



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

USA sweeps the board at first ever FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships in the heart of Copenhagen

Lausanne, Switzerland, 29 August 2017 – **USA skydivers cleaned up at the first ever FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships, which were held in the heart of Copenhagen over the weekend of 25-26 August 2017.**

David Ludvik (USA) took the FAI Gold Medal, while teammates Nick Batsch (USA) and Curt Bartholomew (USA) were in silver and bronze positions.

The competition saw 18 of the world's best Canopy Piloting (Swooping) skydivers take part, performing at an over-water venue in the centre of downtown Copenhagen, Denmark.

The action was broadcast live to the world via FAI's partner the Olympic Channel, and 100,000 spectators watched on the ground.

The FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships 2017 was the first FAI-sanctioned Swoop Freestyle World Championships ever held, and follows a new collaboration between the FAI and a specialist sports company, A. Sports.

The high-impact, adrenalin-fuelled discipline of Freestyle Canopy Piloting is known as Swooping, and involves parachutists flying at high-speed across a 'Swooping Pond' to score points based on style and execution.

Whereas Canopy Piloting events are typically held in airfields and parachute dropzones away city centres, the new FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships take place in locations chosen to attract maximum exposure and public attention.

George Blythe, the CEO of A. Sports, said: "We are extremely proud of this first ever FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championship. It was really well organised and attended by over 100,000 spectators. It was a two-day urban parachuting festival in downtown Copenhagen that went out to the entire world online. It's been a perfect weekend with a very exciting final."

After an intense and close final round Ludvik won by less than a point. Free concerts, street food, wingsuit displays and bungee-jumping from a 60-metre crane created a festival atmosphere in the heart of the city.

FAI Secretary General Susanne Schödel said: "Congratulations to the winners, and to all the competitors, for an excellent event. Thanks to the organisers A.Sports for putting on a great competition, to the City of Copenhagen for its great support, and to all those who contributed with their Parachuting expertise."

She added: "We are looking forward to continue working with A. Sports to make the FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships a big success."

The FAI's role is to sanction the FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships and help develop the rules. Other responsibilities that the FAI and the FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC) hold include:

- Assisting in the appointment of qualified judges
- Appointing an international jury and jury president
- Provide technical staff
- Helping with scoring and ranking
- Providing advice regarding medals and trophies
- Social media and reporting

The FAI and A.Sports signed a three-year collaboration agreement earlier in 2017. More events are planned for 2018 and beyond.

Key Points

- Event: FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships 2017
- Gold: David 'Junior' Ludvik, USA - 141.95 points
- Silver: Nick Batsch, USA - 141.86 points
- Bronze: Curt Bartholomew, USA - 140.29 points
- Training and Swoop Night Lights Friday August 25, Qualifying and Finals Saturday August 26 2017.
- Location: Peblinge Lake, Queen Louise's Bridge, central Copenhagen.
- 18 parachute pilots from 10 countries.
- The first Swoop Freestyle World Championships sanctioned by the FAI, World Air Sports Federation

Editor's Notes

Videos on the Olympic Channel: <http://bit.ly/2wazQ3r>

Podium pictures: <https://goo.gl/npEdLQ>

Website: www.swoopfreestyle.com

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/swoopfreestyle/

Instagram: www.instagram.com/swoopfreestyle

About Swoop Freestyle

Swoop freestyle is the new urban extreme sport both competitive and technical. It combines speed and precision flying. The athletes jump from 1500 meters (5.000 feet) above city centres, reaching speeds of up to 150 kilometres per hour. The speed generated by a series of turns is then utilised by the athletes to perform a range of tricks, whilst in contact with the water surface, prior to ending their run on a small floating platform.

Due to the highly technical nature of Swooping only the world finest canopy pilots make the cut. From the innovative sport to the science of viral content, Swoop Freestyle is all about next generation coverage with unique feeds and broadcasting opportunities that combined, allow the 100,000s of spectators and millions of viewers at home to experience a unique extreme sport. The sky is no longer the limit.

The FAI Swoop Freestyle World Championships will provide the sport with a global platform to take the competition around the world in a series, which culminates in a crowning both the individual as well as a team concept. This will drive a narrative across the sport to excite and captivate audiences. Underlying the sporting element will be a strong "Swoop" festival feel combining music and street food to create a buzz around town.

About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation (www.fai.org), is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic and Astronautic sporting activities.

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