

Jury Report

2023 FAI F3B World Championship for Model Gliders

Rodekro, Denmark

23rd to 29th July 2023

The 2023 FAI F3B World Championship for Model Gliders was organised under the leadership of the Kongelig Dansk Aeroklub by the Modelflyvning Danmark (Royal Danish Aero Club and Danish Model Flying Association).

Venue

The competition occurred on the full-size gliding club Sønderjysk Flyveklub airfield, Hellevadvej 28, 6230 Rodekro. The organizer prepared the winches to build up in two directions: one to the west and one to the east.

Participation

The Championship was entered by 40 competitors, including five juniors. The competitors were from 13 countries.

Organisation

Generally, the World Championship was well organised. Contest Director was Mr Regnar Petersen. Mr Erik Dahl Christensen took the duty of the Deputy Contest Director and Starter during the entire competition. Mr Jan Hansen served at winches as Flight Line Manager. As timekeepers, the organiser invited modellers from Denmark and Germany. They received in-service training during the two-day FAI World Cup F3B competition before the championship.

The excellent organisation, but limited by the weather, allowed the completion of six rounds and one additional task (speed) within five days.

Accommodation and catering

Many competitors and helpers have used camping provisions on the airfield. Some participants stayed at Rodekro's hotels.

Breakfast, lunch and dinner were served daily in a tent on the airfield. The meals were delicious and sufficient. Refreshments, soft drinks, and additional meals could be bought at the same counter.

Weather and Flights

The weather varied during the championship. Within the first three days, rain showers were often present. During these days, westerly strong winds blew. Thus, the Contest Director opened only the western winch lane. On Wednesday, heavier rain caused a one-hour break between tasks A4 and B4, and after task B5, the rain showers again didn't allow continue flying. During the first three days, strong wind lead to the damage of at least 12 models.

Fortunately, the wind speed lowered on Thursday and Friday, and the rain stopped. So the CD opened the winch lines in both directions, west and east.

Safety

The organizer declared a safety area at the team managers' meeting. The safety area was announced as marked by fences and other objects on the field. There were no border issues during the competition flight. The organizer declared the entire airport as the landing area, except for the area with hangars, buildings, a campsite and tents. When checking the rules regarding penalties for landing outside the landing area, they were found to need to be clarified (see attachment). But there were no safety problems during the entire World Championship.

Processing and winch checking

For all model gliders entering the championship, the nose radius, the dimensions of the tow hook, and the correct markings were checked. The organiser prepared stickers to identify all exchangeable parts. The official measuring set for checking the winch equipment was available to competitors before the competition. During the competition, the winches were randomly checked by designated officials. All winch-battery resistance of checked winches was found above 23 mOhms, and no penalty was applied for this reason.

The usage of the same model for all three tasks in one round was checked by the timekeepers at task Duration and by the Flight line Manager at the tasks Distance and Speed.

Opening and closing ceremony

The opening ceremony took place in the hangar because of heavy rain. Mr Erik Dahl Christensen and the Deputy Mayor of Rodekro delivered the welcome speeches. On this occasion, Mr Christensen presented the Rookie project. Then the Jury President welcomed all participants, declared the World Championship open, and the FAI anthem was played.

The closing ceremony with awarding of medals and diplomas took place on Saturday forenoon, again in the hangar because of rain. The awarding of medals, diplomas and FAI Trophies followed the FAI Protocol. The Closing Ceremony was finished with the statement of the Jury President, who declared the Championship closed. In the end, the FAI Anthem was played.

The banquet, with excellent food and drinks, took place in a relaxed atmosphere in the afternoon in the hotel Rode Kro at Rodekro.

Protests

There was no protest submitted during the championship.

Contest information

containing information about entering teams and some other information, was displayed on the championship website.

At the first Team Manager Meeting, the basic information about the organisation of the competition was given. The safety area and the landing area were declared.

The current results of the competition flying were transferred on the web "F3X vault". The advantage of putting the result in the F3X vault system is that the results are almost immediately computed and published. The organiser verified the accuracy of the published data by double checking with the "Gliderscore" software and didn't discover any difference. For the future, more convenient usage of the F3X vault system may be recommended by minor modifications in the direction of FAI formatting conventions.

Technical Meeting

There was a Technical Meeting called for Wednesday evening. As the first point, the possibility of organising the next (2025) F3B World Championship in Germany was discussed. Mr Armin HORTZITZ informed the meeting about some first preliminary considerations in this direction.

Three other items were discussed:

- The possibility of allowing flying two tasks before completing the previous round.
- Setting some limits for the dimensions of winch batteries.
- A more detailed description of how to check the usage of batteries on the winch line.

No solution was found during the discussion, and all three items will be referred to the RC Soaring Subcommittee.

Conclusion

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, this was a very successful World Championship carried out in a friendly atmosphere. At the Closing Ceremony, the participants on many occasions expressed, by heavy applause, their satisfaction with the good organisation of this Championship. The organisers and in particular Regnar PETERSEN, Erik Dahl CHRISTENSEN and Jan HANSEN, are to be commended for preparing and running this successful event.

Rodekro July 29, 2023

Tomáš BARTOVSKÝ (CZE)
Jury president

Armin HORTZITZ (GER)
Jury Member

Wout HEIJNE (NED)
Jury Member

Attachment

The place of landing of the model aircraft is mentioned in paragraphs 5.3.1.10.a), 5.3.2.3.b), 5.3.2.4.f) and 5.3.2.5.f).

The paragraph 5.3.1.10.a) requires that “the organiser must clearly mark the boundary between the **landing area** and the safety area assigned for other activities “

The paragraph 5.3.2.3.b) states: “One point will be awarded for each full second from the time the model aircraft is free flying to the time the model aircraft comes to rest on the defined **flying site...**”.

The paragraph 5.3.2.4.f) states: “After having completed the task, the model aircraft must land on the defined **flying site...**”,

The paragraph 5.3.2.5.f) states: “After having completed the task, the model aircraft must land on the defined **flying site...**”,

The term “**landing area**” is mentioned only in defining the boundary with the safety area, nowhere else. The “**flying site**” is not defined anywhere in the Sporting Code. It is unclear whether the landing area is equal to the flying site. In any case, these parts of the rules need amendments.