

REPORT ON 2023 FAI FREE FLIGHT WORLD CUP

by Ian Kaynes F1 World Cup Coordinator December 2023

The 2023 Free Flight World Cup was completed prematurely in December with the final two events in Israel not taking place.

Per Findahl won F1A, his third victory in the last four World Cups. He was followed by Allard van Wallene of the Netherlands with two wins and a second place in one of the well supported events in France just before the World Championships. Dusan Fric from Czech Republic was third with two wins and a third place.

The winner of F1A-Junior was Imre Moric Csikar (HUN) followed 16 points behind by Tomasz Jeziorny (POL). Both of them had three wins in F1A Junior and the bonus points from these gave Tomasz a small lead, but both has also won one event in the F1A overall classification and the bonus points from these scores gave the World Cup to Imre. Third place went to Geva Malizki of Israel with four wins in F1A Junior events.

All the top three in F1B had won at least four events and the places were determined by bonus points. Stefan Stefanchuk (Ukraine) retained the F1B World Cup followed 32 points behind by Bruce Hao (Australia) and Adam Krawiec (Poland) seven points below. This is the third successive World Cup for Adam reaching the podium.

There was a similar situation of the top three in F1B Junior all having four wins. The victory went to Oleksii Kosylo (Ukraine) followed by last year's winner Ittai Kohavia (USA), and Lara Maria Horak (Germany).

There was another victory for Ukraine with Viacheslav Aleksandrov winning the F1C World Cup 46 points ahead of Yuan Gao of China with a large gap of 134 points to Claus-Peter Wachtler (Germany).

Since F1P Junior was uncoupled from the mixed flying which had been allowed in F1C the participation has dropped dramatically and it will be withdrawn from the World Cup next year following the agreement of the 2023 Plenary meeting. The last winner of F1P Junior is the winner of the F1B Junior World Cup, that is Oleksii Kosylo from Ukraine.. He was followed by Eduard Bouleanu of Romanian and Szonja Bauer from Hungary.

In F1Q top place goes to Franco Gradi of Italy, stepping up from his second places in 2021 and 2022. He was followed by Stancho Dobrev (Bulgaria) and Varadine Fodor Imola (Hungary).

F1Q Junior World Cup winner was Csaba Buzas Andras (Hungary) who had been second last year. The 2023 second place goes to fellow Hungarian Lorent Buzas one point behind the winner, and third place to Ganzorig Bilegt from Mongolia.

Jean-Luc Drapeau (France) was a clear winner of the F1E World Cup. Second place JacekZurowski (Poland)was 5 points ahead of third place Alexander Winker (Lats year's winner).

Mihnea Proanel (Romania) retained the F1E Junior World Cup that he had won last year. Second place went to Piotr Bryja of Poland and third was Eduard Bouleanu of Romania.

2023 was the inaugural year for F1D World Cup. There were only two competitions this year and the winner was Corneliu Mangalea (Romania) who was the only person to score points in both competitions. He was followed by Brett Sanborn (USA) and Ivan Treger (Slovakia), the winners of the contest in USA and Romania respectively with more competitors in the USA generating more bonus points. In F1D Junior it was a straight comparison between the winners and in this case Eduard Bouleanu (Romania) beat Guha Ekambaram (USA) on account of there being more juniors at the Romanian event than the one in USA.

ORGANISATION

The top three places in each event have been displayed on the FAI web site and updated frequently throughout the year at the address:

<https://www.fai.org/world-cups/f1-free-flight>

The detailed results have been uploaded to the coordinator's web site and there are links to this from the FAI web page for both the results of each class or the overall summary.

During the year three competitions were cancelled due to problems with the availability of flying fields, events in Ukraine were postponed for another year and the final two events in Israel were not held because of the situation in Israel during December.

STATISTICS

There have been 54 competitions in F1A F1B F1C F1P F1Q, 21 in F1E and 2 in F1D, with a total 4077 entries in these competitions.

Number of competitors per country, those scoring points in 1 or more events

The “All” column is the number of individual people over all classes and this includes reductions for people who have flown in more than one class.

A	A Junior	B	B Junior	C	P Junior	Q	Q Junior	E	E Junior	D	D Junior	All classes
GER 25	BIH 6	USA 19	FRA 6	USA 7	HUN 1	GER 9	POL 4	ROU 21	ROU 13	ROU 6	ROU 3	GER 62
CZE 19	FRA 6	FRA 18	GER 3	GER 6	ROU 1	HUN 8	HUN 2	POL 17	POL 6	USA 4	USA 2	FRA 56
FRA 19	GER 6	ISR 12	ISR 3	HUN 5	UKR 1	USA 8	MGL 2	FRA 14	FRA 4	CAN 3		USA 54
HUN 16	HUN 4	GER 11	SVK 3	ISR 5		POL 6		GER 14	BUL 2	GBR 3		POL 43
FIN 14	POL 4	UKR 10	UKR 2	FRA 4		ITA 5		CZE 9	ITA 2	ISR 1		ROU 37
ISR 12	SVK 4	MGL 7	BIH 1	ITA 4		GBR 4		ITA 9	GER 1	SVK 1		CZE 33
POL 11	MKD 3	AUS 5	CZE 1	AUS 3		MGL 4		USA 8	SVK 1			ISR 32
USA 10	BUL 2	CZE 5	EST 1	BUL 3		BUL 2		BUL 3	UKR 1			HUN 29
BIH 9	CZE 2	FIN 5	MGL 1	CRO 3		DEN 2		SVK 2				MGL 23
SLO 9	MGL 2	POL 5	MKD 1	EST 3		ISR 2		UKR 2				ITA 22
NED 8	SLO 2	TUR 5	USA 1	POL 3		CRO 1		AUT 1				FIN 21
TUR 8	EST 1	BIH 4	SRB 1	SRB 3		FIN 1		GBR 1				UKR 19
DEN 7	ISR 1	CAN 4		CAN 2		FRA 1		JPN 1				GBR 17
MGL 7	NED 1	CRO 4		FIN 2		NED 1		SWE 1				BIH 16
MKD 6	SWE 1	GBR 4		GBR 2		POR 1		SUI 1				BUL 14
SVK 6	USA 1	ITA 3		KAZ 2								SVK 13
SUI 6		NED 3		MGL 2								TUR 13
AUT 5		SUI 3		UKR 2								AUS 11
BUL 5		UZB 3		CHN 1								CAN 11
SWE 5		DEN 2		LTU 1								NED 11
UKR 5		EST 2		MKD 1								SRB 11
SRB 5		KAZ 2		NZL 1								CRO 10
ARG 4		LTU 2		SLO 1								SLO 10
CRO 4		NOR 2		UZB 1								DEN 9
GBR 4		SRB 2										MKD 9
ROU 4		ARG 1										EST 8
AUS 3		AUT 1										AUT 7
EST 3		CHN 1										UZB 7
ITA 3		MKD 1										KAZ 6
LTU 3		NZL 1										LTU 6
NZL 3		ROU 1										SWE 6
UZB 3		SVK 1										SUI 6
CAN 2		SWE 1										ARG 5
KAZ 2												NZL 5
LAT 1												NOR 3
NOR 1												CHN 2
POR 1												POR 2
ESP 1												JPN 1
												LAT 1
												ESP 1

Total number of competitors scoring World Cup points

	F1A	F1AJ	F1B	F1BJ	F1C	F1PJ	F1Q	F1QJ	F1E	F1EJ	F1D	F1DJ
Number of competitions	56	43	56	34	48	7	42	13	21	17	2	2
Total entries	1503	273	885	105	272	14	292	30	559	144	37	9
Number of competitors scoring points:												
in 1 event	84	17	55	8	30	1	19	4	42	13	17	5
in 2 events	69	5	36	6	18	0	16	2	22	7	1	0
in 3 events	35	9	18	5	8	1	8	0	12	4	0	0
in 4 events	27	2	13	1	3	0	5	1	7	1	0	0
in 5 events	8	5	4	1	5	0	1	1	8	1	0	0
in 6 events	11	2	9	3	2	1	1	0	5	2	0	0
in 7 events	4	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	1	0	0
in 8 events	9	3	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
in 9 events	2	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
in 10 events	5	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
in 11 events	3	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
in 12 events	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
in 13 events	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
in 14 events	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
in 15 events	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
in 16 events	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	259	46	150	24	67	3	55	8	104	30	18	5

In the report on the 2022 F1 World Cup statistics of that year were compared to 2019, the previous full year of World Cup events. It was found that the 2022 participation had dropped by about 29% of which 13% was estimated to have been from the exclusion of Russia and Belarus. The number of events in each class in 2023 was similar to 2022 but the participation has increased in 2023 by 15%. Thus the reduction compared to 2019 is now 18% of which the major part is the exclusion of Russia and Belarus. It apparently indicates a step towards restoring our activity, but there could be some factors making this over-optimistic. For example, there were three well-attended competitions in France just before the World Championships.

Top 3 in each class

*events marked ** are not eligible for World Cup medals*

F1A

1	Per Findahl	SWE	2498
2	Allard van Wallene	NED	2428
3	Dusan Fric	CZE	2333

F1A-Junior

1	Imre Moric Csikar	HUN	2378
2	Tomasz Jeziorny	POL	2362
3	Geva Malizki	ISR	2320

F1B

1	Stepan Stefanchuk	UKR	2393
2	Bruce Hao	AUS	2361
3	Adam Krawiec	POL	2354

F1B-Junior

1	Oleksii Kosylo	UKR	2314
2	Ittai Kohavi	USA	2309
3	Lara Maria Horak	GER	2305

F1C

1	Viacheslav Aleksandrov	UKR	2356
2	Yuan Gao	CHN	2310
3	Claus-Peter Wachtler	GER	2176

F1P-Junior **

1	Oleksii Kosylo	UKR	2304
2	Eduard Bouleanu	ROU	1177
3	Szonja Bauer	HUN	575

F1Q

1	Franco Gradi	ITA	2366
2	Stanco Dobrev	BUL	2302
3	Varadine Fodor Imola	HUN	2251

F1Q-Junior

1	Csaba Buzas Andras	HUN	2304
2	Lorant Buzas	HUN	2303
3	Ganzorig Bilegt	MGL	1150

F1E

1	Jean-Luc Drapeau	FRA	2271
2	Jacek Zurowski	POL	2147
3	Alexander Winker	GER	2142

F1E-Junior

1	Mihnea Prodanel	ROU	2330
2	Piotr Bryja	POL	2125
3	Eduard Bouleanu	ROU	1864

F1D **

1	Corneliu Mangalea	ROU	883
2	Brett Sanborn	USA	595
3	Ivan Treger	SVK	590

F1D-Junior **

1	Eduard Bouleanu (J)	ROU	579
2	Guha Ekambaram (J)	USA	578
3	Oliver Furjes (J)	ROU	387