

December 22, 2023

CIAM DRONE SPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

2023 REPORT ACTIVITIES

For the year 2023, the F9 Drone Sport Subcommittee (S/C) was composed of 28 members, including the Chairman, from 27 countries.

Volume F9 Drone Sport

The edition of the Volume F9 Drone Sport effective 1st February 2023 had been published on January 25, 2023.

F9 Drone Sport Technical Meeting (TM)

The F9 Drone Sport Technical Meeting (TM) had been held by zoom on Sunday March 26, 2023 with 31 participants from 19 countries.

Minutes of the meeting had been published on the FAI website on March 29, 2023.

CIAM Drone Sport Subcommittee Working Groups (WG)

3 CIAM Drone Sport Subcommittee (S/C) WGs were in place:

- F9A Drone Soccer WG coordinated by David Roberts (USA).
- F9U Drone Racing WG coordinated by Bruno Delor (S/C Chairman).
- Drone Racing E-Sport WG coordinated by Sotir Lazarkov (BUL).

For each WG, a dedicated Basecamp project was attached to support the exchanges within the WG.

Motivated technical experts other than the S/C members had been invited to participate to the Basecamp projects.

2023 Drone Racing World Cup (F9U class)

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

The FAI Drone Racing World Cup Silesia Poland had been cancelled by the organiser on February 20, 2023.

So, 11 Drone Racing World Cup events from 9 different countries had been effectively organised.

272 competitors from 31 countries had been placed in the 2023 World Cup ranking.

This is better compared to last year, but still significantly lower compared to the two years prior COVID break (2018 and 2019).

Drone Racing World Drone Racing Championship (F9U class)

The WDRC 2023 was hosted by Namwon city, Republic of Korea from October 6 to 9 October, 2023 under KAMA supervision for the organisation. The venue was a multi sports complex named 'Namwon Sports Town'.

The WDRC was the main event as part of the Drone Festa with other drone-related events organized including Drone Conference and Exhibition, Drone Soccer activities, and the 1st FAI e-Drone Racing Cup.

FAI President, Mr. David Monks had been invited and joined the event from the beginning to the end.

The football stadium was the place where the track for Drone Racing was built. The track was impressive and illuminated to fly during night time. Use of on-board programmable LED light units made easier the recognition of each model by using a different colour for each one.

114 competitors from 28 countries, including 40 juniors and 12 women, have competed with 209 participants in total taking into account the team managers, helpers and supporters.

The impressive Opening and Prizegiving-Closing ceremonies organized in the football stadium had been well attended by lot of spectators, and were broadcast on TV and livestreamed on the FAI YouTube channel. For the Opening Ceremony, a spectacular drone light show followed by fireworks, and a wide stage was prepared in front of a giant screen which was also used for displaying images and videos of the championship.

Drone Soccer (F9A class)

A first CIAM Open International event named 'FAI Korea Drone Soccer Open International Cup' had been run for the class Drone Soccer as a WDRC sub event in an indoor arena located 20 minutes by car from the WDRC venue.

This event had been organised in both subclasses F9A-A (drone ball 40 cm) and F9A-B (drone ball 20 cm).

E-drone racing

Drone Racing is very well appropriate to combine real sport and E-sport. An E-drone racing competition consists of races on a virtual circuit with remotely piloted virtual drones all integrated in a simulator connected to a platform.

A first online E-drone racing event named '2023 FAI e-Drone Racing Cup' had been run with the WDRC track design integrated on the multiplayer EreaDrone simulator available on the Steam platform for PC and combined with the EreaDrone event management system developed to support the FAI rules.

70 pilots from 26 countries participated to the event. The final stage with the 32 best pilots had been run during the 2023 WDRC. A place on the venue was equipped to allow the pilots concerned who were present on the venue to fly together. The final stage had been live-streamed on the FAI YouTube channel with commentators.

The event had confirmed the interest to develop this activity which is easy and low cost to participate considering you compete at home, and equipment required are only a game controller (e.g. Xbox) or radio transmitter connected to a Windows computer, and an internet connection.

Communication

The FAI Drone Sport mini-site (<https://www.fai.org/drone-sports>) has been updated as necessary during the year.

Different News had been also published on the FAI website.

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