



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Pilots and navigators ready for take-off at the 23rd FAI World Rally Flying Championship

Lausanne, Switzerland, 25 July 2023 – Twenty-five planes representing 12 nations are revving their engines at the Mâcon-Charnay aerodrome in France ready for the 23rd FAI World Rally Flying Championships that will take place from 30 July to 4 August 2023.

The well-known teams of **Austria, Czech Republic, Poland, Lithuania and Slovakia** will be joined by reigning champions **South Africa, Germany, Spain and Portugal**, with a warm welcome being extended to **China and Italy**. Host team **France** have put forward seven teams, of which one comprises both female pilot and navigator: Marjorie Perrissin-Fabert and Adèle Schamm.

Two-person teams participate in a two-stage competition. For the first part, FAI judges will mark the pilot and navigator for the ability to follow a given route in which they have to carefully plan their speed, making sure to pass each landmark from the photos provided. For the second part, judges are looking for a precision landing, with penalties given for touching down on either side of the centre line.

There are **four days of competition** beginning on 31 July after the opening ceremony, which is to be held on 29 July, with the briefing day on 30 July. The competition will consist of 4 navigation routes, one every day. The crew with the lowest final score after these four days will be crowned World Champion.

Last year's champions in South Africa were the Polish duo Krzysztof and Kamil Wieczorek, with their teammates Michal Wieczorek and Marcin Kwiatosz claiming silver. The bronze medal was awarded to home team Nigel Hopkins and Mary de Klerk. **The Polish team were overall champions**, followed by the Czech team and France, so it will be exciting to watch the French team try to climb up the ladder on their home territory.

Audiences will be able to follow the progress of their favourite team on the large screen, with expert live commentary to enable the public to **understand and appreciate the skills involved in Rally Flying**.

Notes for editors

- Website: <https://wrfc2023.com/>
- Live tracking: <https://wrfc2023.com/tracking/>
- Results page: <https://wrfc2023.com/results/>
- 2022 results: https://wrfc2023.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Final_Results2022.pdf

- FAI logo: bit.ly/FAI_logo
- FAI media corner: www.fai.org/media

About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, 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 activities and Space records.

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