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Gliding Match Racing

WHAT IS THE GLIDING MATCH RACING?

The Gliding Match Racing in the 2015 FAI World Air Games in the United Arab Emirates takes place around a closed course of approximately 20 kilometers centered on the airport at the Skydive Dubai Desert Airport. Six Champion glider pilots will compete in races in two identical high performance Discus 18 meter sailplanes. The competitors will race against each of the other pilots in a round robin event. The duration of the competition is 5 days from 5 to 9 December.

TOURNAMENT

6 Champion pilots have been invited to compete in Dubai. The tournament will be run in three stages:

- qualification rounds - two semifinals - a final and a consolation final

The qualification round will be run as a “round robin” (i.e. all pilots will race against each other). After the round robin a ranking will be established as a function of the number of races won by each pilot.

After the qualification round two semifinals will be run between the pilots ranked at the first four places. The pilot placed first during the qualification will compete in a match against the pilot ranked at the fourth place while the pilot ranked second will compete in a match against the pilot ranked third.

After the semifinals a final will take place as a match between the two winners of the semifinals. A “consolation final” for the third place will also be organized between the two losers of the day.

The winner of this match will be the FAI World Air Games Champion of the Gliding Match Racing.

THE COMPETITORS

The Champion pilots selected to compete at the FAI Gliding Match Racing at the FAI World Air Games in Dubai are:

Werner AMANN (AUSTRIA)
 Giorgio GALETTO (ITALY)
 Tilo HOLIGHAUS (GERMANY)
 Sebastian KAWA (POLAND)
 Roman MRACEK (CZECH REPUBLIC)
 Uli SCHWENK (GERMANY)

THE GLIDERS

The pilots are flying two identical state-of-the-art Discus 2C composite sailplanes with 18-meter wingspans. Before each race the take-off mass and the position of the center of gravity will be adjusted to the same value regardless of the weight of the pilots by using a chart established by the manufacturer. In practice this will be achieved by mounting lead plates in the nose of the gliders.

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WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO TO WIN?

Each race is a test of the pilot's patience and tactical ability. These qualities, combined with piloting skills and the ability to choose the optimum route, will determine the pilot's performance. The pilot who successfully implements his/her chosen strategy and uses the most appropriate tactics to achieve the fastest speed will be the winner.

HOW IS IT SCORED?

The flights records shall be checked in real time by analyzing the flight records provided by the IGC Flarms. They will have a time interval of 1 second. The start time of each glider shall be measured by interpolation between the last fix before the crossing of the start line and the first fix after crossing the line.

The finish time of each glider shall be measured by interpolation between the last fix before the crossing of the finish line and the first fix after crossing the line.

The winner of the race shall be the pilot having covered the distance from the start line to the finish line via all turn-points in the shortest time (the time taken into account is the difference between the time of crossing the finish line and the time the glider crossed the start line plus any time penalties).

TOURNAMENT PROCEDURES

Qualification rounds

There are 6 participants named A,B,C,D,E and F, the round robin shall be organized in such a way that every pilot will fly every day but never fly twice in a row. This shall be achieved with 3 qualification rounds with the following races:

Qualification round 1:

A against B, C against D, E against F, B against C, D against E

Qualification round 2:

D against F, A against C, B against D, A against E, C against F

Qualification round 3:

C against E, B against F, A against D, B against E, A against F

A drawing before the first qualification round will assign the names of the pilots to each letter.

The winner of each race shall get one point and the loser, zero points. Should both pilots be disqualified, no points shall be awarded.

The gliders the pilots will fly for each race as well as the order in which they will take off (linked to the side they will fly) shall be drawn by lot.

At the end of the round robin, a ranking shall be established as a function of the total number of points attained by each pilot. If there is a tie for any of the first four places, the tie shall be broken by taking into consideration the result of the race between the two pilots. If this is not sufficient to break the tie, an additional race shall be run between the two pilots.

Semi finals Round

The pilot placed first during the qualification shall compete in a match against the pilot ranked at the fourth place while the pilot ranked second shall compete in a match against the pilot ranked third. If enough time is left a "consolation final" shall be organized between the pilots respectively ranked at place five and six. If possible the gliders will be ballasted to make the finishes more spectacular.

For the first race of each match the gliders the pilots will fly, as well as the order in which they will take off shall again be drawn by lots. For the second race the pilots shall swap their gliders and reverse the launching order. If a tiebreak is required lots shall again draw the gliders as well as the order in which they will take off.

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Finals Round

On the last day of the competition a “consolation final” for the third place shall first be organized first as a match between the two losers of the semi finals. Then the final shall take place as a match between the two winners of the semi finals.

For the first race of each match the gliders the pilots will fly, as well as the order in which they will take off shall again be drawn by lots. For the second race the pilots shall swap their gliders and reverse the launching order. If a tiebreak is required lots shall again be drawn to allocate the gliders.

Schedule.

- 3 December – TRAINING DAY
- 4 - 6 December - QUALIFICATION ROUNDS
- 7 December – SEMIFINAL ROUND
- 8 December – FINALS & PRIZE GIVING
- 9 December – RESERVE DAY

The winner of the gliding event will be declared Winner of the FAI Gliding Match Racing Championship at the FAI World Air Games 2015 and be awarded the Gold Medal.

The pilots placing respectively second and third will be awarded the silver and the bronze medals.

Each match is scored in real time and transmitted live on the internet with commentary and interviews with the pilots.

TASK SETTING

The contest area is a 5x10 km rectangle centered on the middle of the runway, whose biggest length is oriented N/S.

The task will consist in crossing the start line, then rounding one point selected by the organizers among the North points, then flying back to one of the South points then flying again to one of the North points and finally, crossing the finish line. For safety reasons, the first leg must always be to the North, so that, with 3 turning points, the gliders will arrive from the North before crossing the finish line (this prevents having finishers flying low over the highway).

The length of the task will be adjusted during the practice day by selecting the turn-points in such a way that the gliders can easily achieve the task but cannot have enough energy.

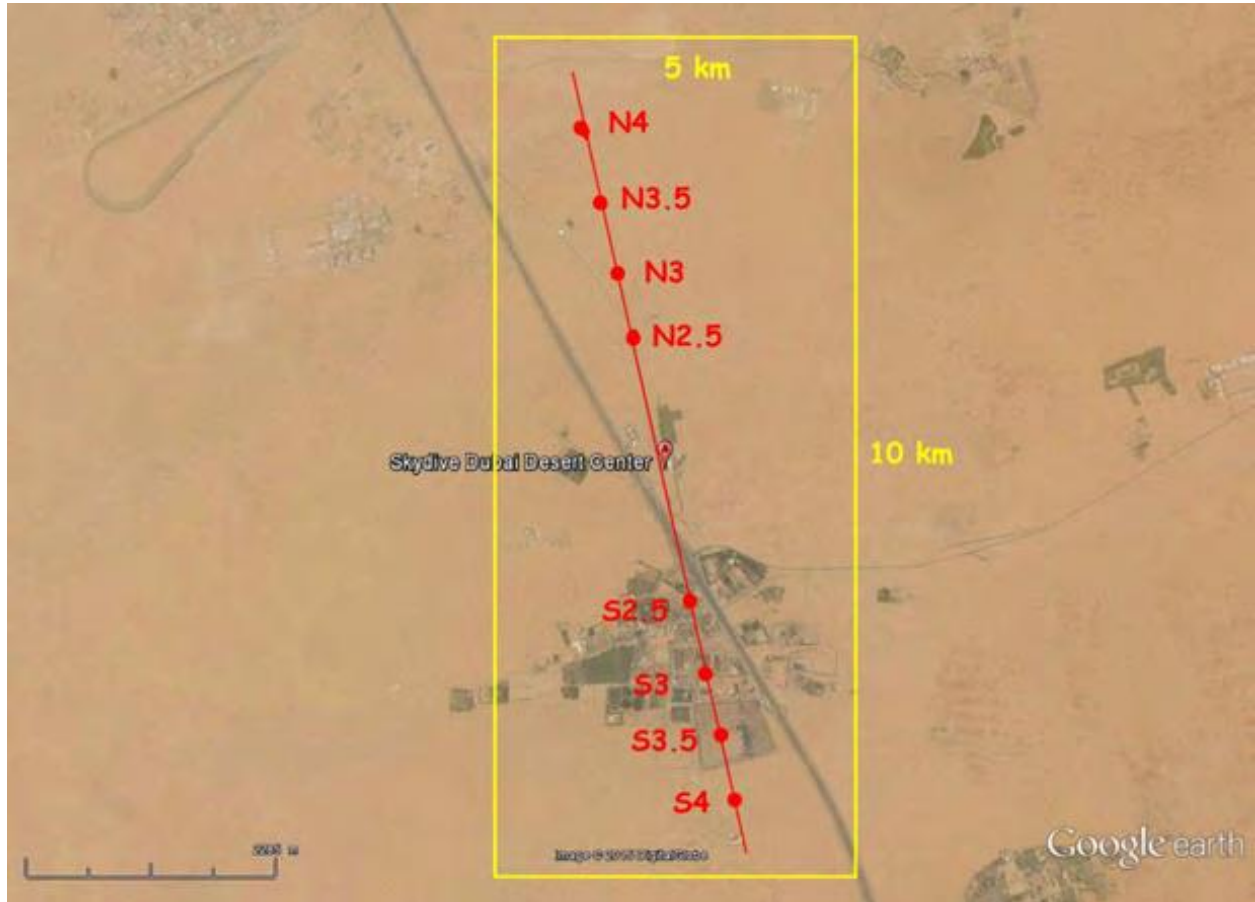


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THE COMPETITION SITE

The competition will take place at the Skydive Dubai Desert Campus Co-ordinates: 24° 53.121' N, 55° 32.846' E Elevation: 158 m MSL The runway is 1580 meter long, 20 meter wide, and its direction is 347°

