



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

Sebastián Álvarez aims for multiple FAI records with exceptional wingsuit flight

Lausanne, Switzerland, 27 March 2025 – **Chilean wingsuit pilot Sebastián ‘Ardilla’ Álvarez has completed a breathtaking flight, submitting preliminary claims for multiple FAI World and South American records. The feat showcased the impressive skill and control of this extraordinary athlete, honed over nearly two decades of wingsuit experience.**

The flight took place on 22 March 2025 over the West Tennessee Skydiving Centre in Whiteville, USA, under official FAI observation.

He has submitted the following preliminary record claims to FAI:

Skydiving - Wingsuit Flying

- World and South American Records, Distance of Flight: 53,448.50 metres
- World and South American Records, Time of Fall: 661.29 seconds

Skydiving - Altitude/Fall

- South American Record, Exit Altitude: 12,639.63 metres
- South American Record, Distance of Fall without a Drogue: 11,707.62 metres

FAI is awaiting the record file submission to ratify his performances as new records.

Álvarez, a former Air Force pilot, completed the flight as part of the Red Bull Starman mission and later spoke about its personal significance: *"This mission was about taking human flight to the next level - not just for me, but to show what's possible when you dream big and commit fully. There were, of course, moments of doubt, but with the right preparation, training, and technology, we made it happen."*

FAI Skydiving Commission (ISC) President Alberto Martín Paracuellos commented: *"First of all, I would like to warmly congratulate athlete Sebastián Álvarez on this incredible sporting achievement, which marks a significant moment for the discipline of Wingsuit Flying. His performance takes the sport to a new level and clearly demonstrates that hard work and constant dedication pay off."*

"FAI records represent the highest standard in air sports—rigorously verified and deeply respected. Breaking records reflects not only personal mastery, but also supports the growth and visibility of skydiving and air sports worldwide."

"I feel it is also important to acknowledge the role of long-term support from partners such as Red Bull who believe in the potential of air sports and the athletes that drive them forward. Their ongoing commitment makes achievements like this possible and helps our sports continue to evolve."

According to Michael Cooper, the ISC Wingsuit Judge present at the attempt, the achievement was remarkable not just for surpassing existing records, but for doing so by a significant margin. Furthermore, in his view, it is rare to see such a well-rounded performance in wingsuit flying, as pilots typically optimise for just one element—time, distance, or speed—depending on how they approach the flight.

Flying slowly can increase time aloft but usually results in poor distance and speed, while diving to gain speed often comes at the expense of both time and distance. In this case, Cooper noted, the fact that

all performances were so strong suggested that Álvarez had flown a clean, efficient, and impressively balanced flight.

Notes for editors

Drawing up rules and controlling and ratifying aeronautical and astronautical World and Continental records represent an important part of FAI's activities. Since the first flights were recorded in 1906, FAI has registered more than 20,000 records to date.

Charles Lindbergh's historical flight across the Atlantic Ocean, and Yuri Gagarin's first human flight into space are amongst the great aeronautical and astronautical achievements recorded by FAI. All air sport disciplines are represented in FAI World and Continental Record archives, from human-powered flight at one extreme, to space flight at the other.

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- [How to set an FAI record](#)
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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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