

**FAI JURY REPORT ON THE
2023 FAI F1D EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR INDOOR MODEL AIRCRAFT
for seniors and juniors
December 11-14, 2023, Slanic-Prahova (Romania)**

ORGANISING NAC: Romanian Modelling Federation

CONTEST CLASSES / NUMBER OF COMPETITORS / NUMBER OF TEAMS

The FAI European Championships for Free Flight Indoor Model Aircraft 2023 – Class F1D for seniors and juniors, 7 countries (GBR, HUN, ISR, LTU, ROU, SVK, UKR) were entered by the final entry deadline, plus one guest country (South Korea) a total of 15 senior competitors and 7 juniors, including 1 junior female competitor. By the start of the event, two countries resigned because of health reasons. The CIAM Bureau confirmed the Championship status of the event.

EVENT PERSONNEL

Contest director and chief timekeeper: *István Kiss* (ROU). Contest secretary: *Ionut Scarlat* (ROU).

FAI Jury: *András Reé* (HUN) as president, *Ian Kaynes* (GBR), and *Ioana Dumitru* (ROU) as members.

COMMENTS ON THE EVENT

General: The event venue was the salt mine of Slanic-Prahova. Several FAI Cat 1 events took place here, before in the Mihai, since 2015 in the Unirea mine hall: World Championships 1970, 1982, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, 2014, 2016, 2022 and European Championships 1991, 1997, 2015, 2017. The organiser succeeded in running these and the 2023 events by the FAI/CIAM standards with the support of the salt mine, local authorities, and some sponsors. It deserves the appreciation of the participants, particularly in view of the low participation.

Pre-contest information: There were three pre-contest bulletins with all the necessary information.

Accommodation, food, and transportation: Accommodations were offered at Hotel Roberto and Hotel Teju in Slanic and other private pensions. Breakfasts and dinners were served at the hotel restaurant, the lunch was at the flying site in the salt mine. The food and accommodation were good. Transportation to and from the salt mine was by vans provided by the mine through the spiral tunnel in a 10-minute-long ride, as the escalator is still out of service because of safety reasons.

Flying site: The flying site is positioned at an unusual location in the not operating part of the Slanic-Prahova salt mine (200 m under the ground, called Unirea) and is now arranged for tourist visits. A limited part of this mine level was used for the competition. The site was not divided as usual, because of the low participation, the flying area and preparation area were combined, besides the restricted area (forbidden admittance). Tables were provided for the teams along the walls, a separate place for the computerised data processing with a big screen, a separate place for model processing, plus tables and chairs for the jury.

Bottled water was provided at the flying site every day. Clean toilets were available, with warm and cold water, located at about six minutes walking distance.

The competition area was about 33 x 70 m and 56 m high which allowed the flying of up to 7 models at the same time. This area was smaller than usual but was adequate this time. The illumination of this hall is acceptable. Seniors and juniors competed simultaneously without any problem.

Weather: The outer weather conditions are nearly insignificant here. The air temperature in the mine hall was about 12°C, which is about constant throughout the year. The humidity varies with the seasons, Winter is the driest, now it was about 50-60%.

Briefing: One technical meeting was held on the evening of the practice day. The secretary of the Romanian Modelling Federation was running the meeting, The junior helper and steering rules were emphasized to be controlled by the timekeepers and the fast clearing of the flying area after the launches was also pointed out.

Model processing and rubber testing: Model processing was in a fenced corner where an electronic scale and the necessary dimension limits were provided. The model weight measurement happened before the flights, and the rubber weight measurement after the flights. The model processing was also allowed to be done after the flights to use the timekeepers more efficiently and to avoid queues at the beginning of the rounds.

Flying: Two rounds were flown on each of the three contest days with 3 hours of round time and the lunch break in between. Timekeeping was fair and correct using a timekeeper pool, well directed by the chief timekeeper. The pool consisted of 14 persons, local teenagers plus one person provided by a participating team. The contest was well in hands providing an efficient flying procedure.

Data processing: Data processing was running on a computer located in the corner of the combined area. It was equipped with a printer and a large monitor to follow the standings during the contest.

RESULTS & PRIZES

The three best individuals and the three best teams received FAI medals and diplomas in the senior, junior, and junior female classifications. The organizer awarded nice cups to all team members of the best three teams and the best three individuals in all classifications. The senior winner (after 2019 again) was *Ivan Treger (SVK)*, and the best senior team was *Romania*. The best junior competitor was *Eduard Bouleanu (ROU)*, and the best junior team was *Romania*. The only junior female competitor was *Alina Bakhmatska (UKR)*.

The following FAI perpetual trophies were awarded:

- *Challenge Cup* to the best senior competitor: *Ivan Treger (SVK)*
- *HunIndoor Cup* for the best senior team: *Romania*
- *Champion of Europe Cup* to the best junior competitor: *Eduard Bouleanu (ROU)*.
- *Transitional Cup* for the best junior team: *Romania*

It is worth noting that the junior individual trophy is in bad condition, so it needs refurbishment.

COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

A protest was filed (ROU) during the first round regarding the builder of the model (BOM) rule in the case of a Romanian senior team member. The protest was not considered by the FAI Jury as it was late regarding an entry, according to paragraph CGR C.20.3.a). The protest fee was returned.

The Romanian team filed another protest during the second round, again questioning the BOM rule regarding the same Romanian senior competitor, now referring to CGR C.20.3.b). At the request of the contest director, the competitor stated in a signed declaration, that he is the builder of his models. The protest was rejected because of the lack of evidence for the reason for the protest.

CEREMONIES

The opening ceremony was held in the restaurant of Hotel Roberto, it was short and friendly. The prize-giving and closing ceremony was held at the same place and was followed by the closing banquet. Both ceremonies were held according to the standard FAI procedures.

REMARKS

The organizers intended to ensure a pleasant event, but it was disturbed by the mentioned protests.

The jury suggests to the F1 Subcommittee to further review the application of the BOM rule. The Jury also recommend that the 2024 Plenary meeting accept the F1 Subcommittee proposals to revise the F1D timekeeping rule to facilitate the use of a timekeeping pool and the model processing rule to allow the model and motor processing after the flight (F1.3.2).

Andras REE
FAI Jury President

Ian KAYNES
FAI Jury member

Ioana DUMITRU
FAI Jury member