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Parachuting – Accuracy Landing

WHAT IS PARACHUTING ACCURACY LANDING?

Parachuting Accuracy Landing competitions are a classic test of a parachutist's skill, judgement and ability to control their parachute accurately. Precise judging of the descent and speed make this highly visible event very demanding for the participants. After the exit from the aircraft at 800m and from the moment their canopy is fully deployed, the parachutists steer towards a target with a dead centre diameter of 2cm, intending to make their first point of contact directly on the centre. The parachutist can control his descent speed, forward speed and his direction to try and achieve the perfect score of zero by stepping directly onto the target centre.

HOW IS IT SCORED?

The accuracy of the competitor's first touch on the target is measured electronically; a sensor pad 16cm in diameter is placed in the middle of the target and automatically records the distance from the centre. There are several judges to ensure fair play and an event judge who controls the panel of judges and official observers. Three judges observe the landing and first point of contact, if it is not on the electronic sensor. Another judge measures the wind speed and direction to ensure that the wind does not become too strong, thereby cancelling the attempt. Since scores measure the distance from the centre of the target, the lowest score wins. The FAI World Air Games Champion is the one whose score is the lowest after all 10 rounds.

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO DO TO WIN?

This event tests both the ability to read the weather conditions and the parachutist's precise control of the descent towards the target. Competitors have the choice of when and where to exit the aircraft depending on their judgement of the wind speed and direction and any other atmospheric conditions. The competition is based upon 10 rounds with the scores from each round being added together to produce an overall result. The key to winning is consistent accuracy over the 10 attempts.

TELL ME MORE!

Landing Accuracy is the oldest of the parachute disciplines, with the first World Championship held more than 50 years ago. It is a skill which improves with experience. Newcomers to the sport may start with a tandem parachute jump attached to an experience Tandem Master or via an AFF (Accelerated Freefall) course where they are initially accompanied by one or more instructors, progressing to the point when they jump alone.

Parachuting is a very popular sport which is practised around the world with many hundreds of thousands of people taking part.

« *Excitement through concentration and skill* »