database in advance. The processing of models took place in a hangar of the local Aeroclub. The Model Certificates were checked and collected, the nose radiuses were checked, and all removable parts of models were marked by small stickers. The minimum weight and minimum circuit resistance of winches were also checked during the competition by a random draw.

Flying Field: This was the first FAI Championship after the change of rules, which allowed a launch by winches and by hand tow as well. Nevertheless, all competitors used winches, no exception. Therefore, the necessary length of the course could be shorter (306 meters altogether instead of almost 500 meters for hand tow). The lanes for towing were oriented to East (90°) and West (270°). During the competition days, the wind often blew from North, perpendicular to the launch lines. Many months before this Championships, some people were expressing their fear of crosswind launches and warned of the danger of serious injury. This anxiety proved not to be true: All competitors reeled in their lines immediately after the release of the model from the line and the parachute finished on the ground, even at strong cross wind, maximum 10 meters from the turnaround pulley (The distance between launch points being 15 meters). During all the competition days there were no crossed lines claimed and there was also no collision during the launch observed.

At competition, the Contest Director and Computer operator had their shelter near the entrance of the launching corridor. For the Timekeepers, the organiser prepared a similar shelter neighbouring. The organisers used an automatic timing system driven by GliderScore software. The Preparation Time as well as the Working time were shown on two big displays at each end of the launch corridor. The sound signals were brought to pilots through 3 loudspeakers evenly distributed along the launching corridor.

Staff: Mr. Serdar SUALP (TUR) was the Contest Director, Mr. Marek KOZINSKI (POL) was the Main Organiser. Mr. Mariusz JANUCHOWSKI (POL) was the Computer Operator. He operated also the automatic timing system.

Timekeepers were pupils of a military high school. The CD took much time and effort to teach them their duties and organised a Round 0 for their practicing. In general, they worked well.

Flights: The good organisation allowed the completion of 15 qualifying rounds with 6 fly-off rounds for seniors (9 pilots) and the same number of qualifying and fly-off rounds for juniors (9 pilots).

Computing Results: The software (GliderScore) used for the evaluation of results worked reliably. The Jury checked the results and discovered three minor typing mistakes made at the input of data from the score sheets to the computer. The input of fly-off results was found without any mistakes.

Accommodation and Catering

Some competitors and helpers used the camping provisions on the airfield. Most of the participants stayed in hotels at Wloclawek (about 3 km driving).

Lunch, for people who ordered it, was served in plastic packages in the small restaurant in the main building of the airfield. The staff and the Jury got the same meal in the meeting room of the main building. The meals were good and in sufficient amount. Breakfast and dinner were not provided by the organiser, but by the Hotel. Refreshment was possible to buy at the same restaurant.

Weather

The first two flying days were very hot (up to 32°C). The wind was moderate, up to 3 m/s, on Monday prevailing from NE, on Tuesday from NW. On Tuesday at about 10.30 a slight rain shower appeared. In the afternoon most of the clouds disappeared (2/8)

On Wednesday the clouds were 7/8 and the wind blew from NE up to 3 m/s. In the afternoon it was less clouds (3/8) and the wind from NE blew in average 3 m/s, the temperature reaching 25°C. Later in the afternoon some raindrops were falling, but the competition continued.

On Thursday in the morning the sky was fully covered and there was calm. In the afternoon it was less clouds, the temperature again about 25°C and the wind from NE very slow.

On Friday, at the start of fly-off, the sky was again fully covered, with the wind from NW, about 2 m/s. In the afternoon then it was less clouds (7/8) and the temperature again about 25°C.

Safety

As already stated higher, there were no safety problems during the whole European Championships.

Opening and Closing Ceremony

The Opening Ceremony was run on the airfield, on Sunday afternoon (16.00). The competitors were led to the place in a formation by a brass-band music of the local fireman. There were short speeches of local authorities and of the president of the Wloclawek Airfield. The Opening Ceremony was concluded by the Jury president, who officially opened the World Championships and then the FAI Anthem was played, and the FAI Flag was raised. Then a dancing group presented the Polish historical national dance "Polonaise".

The Closing Ceremony was on Saturday afternoon on the airfield. Again, the competitors came to the place in a formation lead by the brass-band music. Then a show flight of a full-size aerobatic glider followed. The speeches were held by the Deputy Mayor of Wloclawek, the President of the Aero Club Wloclawek and by the President of the Polish Aero Club. Also, the CD presented his speech. Then the Medals, Diplomas and Prizes were awarded. It should be stressed, that the awarding followed the FAI Protocol in full (which is not the case at many other FAI Championships). The first part of Awarding Ceremony was concluded by the Jury president, who officially closed the World Championships and then the FAI Anthem was played, and the FAI flag was lowered. The Ceremony then continued with speeches celebrating the 60th Anniversary of the Aero Club Wloclawek.

Protests


On August 1, 2019 after round 13 the Turkish Team Manager tried to submit a protest concerning the flight of the first group. The Contest Director together with the Jury refused to accept the protest, because it was handed in late. No other protest was submitted during the championships.

Jury

The composition of the FAI Jury was Tomas BARTOVSKY (CZE), president, Narve JENSEN (NOR) and Marek DOMINIAK (POL), members.

Conclusion

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, these were a very successful European Championships carried out in a friendly atmosphere. The organisers are to be commended for an excellent event.



Tomas BARTOVSKY (CZE)
President

Narve JENSEN (NOR)
Member

Marek DOMINIAK (POL)
Member