

2023 FAI DRONE RACING WORLD CUP REPORT

by Bruno DELOR

The FAI Drone Racing World Cup (F9U class) had been introduced in 2016. So, 2023 is the sixth edition considering the 2020 and 2021 years without World Cup due to COVID pandemic.

CALENDAR

There were initially 12 Drone Racing Open International World Cup events (Challenger Series) from 10 different countries published on the FAI Calendar for the year 2023.

The FAI Drone Racing World Cup Silesia Poland planned May 5 to 7 in Chorzow had been cancelled by the organiser on February 20, 2023.

So, 11 events from 9 different countries had been effectively organised.

Note: Considering the decrease of participation and to improve the interest of the Drone Racing World Cup, it had been decided from the 2022 World Cup ranking to consider for each competitor only 3 events of different countries instead 4 before.

| | FAI EVENT ID | LOCATION | COUNTRY | DATES |
|--|--------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| FAI Korea Drone Race World Cup | ID 15907 | Incheon City | Korea (KOR) | May 18 to 20, 2023 |
| Trofeo Centenario Aeronautica Militare | ID 15923 | Pratica di Mare (Roma) | Italy (ITA) | June 17 & 18, 2023 |
| FAI Worldcup Aircrasher | ID 15921 | Aichtal | Germany (GER) | June 24 & 25, 2023 |
| DRP French World Cup FAI | ID 15906 | Charnay-lès-Mâcon | France (FRA) | July 1 & 2, 2023 |
| DX Racing | ID 15972 | Bela Crkva | Serbia (SRB) | July 15 & 16, 2023 |
| FAI World Cup Santiago GP 2023 | ID 16182 | Santiago de Compostella | Spain (ESP) | July 22, 2023 |
| Drone Club Varna Cup | ID 16189 | Varna | Bulgaria (BUL) | July 22 & 23, 2023 |
| Phoenix Drone Racing | ID 15910 | Prilep | North Macedonia (MKD) | July 29 & 30, 2023 |
| FAI Namwon Drone Race World Cup | ID 15908 | Namwon | Korea (KOR) | August 11 to 13, 2023 |
| Drone Racing World Cup Hungary | ID 15909 | Győr | Hungary (HUN) | August 25 to 27, 2023 |
| World Cup Tenerife Drone Sport | ID 16315 | Tenerife | Spain (ESP) | November 4 & 5, 2023 |

Note: A Masters Series had been introduced in 2019. No Masters event had been considered for 2023.

PARTICIPATION

The participation in 2023 increased from last year but had been still significantly lower compared to the two years prior COVID break (2018 and 2019).

| | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2022 | 2023 |
|--|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Number of contests considered for the World Cup ranking | 9 | 16 | 22 | 24 | 8 | 11 |
| Number of organising countries | 7 | 12 | 17 | 19 | 8 | 9 |
| Number of registrations | 327 | 575 | 1004 | 913 | 239 | 397 |
| Average number of participants per contest | 36 | 36 | 46 | 38 | 30 | 36 |
| Number of competitors placed | 229 | 434 | 669 | 566 | 171 | 272 |
| Number of concerned countries | 17 | 37 | 41 | 46 | 22 | 31 |
| Number of juniors (under 18 years) | 18 | 76 | 133 | 149 | 52 | 87 |
| Ratio of juniors | 8% | 18% | 20% | 26% | 30% | 32% |
| Number of concerned countries | 4 | 18 | 23 | 28 | 11 | 15 |
| Number of women | | 6 | 13 | 15 | 5 | 17 |
| Number of concerned countries | | 6 | 9 | 11 | 4 | 8 |
| Number of participants placed in: | | | | | | |
| 9 contests | | | | 1 | | |
| 8 contests | | | | 1 | | |
| 7 contests | | | 1 | 4 | | |
| 6 contests | 1 | | 9 | 5 | | 1 |
| 5 contests | | 7 | 10 | 9 | 1 | 1 |
| 4 contests | 2 | 7 | 12 | 15 | 7 | 6 |
| 3 contests | 11 | 11 | 34 | 50 | 13 | 19 |
| 2 contests | 66 | 113 | 144 | 103 | 17 | 60 |
| 1 contest | 149 | 296 | 459 | 378 | 133 | 185 |
| | 229 | 434 | 669 | 566 | 171 | 272 |

| | Competitors number | Seniors | Juniors | Women |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| AUS Australia | 1 | 1 | | |
| AUT Austria | 1 | 1 | | |
| BEL Belgium | 2 | 2 | | |
| BUL Bulgaria | 20 | 15 | 5 | |
| CHN People's Republic of China | 22 | 2 | 20 | 3 (2 being junior) |
| CZE Czech Republic | 1 | 1 | | |
| CRO Croatia | 3 | 3 | | |
| DEN Denmark | 1 | 1 | | |
| ESP Spain | 18 | 14 | 4 | |
| FRA France | 17 | 12 | 5 | |
| GER Germany | 16 | 11 | 5 | |
| GRE Greece | 2 | 0 | 2 | |
| KKG Hong Kong, China | 5 | 5 | | |
| HUN Hungary | 22 | 19 | 3 | 1 |
| ITA Italy | 21 | 21 | | 3 |
| JPN Japan | 16 | 10 | 6 | 5 (1 being junior) |
| KOR Korea | 49 | 18 | 31 | 2 |
| LAT Latvia | 6 | 5 | 1 | |
| LBA Libya | 2 | 2 | | |
| MKD North Macedonia | 3 | 3 | | |
| NOR Norway | 1 | 1 | | |
| POL Poland | 9 | 8 | 1 | |
| ROU Romania | 1 | 1 | | |
| SIN Singapore | 1 | 1 | | |
| SRB Serbia | 17 | 17 | | 1 |
| SUI Switzerland | 4 | 3 | 1 | |
| SVK Slovakia | 1 | 1 | | |
| THA Thailand | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 (1 being junior) |
| TPE Chinese Taipei | 6 | 6 | | 1 |
| TUR Turkey | 1 | 0 | 1 | |
| USA United States of America | 2 | 1 | 1 | |
| | 272 | 185 | 87 | 17 (4 being junior) |
| 31 countries | | | 15 countries | 8 countries |

CLASSIFICATION

The total World Cup score for each participant is the sum of their three best event results (numbers of points).

For each participant, one event 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 events).

The podium is as follows:

- 1- **Killian ROUSSEAU (France)** - 129 points
- 2- Pawel LASZCZAK (Poland) - 126 points
- 3- Roland RONTO (Hungary) - 99 points.

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

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

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|------------------|---------|------------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|
| 1 | Killian ROUSSEAU | FRA | 129 points | KOR-1 | 2/62 | 44 points | GER | 2/42 | 44 points | ITA | 3/45 | 41 points |
| 2 | Pawel LASZCZAK | POL | 126 points | SRB | 2/51 | 44 points | HUN | 1/34 | 41 points | GER | 3/42 | 41 points |
| 3 | Roland RONTO | HUN | 99 points | SRB | 3/51 | 41 points | HUN | 2/34 | 38 points | KOR-1 | 21/62 | 20 points |
| 4 | Arthur VALTIER | Jun FRA | 98 points | ITA | 6/45 | 35 points | GER | 7/42 | 34 points | FRA | 3/28 | 29 points |
| 5 | Minchan KIM | KOR | 96 points | KOR-2 | 1/66 | 48 points | SRB | 1/51 | 48 points | | | |
| 6 | Jacob CAPROBES | Jun USA | 93 points | KOR-1 | 8/62 | 33 points | ITA | 9/45 | 32 points | GER | 13/42 | 28 points |
| 7 | David SPACEK | CZE | 92 points | SRB | 4/51 | 37 points | ITA | 12/45 | 29 points | HUN | 9/34 | 26 points |
| | Minseo LEE | Jun KOR | 92 points | ITA | 1/45 | 48 points | KOR-2 | 2/66 | 44 points | | | |
| 9 | Márton KÖKUTI | Jun HUN | 79 points | SRB | 9/51 | 32 points | HUN | 6/34 | 29 points | ITA | 23/45 | 18 points |
| 10 | MASALSKIS Jurijs | LAT | 77 points | ITA | 11/45 | 30 points | GER | 12/42 | 29 points | FRA | 11/28 | 18 points |
| | PETERSONS Tomass | LAT | 77 points | ITA | 2/45 | 44 points | GER | 8/42 | 33 points | | | |

The complete results can be downloaded on the FAI website with the following link:

<https://www.fai.org/world-cups/drone-racing-2023>

There are 87 juniors from 15 countries placed in the World Cup ranking which represents 32 % of the total number of competitors. In addition, 4 juniors, all from different countries, are placed in the top 10. The best placed, Arthur VALTIER from France is 4th.

There are 17 women from 8 countries placed in the World Cup ranking. The best one, Gayeon MO from Korea, is placed 16th.

FAI DRONE PERMISSION

The possibility to issue FAI Drone Permission 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 takes into account NAC's formal request to refrain issue of FAI Drone Permissions for their country.

Detailed data about FAI Drone Permissions delivered in 2023 are available on the following table.

FAI Drone Permissions have been issued to 40 persons from 12 countries. Only 30 of them from 10 countries effectively had participated in the World Cup compared.

Note: Half of the persons using a FAI Drone Permission to participate to the World Cup events are from Italy. Based on the difficulty to issue Sporting Licences in acceptable conditions, the General Director from the Aero Club d'Italia requested FAI on August 21, 2022 to remove Italia from the NACs' list for which FAI Drone Permission issue is blocked.

| | | World Cup competitors number | FAI Drone Permission issued (identification based on the nationality) | FAI Drone Permission used for World Cup contest | |
|----------------------------|-----|------------------------------|--|---|------------------------|
| | | | | Number | Competitors percentage |
| Belgium | BEL | 2 | 1 | 1 | 50% |
| Bulgaria | BUL | 20 | 6 | 5 | 25% |
| People's Republic of China | CHN | 22 | 5 | 4 | 18% |
| Croatia | CRO | 3 | 4 | 3 | 100% |
| Egypt | EGY | | 1 | | |
| France | FRA | 17 | 1 <i>Used for the 2023 e-Drone Racing Cup</i> | 0 | 0% |
| Italy | ITA | 21 | 19 | 14 | 67% |
| Singapore | SGP | | 1 | | |
| Slovakia | SVK | 1 | 2 | 1 | 100% |
| Chinese Taipei | TPE | 6 | 1 <i>Residency declared in People's Republic of China</i> | 1 | 17% |
| Turkey | TUR | 1 | 1 <i>Also holder of a FAI Sporting Licence issued for the 2023 WDRC</i> | 1 | 100% |
| Unites States of America | USA | 2 | 1 <i>Residency declared in Croatia</i> | 0 | 0% |
| | | 95 | 43 | 30 | 32% |
| | | 10 countries | 12 countries | | |