

F1 Subcommittee

Report by Ian Kaynes, November 2023

The subcommittee for 2023-24 has 18 members.

Successful outdoor Free Flight World and European Championships have been held in 2023. The F1ABC World Championships and the F1ABP European Junior Championships were held concurrently in France. This extended the duration of the event which was partly compensated by minimising the time allowed for reserve flying, but luckily the weather was good and all events were completed without needing the reserve day. The extended duration acts to offset any savings by combining events and the Subcommittee did not suggest that combination be applied in future.

The use of altimeters as evidence of flight time was exercised in most of the Championship flyoffs. As a result of that experience the subcommittee have drawn up a proposal to require that all altimeters used for this purpose must be EDIC approved. This eliminates the need for the dance of raising and lowering the model for a signature signal on non-EDIC altimeters and confirms the accuracy of the device.

The 2023 F1D Indoor European Championships will be held in December, but lessons learnt in the 2022 World Championships resulted in a number of proposals to streamline or clarify the indoor model processing before or after flights.

Following the views expressed at the 2023 Free Flight Technical Meeting the options of incorporating an electric class in junior championships were discussed. The previous proposal of a straight replacement of F1P was unpopular and the subcommittee agreed that the addition of an electric class would be a sensible approach and the same as has been done by adding F1Q to F1ABC senior events. At the Technical meeting and afterwards views had been advocating both F1S or F1Q. The subcommittee view was that the small F1S models can be difficult to trim and are sometimes inconsistent, whereas F1Q with fully variable surfaces are easier to trim and are now in widespread use. Furthermore F1Q provides a direct path for juniors to continue flying the same models when they become seniors. A proposal was submitted for adding F1Q to the F1ABP Junior Championships.