



FAI JURY COMPETITION REPORT

AIRSPORT:	Aeromodelling
EVENT:	2024 FAI World Drone Racing Championship
CIAM COMPETITION CLASS:	F9U
DATES:	October 31 to November 3, 2024
LOCATION (VENUE):	Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China (Football stadium, Shangcheng District Sports Center)
ORGANISERS:	ASFC - Airsports Federation of China CNSG - China National Sports Group
OFFICIALS:	
Contest Director:	Wei ZHANG (Michelle) - People's Republic of China
Starter:	Chi Hung CHAN (Raymond) - Hong Kong, China
FAI Jury:	Bruno DELOR President - France Antonis PAPADOPOULOS Member - Greece Zhuoyue YANG Member - People's Republic of China
Judges:	Sotir LAZARKOV - Supervisor judge - Bulgaria Pascal BERLU - Pilots' judge - France Angelika MÖBIUS - Pilots' judge - Germany Oscar CHINELLO - Pilots' judge - Italy Eric LI-KOO - Pilots' judge - Great-Britain Hengzhi XIAO - Pilots' judge - People's Republic of China Ik Hwan (Samson) KIM - Pilots' judge - Republic of Korea
Event commentator:	Matt Andrews

INFORMATION BULLETINS

Two information Bulletins were published by the organiser containing all the necessary details for the event.

A dedicated website was prepared under the FAI domain, providing all necessary information and links to the results. The organiser also prepared a website addressing the Chinese audience.

The registration of all participants including the payment of the entry fees was performed by using the Noosphere e-Navigator application.

REGISTRATION and TECHNICAL PROCESSING of MODELS

The on-site registration took place on Tuesday October 29 and Wednesday October 30 in the Shangcheng District Sports Center.

In total, 225 participants from 30 countries have been registered on-site:

- 107 competitors including 45 juniors, 11 women and 8 wild card individual competitors
- 21 dedicated team managers
- 57 helpers.

- 40 supporters.

The technical model processing took place on Wednesday October 30 and Thursday October 31 at the same place as the competitor's registration. The models of the competitors have been marked with a sticker, as proof of being processed.

The technical model processing, and the official practice on Thursday October 31, have been monitored by the judges nominated to run the event.

COMPETITION AREA

The Shangcheng District Sports Center was the venue selected by the organisers. It is a sporting complex built for different kinds of sports. The Football stadium was the place where the racing track was built and in which the drone racing competition had been run.

The track was designed by the organiser and the setup was representing part of the river which is crossing the city. During the night the track was illuminated and the use of on-board programmable LED light units made easier the recognition of each model by using a different colour for each one.

Outside the Football stadium, many tents were installed. All national teams and wild cards individual competitors were installed with light and electricity in a big tent.

Tents were also installed in the stadium close to the racing track: one for the preflight processing, one for the score processing team and one for the livestreaming team.

A wide stage was installed in the stadium for the pilots concerned flying in the race, their helper and the judges. The stage was placed in front of a giant display which was used for displaying in the stadium the content prepared for the livestream.

At this point, we want to annotate that the infrastructure of most of the "gates" or obstacles, necessary to form the track were including iron. This proved to be a big problem for the video quality and reception which caused a lot of complaints from the teams.

WEATHER CONDITIONS

Weather conditions were not so good at the beginning of the event.

Due to heavy rain, the Opening Ceremony planned on Thursday October 31 evening outside in the Football stadium at been moved in an hotel.

Due to the rain for the first competition day on Friday November 1, it had been possible to run only one qualifying round on the evening. The two other qualifying rounds had been run on morning the following day on morning.

For the two days of competition, Saturday November 2 and Sunday November 3, the weather did not affect the progress of the event. so, by rearranging the way to proceed the additional rounds sequence for the competitors placed 64 at the end of the qualifying rounds who are not qualified for the elimination stage, it had been possible to end the competition at the time initially scheduled.

EVENT ORGANIZATION

The US Drone Sports Inc. company provided full services to run the event as for the World Games 2022 in USA and 2023 WDRC in Korea: timekeeping system, video receiver system, League OS event management system, video recorder to review the races, content production for the livestream (FAI YouTube channel and local Chinese channel) and assistance to the local company in charge of the TV production and broadcasting of the event.

The performance of all officials has been excellent.

More than enough volunteers were present throughout the entire event.

A meeting for all the officials had been organized on Wednesday, October 30 afternoon.

The team manager's meeting was organized on Thursday, October 31 at the venue after the official practice and the track walking through organised for the competitors. All the team managers attended the meeting with a positive attitude and useful questions.

FAI President, Mr. David Monks, was invited by ASFC and joined the event from the beginning to the end.

INJURIES

No such an incidence was reported.

DOPING CONTROL

No doping control was requested or conducted.

COMPLAINTS

Complaints were received mostly for the quality of the video and had been managed by the Supervisor Judge.

PROTESTS

Four protests were received. Two were submitted by France, one by USA and one by Belgium. Three of them were rejected and the protest fees were retained, and one was upheld and the protest fee was returned.

CEREMONIES

The Opening Ceremony was planned to happen in the football stadium, but due to the heavy rain the ceremony took place in the alternative location selected by the organisers (Hangzhou Tianyuan Tower Hotel).

At the Opening Ceremony, an area hosted all the local authorities and the VIPs in front of the national teams who were staged behind. Parade was not possible and of course the scheduled cultural program and drone light show were omitted.

The ceremony included short speeches of the local organisers and Hangzhou government representatives, the City Mayor, and the FAI President. The championship was declared officially open by the City Mayor and the designated VIP's all together "press the button" to confirm this. This was followed by the FAI flag raise and the FAI anthem.

For the Prizegiving ceremony, the good weather allows this to happen in the Football stadium with a podium and flags raised on the giant display. The FAI President and the FAI Jury presented the FAI medals and diplomas to the winners while the City Mayor together with the local authorities presented the local awards and the money prizes.

During the Closing ceremony, the FAI anthem was played and the championship was officially closed by the FAI President.

The closing buffet dinner took place at the Tianyuan Tower Hotel. The atmosphere was warm and pleasant.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

The FAI Jury would like also to report:

1. Daily updates

On a daily basis, the FAI website was updated with short reports including the daily activity, results, videos, and photos. This is something that needs to be further developed in the future since this way we promote our activities to the FAI community but also to the general public.

2. Live streaming commentary

For this championship, the organisers recruited a very capable English language commentator who commented on the most important phases of the championship.

3. Track Infrastructure

The Jury would like to recommend to CIAM Bureau and the F9 S/C to consider publishing guidelines for the track design and construction. It is important to have this in place since this way a lot of frustration from the competitors and problems that were recorded were from this only reason.

FINAL NOTE

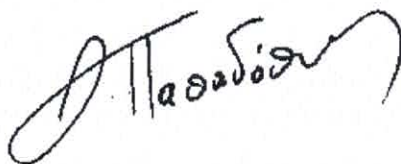
We would like to thank all the organisers, especially ASFC, the entire competition staff and officials, and of course the local Authorities for running the event in a fair and friendly atmosphere.

The organisers are to be commented for an excellent event.

Hangzhou, November 4, 2024



Bruno DELOR



Antonis PAPADOPOULOS



Zhuoyue YANG