



PRESS RELEASE
For immediate release

3,2,1... GO! The 2023 FAI World Drone Racing Championship in Korea starts on 6 October

Lausanne, Switzerland, 2 October 2023 – **The city of Namwon in the Republic of Korea is buzzing with excitement as the world's best drone racing pilots have arrived to compete in the FAI World Drone Racing Championship (WDRC), part of the World Drone Festa.**

Renowned as the biggest competition of its kind, a total of 115 competitors are registered for the Championship. They will battle it out in Namwon's Sports Town complex, Jeollabuk-do from **6-9 October 2023**, in an exhilarating high-speed drone race, with cash prizes up for grabs.

The challenging track twists and turns around ramps, tunnels, hoops, straights and a cube feature, and has been designed to test the skills of the pilots over an optimised **trajectory of 725m**.

Drone racing tends to attract highly-focused younger pilots. In total there will be **40 juniors competing, as well as 65 seniors, with ages ranging from nine years old to 47**.

Twelve female pilots will participate, including Thailand's **Wanraya Wannapong** who won the female champion title in both previous editions of the WDRC in 2018 and 2019.

France's **Killian Rousseau** is currently top of the World Cup Ranking, followed by Pawel Laszczak of Poland and Roland Ronto from Hungary.

There are **29 national teams plus six wild card individual competitors** registered, and pilots are travelling from as far afield as Finland, Israel, South Africa, the USA and a number of Asian countries.

Prize money is on offer for the top four pilots in Individual, Female and Junior categories, plus the top six Nations. **The best individual will win 15,000,000 South Korean won (just over 11,000 US dollars).**

This is the **third edition of the FAI World Drone Racing Championship**. Previous events were held in 2018 and 2019 and this is the championship's hotly anticipated return after the pandemic.

Event schedule

FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER

2023 FAI e-Drone Racing Cup - Part 1 (8 races) and Opening Ceremony

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER

2023 FAI e-Drone Racing Cup - Final (7 races)

WDRC Qualifying rounds 1-3 (24 races each)

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER

WDRC Additional and Elimination rounds

MONDAY 9 OCTOBER

WDRC Elimination rounds, Juniors Final, Women's Final, Overall Final
Medals & Closing Ceremony

Follow the live streaming

FAI Youtube Channel

11:30-21:10 (KST), October 7, 2023

08:30-20:20 (KST), October 8, 2023

09:00-14:00 (KST), October 9, 2023

The first ever e-Drone Racing Cup

Not only will spectators see the elite of the drone racing world race around the obstacles at high speeds, but they will also be part of the World Drone Festa, which includes the final of the 2023 FAI e-Drone Racing Cup in which 32 pilots will compete for cash prizes. This is the first ever race of its kind, and will be livestreamed on the FAI Youtube Channel: 13:30-15:30 (KST), October 6, 2023

09:00-11:00 (KST), October 7, 2023

Drone Soccer Open International Cup

Drone Soccer originates from Korea, and visitors to the World Drone Festa will also be able to watch the Korean FAI Drone Soccer Open International Cup, which will feature 70 competitors in two categories. Live Streaming: Korea Aero Models Association Youtube Channel: 10:00-17:00 (KST), October 7, 2023, 10:00-18:00 (KST), October 8, 2023, 10:00-16:00 (KST), October 9, 2023.

Editor's Notes

- WDRC website: www.fai.org/wdrc2023
- 2023 FAI e-Drone Racing Cup: www.fai.org/2023faiedroneracingcup
- FAI Youtube livestream: www.youtube.com/@airsports_fai
- Korea Aero Models Association Youtube Channel: www.youtube.com/@kamakorea5256

- 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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