



Report by the FAI Jury on the FAI World Championships for Space Models, Seniors, and Juniors in Austin, TX, USA, July 2nd to July 7th 2023

Overview: The 2023 World Championships for Space Models were organised by the National Association of Rocketry (NAR) in partnership with the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA). The flying site was in Apache Pass Event Center Airport which was adapted to suit the needs of these Championships. Enough tents were available on the field to protect the participants and the officials from the sun. The competition area was also adapted to the competition rules and this was confirmed by the Jury before the event.



Pre-contest information: Four Bulletins were published and communicated prior to the event. Those documents, including the accompanying forms, were also accessible from the dedicated website which was prepared especially for this event.

Accommodation & Catering: People stayed at the campus of Southwestern University which was located in Georgetown. The organizers provided all the necessary gear to all participants and the accommodation was of good standard. Breakfast and dinner were served every day on the campus (Bishops Lounge). Lunch was served on the field. Snacks and refreshments were also available on the field and plenty of cool water in two large canisters was on the field, to keep all the participants hydrated. University facilities were made available for the event for various occasions which will be described in this report.

Registration and Model Processing: The registration of the competitors and initial model processing happened on the Campus (Robertson Center and Olin Building). Every day there was also a tent for the model registration available on the field during the day, and at Olin Building on the campus during evening hours. The processing went smoothly. Scale Static judging was conducted at the campus (Olin Building) and was well organised. For altitude classes, the ADREL altimeter was used. Issuing and processing of data was managed by the altitude team in a good way, so there were no delays in publishing of the results.



Weather condition: Most of the competition days were sunny and hot except for one day in which we experienced a storm which hopefully, didn't last for long. In general, no delays were reported in the daily schedule because of bad weather conditions.

The event's organisation: The organisers had prepared themselves very well and all the necessary hardware was present, the timekeepers were trained and instructed well, and we had no problems with the timing of flights. The Noosphere scoring system (e-navigator) worked very well and kept updating the scores through the rounds. The prizegiving ceremonies took place three times during the event and they were held in the evening at the campus auditorium according to the FAI protocol and the raising of the winner's flag was done electronically on a large screen and worked very well. The last award ceremony took place at the banquet venue. NAR also presented their medals to the winners.

Standardized common rocket motor box: It is important to include in this report the procedure that was decided to be followed by the organizers for the rocket motors. In previous world or continental championships, each National Team was allowed to use motors from their preferred manufacturer. This of course has an impact on the schedule of the event because the organizer has to take care to test the motors if they are compliant with the rules. In the USA this was not possible to be in place since the legal requirements in the country are only permitting the use of NAR-certified motors which is not the case for most of the motors manufactured outside the USA. For this reason and thanks to cooperation with Estes Rockets and Aerotech the organizer provided a standardized common rocket motor box. With this scheme in place, all the competitors were using the same type of motors which were ordered from them to the organizer before the event. This scheme has benefits for the organizer and the conduct of the event. The SM Sub Committee is expecting to receive a dedicated report from the organizer to evaluate the pros and cons so as to decide if this scheme will be the standard for future championships. It is expected that a similar scheme will be used at the following Continental and World Championships in 2024 and 2025.



Protests: There were 4 protests submitted during the event. In a separate report, there are details about them.

Opening and closing of the Championship: The opening ceremony was conducted inside the University Auditorium. The organizer decided to host the Opening ceremony this way because the weather was rather hot and it wouldn't be so convenient to attend. Even if the ceremony took place inside, the expected parade of the teams and the opening speeches from the organizers and the FAI officials took place as scheduled. The FAI Anthem was played followed by the FAI Flag raising. The Closing ceremony was done at the restaurant which was reserved for this occasion which was followed by the Closing Banquet. During the event, the US Independence Day was celebrated and the organizers took care to offer all participants to watch a baseball game which was followed by a spectacular fireworks show.

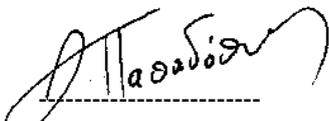


Other Activities: After the conclusion of the static judging for the scale classes, all the participants had the opportunity to walk through the location in the Olin Building where the static judging took place and have a closer view of the space models and admire the models' details and the work done by the competitors.

An informal meeting also took place after the end of the event and the SC Chairman discussed the future plans of the Sub Committee and he also had the opportunity to listen to ideas from the participants.

Conclusion: The organisers were well prepared and did an excellent job with a well-run Championship and should be proud of their work. The number of volunteers has to be mentioned because for such big events, those people are really important and their contribution is very valuable. We, the FAI Jury like to say thank you for a job well done.

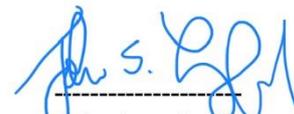




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