



REPORT BY THE FAI JURY ON THE 2022 FAI F3A European CHAMPIONSHIP FOR AEROBATIC MODEL AIRCRAFT

Zamora/Spain, August 21-28 2022

Overview

The 2022 F3A European Championship was organized and executed by CLAZ (Club de Aeromodelismo Zamora) under the auspices of the Royal Federation for Aeronautical Sports of Spain (RFAE) from August 21 to 28, 2022. The CLAZ flight site afforded a good flying opportunity for 37 competitors from 14 nations.

Pre-contest information

General and specific information was communicated to participants via three Bulletins. All aspects of the championship, lodging, travelling, costs, rules, and procedures were covered. Email and WhatsApp contact made correspondence significantly convenient and fast, for organizers, officials, and participants. On the official web-site, information was published, at the same time sent it to TMs by the competition office.

Contact had to be done several times for different reasons, as teams were sending the required informations and requested answers sometimes very late.

Accommodation and catering

Competitors and supporters/helpers were accommodated mostly in the City of Zamora, within a driving distance of around 20 minutes to the flight site. Participants were offered a good choice of accommodation options. The accommodation in the various hotels was of a good standard and at acceptable costs.

FAI Jury, Judges and score keepers were accommodated in the NH Palacio del Duero Hotel. Rooms were in very good condition and air conditioned. Breakfast and dinner for Jury and Judges were at the hotel and of excellent quality.

For Jury Judges and officials, lunch was offered at the flight site. The organizer offered snacks and drinks of a good quality and moderate prices at the flight site.

Practice fields and competition site

There were three official practice sites available to competitors within reasonable driving distances. The practice sites were easy to find from maps and directions issued by the organizer.

The flight site and the manoeuvring area were checked by the FAI Jury. It was correctly marked and the asphalt runways were of reasonable quality. Ready boxes and starting circles were available.

For judges and officials and preparation of competitors, tents were provided by the organizer. Judging seats were comfortable.

Model aircraft processing and official practice

Model aircraft processing took place on permanent table set to measure the planes and in a nearby tent to weigh the models. The equipment had been checked by the FAI Jury. The staff was well informed and run the processing smoothly. Official practice was done at the same time, and there were no weather delays.

Practice

There were official practice flights offered to each competitor before the preliminary rounds started.

Organisation and execution

The championship was conducted in a friendly way. The contest director and his personnel were always kind and accommodating. Competitors were called in good time to occupy the ready boxes for their flights, and those using electric propulsion devices (majority) had their equipment tested for voltage prior to each flight. The published daily starting order ensured that all competitors were ready for their flights.

Frequency monitoring was not necessary all competitors used the 2,4GHz transmitting equipment, no transmitter impound was needed.

For timekeeping an open visible display was available. Additionally time was taken by the line director with a stop watch as a back-up measure.

Score tabulation was done by Mr Roland Poidevin and his wife Marie Helene using the Notautomatic system, with raw scores appearing shortly after the conclusion of flights. Scores were published in paper to team managers and to all who logged in by the NotauScore network. Live scoring could be followed on smart phones during the flights. The TBL statistical averaging system was used in the scoring software. The standard of flying was exceptionally high, with a diversity of model aircraft, equipment, and flying styles. Continuous random checking during the competition for conformation to the specifications took place.

The FAI Jury checked all manual inputs to the scoring system and the ranking lists before publishing for correctness. The Notautomatic system worked well, only a few smaller problems with input devices occurred.

Weather conditions

During the whole competition the weather conditions were very good. Wind normally was present all over the day. Temperatures mostly exceeded 32 degrees in the afternoon. In the morning temperatures were moderate.

Communication

The contest director was in communication with the flight line officials, who were available at all times to answer queries from team managers, contestants, supporters, and officials. The flight line director and his family members had excellent knowledge of English. However, communication with other staff members had some difficulties. Wireless Lan was available.

Conduct of jury and judges

No protests were lodged. The jury members were well versed in the Sporting Code requirements and complemented each other in their different fields of expertise and experience. Jury members were always on the field and available to questions and queries at all times.

Five judges were used in the competition. Extensive judges' briefings, with visual aids, and several training flights were conducted prior to the start of the preliminary flights of the championship, and again prior to the semifinal. A post-competition judges' analysis will be generated. The results of the judges' analysis will be distributed to all judges, and recommendations may be made to the CIAM Bureau.

Award ceremonies, functions, closing banquet

The opening ceremony was conducted on the CLAZ runway. The FAI anthem was played, and the FAI flag displayed prominently for the duration of the event.

The awards ceremony took place at the CLAZ flight site, too. FAI medals, diplomas and trophies were awarded to the winners. A very simple banquet took place in a tent at the CLAZ flight site.

Conclusion

It is the opinion of the FAI Jury the 2022 FAI F3A European Championship for Aerobatic Model Aircraft has been a very successful event.

The organizers were really friendly and did their best to run a reasonable Continental Championship after the two years' break caused by Covid. Nevertheless it was a pity that the competition was so poorly attended as the organizing effort made was the same regardless the number of competitors.

The FAI Jury:



Peter Uhlig
(Germany, FAI Jury President)



Yolanda Garcia de Fuentes
(Spain, FAI Jury Member)



Pierre Pignot
(France, FAI Jury Member)