

# 2022 FAI DRONE RACING WORLD CUP REPORT

by Bruno DELOR

FAI Drone Racing World Cup (F9U class) had been introduced in 2016. So, after the fourth edition held in 2019 and the two years 2020 and 2021 without World Cup due to COVID pandemic, 2022 is the sixth edition.

## CALENDAR

There were initially 14 Drone Racing World Cup contests (Challenger Series) from 11 different countries published on the FAI Calendar for the year 2022. This is far from the number of contests hold in 2019 (24 contests from 19 countries) or in 2018 (22 contests from 17 countries).

In that situation and in order to improve the interest of the Drone Racing World Cup, it has been decided for the 2022 World Cup ranking to consider for each competitor 3 contests of different countries (instead 4 up to now). The Drone Racing World Cup rules have been modified consequently.

Five contests initially registered had been removed from the 2022 World Cup calendar:

- European Drone Festival May 18 and 19 in Nördlingen (Germany) due to organisation issues.
- Drone Racing Grand Prix de France July 22 to 24 in Le Castellet (France) due to a low number of participants registered and organisation issues.
- FAI Drone Racing World Cup Moscow July 29 to 31 in Moscow (Russia) due to the February 28 FAI decision to ban Russian Federation.
- UK Drone Racing World Cup Open International 27 to 29 August in RAF Barkston Heath (United Kingdom) due to the fact that the airport must be kept 'available' given the actual heightened state of alert.
- Daegu Drone Race World Cup October 9 and 10 in Daegu due to organisation issues.

So, 9 World Cup contests had been effectively organised; this corresponds to the number of contests in 2016 for the first World Cup edition.

|                                | LOCATION               | COUNTRY               | DATES              |
|--------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Drone World Cup El Yelmo       | Jaen                   | Spain (ESP)           | June 3 to 5        |
| Paris Drone Racing World Cup   | Corbeil-Essonnes       | France (FRA)          | June 25 & 26       |
| DXRacing                       | Bela Crkva             | Serbia (SRB)          | July 2 & 3         |
| Korea Drone Racing World Cup   | Seoul                  | Korea (KOR)           | July 15 & 16       |
| PAM Cup Drone Racing           | Plovdiv                | Bulgaria (BUL)        | September 3 & 4    |
| V Trofeo Secchia F9U           | Sassuolo (Modena)      | Italy (ITA)           | September 10 & 11  |
| Drone Racing World Cup Hungary | Zalaegerszeg           | Hungary (HUN)         | September 16 to 18 |
| Phoenix Drone Racing           | Prilep                 | North Macedonia (MKD) | October 8 & 9      |
| Tenerife Drone Party World Cup | Santa Cruz de Tenerife | Spain (ESP)           | October 15 & 16    |

But, the Drone World Cup El Yelmo contest held June 3 to 5 in Jaen (Spain) had not been retained for the World Cup ranking because all competitors were only from Spain.

So, there had been only 8 contests, all from different countries, considered for the World Cup ranking.

**Note:** A Masters Series had been introduced in 2019; no Masters contest had been considered for 2022.

## PARTICIPATION

The following table highlights an important decrease of the number of participants after the two years break due COVID.

The 2022 data participation is under the 2016 participation (first World Cup edition) except for juniors and women.

|  | 2016       | 2017       | 2018       | 2019       | 2022       |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <b>Number of contests considered for the World Cup ranking</b> | 9          | 16         | 22         | 24         | 8          |
| <b>Number of organising countries</b>                          | 7          | 12         | 17         | 19         | 8          |
| <b>Number of registrations</b>                                 | 327        | 575        | 1004       | 913        | 239        |
| <b>Average number of participants per contest</b>              | 36         | 36         | 46         | 38         | 30         |
| <b>Number of competitors placed</b>                            | 229        | 434        | 669        | 566        | 172        |
| <b>Number of concerned countries</b>                           | 17         | 37         | 41         | 46         | 22         |
| <b>Number of juniors (under 18 years)</b>                      | 18         | 76         | 133        | 149        | 53         |
| <b>Ratio of juniors</b>  | 8%         | 18%        | 20%        | 26%        | 31%        |
| <b>Number of concerned countries</b>                           | 4          | 18         | 23         | 28         | 11         |
| <b>Number of women</b>   |            | 6          | 13         | 15         | 5          |
| <b>Number of concerned countries</b>                           |            | 6          | 9          | 11         | 4          |
| <b>Number of participants placed in:</b>                       |            |            |            |            |            |
| <b>9 contests</b>  |            |            |            | 1          |            |
| <b>8 contests</b>  |            |            |            | 1          |            |
| <b>7 contests</b>  |            |            | 1          | 4          |            |
| <b>6 contests</b>  | 1          |            | 9          | 5          |            |
| <b>5 contests</b>  |            | 7          | 10         | 9          | 1          |
| <b>4 contests</b>  | 2          | 7          | 12         | 15         | 7          |
| <b>3 contests</b>  | 11         | 11         | 34         | 50         | 13         |
| <b>2 contests</b>  | 66         | 113        | 144        | 103        | 16         |
| <b>1 contest</b>   | 149        | 296        | 459        | 378        | 135        |
|  | <b>229</b> | <b>434</b> | <b>669</b> | <b>566</b> | <b>172</b> |

|                              | Competitors number | Seniors             | Juniors            | Women                     |
|------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| BEL Belgium                  | 3                  | 3                   |                    |                           |
| BUL Bulgaria                 | 17                 | 12                  | 5                  |                           |
| CZE Czech Republic           | 1                  | 1                   |                    |                           |
| CRO Croatia                  | 4                  | 4                   |                    |                           |
| ESP Spain                    | 9                  | 7                   | 2                  |                           |
| FRA France                   | 11                 | 5                   | 6                  |                           |
| GER Germany                  | 5                  | 2                   | 3                  |                           |
| HUN Hungary                  | 21                 | 17                  | 4                  |                           |
| ITA Italy                    | 19                 | 19                  |                    | 1                         |
| JPN Japan                    | 4                  | 3                   | 1                  | 1                         |
| KOR Korea                    | 41                 | 14                  | 27                 | 2                         |
| MAS Malaysia                 | 3                  | 3                   |                    |                           |
| MKD North Macedonia          | 3                  | 3                   |                    |                           |
| POL Poland                   | 6                  | 5                   | 1                  |                           |
| ROU Romania                  | 1                  | 1                   |                    |                           |
| SIN Singapore                | 1                  | 1                   |                    |                           |
| SRB Serbia                   | 15                 | 15                  |                    |                           |
| SUI Switzerland              | 2                  | 1                   | 1                  |                           |
| SVK Slovakia                 | 1                  | 1                   |                    |                           |
| THA Thailand                 | 3                  | 1                   | 2                  | 1 (junior)                |
| TPE Chinese Taipei           | 1                  | 1                   |                    |                           |
| USA United States of America | 1                  | 0                   | 1                  |                           |
|                              | <b>172</b>         | <b>119</b>          | <b>53</b>          | <b>5 (with 4 juniors)</b> |
| <b>22 countries</b>          |                    | <b>11 countries</b> | <b>4 countries</b> |                           |

## CLASSIFICATION

The total World Cup score for each participant is the sum of their best three contest results (numbers of points). For each participant, one contest result per organising country is considered for the World Cup ranking (better number of points for any organising country in which he has scored in two contests).

The winner is MinJae KIM, junior from Korea, with 114 points, followed by Minseo LEE, also a junior from Korea with 91 points, and then by Dimo SHTEREV from Bulgaria with 88 points.

In the following sheet, are mentioned for the columns corresponding to the results:

- Country abbreviation code of the contest as for example KOR or HUN (see correspondence on the calendar page 1).
- Placing and number of competitors placed; for example, 1/51 means first place with 51 competitors having flown in the contest.

|    |                    |     |           |            |     |       |           |     |       |           |     |       |           |
|----|--------------------|-----|-----------|------------|-----|-------|-----------|-----|-------|-----------|-----|-------|-----------|
| 1  | KIM MinJae         | Jun | KOR       | 114 points | HUN | 1/51  | 48 points | KOR | 2/53  | 44 points | ESP | 1/18  | 22 points |
| 2  | LEE Minseo         | Jun | KOR       | 91 points  | HUN | 4/51  | 37 points | KOR | 8/53  | 33 points | FRA | 4/24  | 21 points |
| 2  | SHTEREV Dimo       |     | BUL       | 88 points  | HUN | 9/51  | 32 points | SRB | 1/24  | 29 points | BUL | 1/22  | 27 points |
| 2  | BAILLEAU Guillaume | Jun | FRA       | 87 points  | HUN | 7/51  | 34 points | FRA | 1/24  | 29 points | ITA | 4/27  | 24 points |
| 5  | SPACEK David       |     | CZE       | 85 points  | HUN | 10/51 | 31 points | ITA | 3/27  | 28 points | SRB | 2/24  | 26 points |
| 6  | GEORGIEV Antoni    |     | FAI (BUL) | 82 points  | HUN | 3/51  | 41 points | SRB | 3/24  | 24 points | MKD | 4/20  | 17 points |
|    | JANG HyeonJin      | Jun | KOR       | 82 points  | HUN | 2/51  | 44 points | KOR | 13/53 | 28 points | FRA | 15/24 | 10 points |
| 8  | JANG JuHyuk        | Jun | KOR       | 78 points  | KOR | 5/53  | 36 points | HUN | 12/51 | 29 points | ESP | 6/18  | 13 points |
| 9  | KIM Taeyang        | Jun | KOR       | 74 points  | KOR | 3/53  | 41 points | HUN | 8/51  | 33 points |     |       |           |
| 10 | CHOI BeomJin       |     | KOR       | 69 points  | HUN | 6/51  | 35 points | KOR | 7/53  | 34 points |     |       |           |

An Excel file with the complete results can be downloaded on the following webpage of the FAI website: <https://www.fai.org/world-cups/drone-racing-2022>

In the top 10 placed, 6 competitors are from Korea, and 5 of them are juniors. This confirms the very high level of Korea in Drone Racing.

There are 53 juniors placed in the World Cup ranking which represents 31% of the total number of competitors placed which is 5% more than the previous 2019 World Cup. In addition, 6 juniors are placed in the top 10, and 5 of the 8 contests considered for the World Cup have been won by a junior. This confirms the ability of the juniors to be rapidly very competitive in that class.

## FAI DRONE PERMISSION

FAI Drone Permission issue had been introduced in 2017 to accommodate the fast-growing sport of Drone Racing and to help the competitors who found difficult or too expensive to obtain a FAI Sporting Licence from their NAC.

From 2019, FAI positively considered NACs formal request to refrain issue of FAI Drone Permissions for their country.

Detailed data about FAI Drone Permissions delivered in 2022 are available on the next page.

FAI Drone Permissions have been issued to 33 persons from 14 countries including 2 persons who were also holding a FAI Sporting Licence. This is significantly less than 2019 (207 persons from 45 countries). But, this should be put into perspective of the important decrease of the total number of competitors participating to the World Cup (172 for 566 in 2019).

In addition, only 23 persons from 8 countries getting a FAI Drone Permission participated in the World Cup compared to 123 from 30 countries in 2019.

**Note:** About half of the persons using a FAI Drone Permission to participate to a World Cup event are from Italy. The Aero Club d'Italia General Director requested FAI on August 21, 2022 to remove Italia from the NACs' list for which FAI Drone Permission issue is blocked. The justification given was to allow Italian competitors not holding a "National FAI Licence" to participate to the F9U World Cup contest scheduled in Italy on mid September 2022.

Use of a FAI Drone Permission is justified by a difficulty to obtain from the NAC a FAI Sporting Licence due to a too long issue delay or a none recognition of drone racing), or by a prohibitive amount to pay to get it.

|                        |     | World Cup competitors number | FAI Drone Permission issued   | FAI Drone Permission used for World Cup contest |                        |
|------------------------|-----|------------------------------|---|---|------------------------|
|                        |     |                              |   | Number  | Competitors percentage |
| Belgium                | BEL | 3                            | 1   | 1   | 33%                    |
| Bulgaria               | BUL | 3                            | 2 <i>Including one competitor also getting a FAI Sporting Licence</i> | 1   | 33%                    |
| Canada                 | CAN |                              | 1   |   |                        |
| Croatia                | CRO | 4                            | 4   | 4   | 100%                   |
| France                 | FRA | 11                           | 1   | 1   | 9%                     |
| Hungary                | HUN | 21                           | 3   | 2   | 10%                    |
| Indonesia              | INA |                              | 1   |   |                        |
| Italy                  | ITA | 19                           | 11  | 11  | 58%                    |
| Libyan Arab Jamahiriya | LBA |                              | 2   |   |                        |
| Malaysia               | MAS | 3                            | 2   | 2   | 67%                    |
| Senegal                | SEN |                              | 1   |   |                        |
| Serbia                 | SRB | 15                           | 1 <i>Competitor also getting a FAI Sporting Licence</i>               |   |                        |
| Slovakia               | SVK | 1                            | 1   | 1   | 100%                   |
| Turkey                 | TUR |                              | 2   |   |                        |
|                        |     | <b>80</b>                    | <b>33</b>   | <b>23</b>                                       | <b>35%</b>             |
|                        |     | <b>9 countries</b>           | <b>14 countries</b>   | <b>8 countries</b>                              |                        |