

# FAI Virtual Gliding Annual Report 2024

## Executive Summary

The year 2024 marked a significant milestone for FAI Virtual Gliding, highlighted by the inaugural **1st FAI Virtual World Gliding Championship (VWGC)**. This landmark event showcased the dedication and skill of virtual pilots worldwide, setting new standards in competitive virtual soaring. Additionally, the release of **Condor 3** revolutionized the virtual gliding experience, offering enhanced realism and engagement for our community.

## Major Events of 2024

### 1. **1st FAI Virtual World Gliding Championship (VWGC)**

- **Qualifiers (February - April 2024):** The championship commenced with six qualifier races across diverse virtual terrains in China, South Africa, Romania, Argentina, India and Canada, in all gliding classes. These races were open to all, attracting a global cohort of virtual pilots: 304 pilots registered for the event.

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/news/1st-fai-virtual-world-gliding-championship-announced>

- **Pro Championship (April - May 2024):** The top 40 performers from the qualifiers advanced to the Pro Championship, engaging in six intense races in Slovenia, Italy, Serbia, Montenegro. Pilots demonstrated exceptional skill and strategy, and the Top 3 qualified to the World Final.

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/news/update-qualified-pilots-to-the-pro-championship>

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/news/race-6-a-historic-finale-in-montenegro>

- **World Final (Scheduled for November 9-10, 2024):** Originally planned to be held in Karlsruhe, Germany, the World Final was supposed to be the first on-site event for virtual gliding. It has been postponed due to the cancellation of the InterGlide event. Efforts are ongoing to reschedule this pinnacle event, ensuring it meets the high expectations of our community. We expect to hold the World Final online, in 2025.

### 2. **Release of Condor 3 (October 29, 2024):**

- The launch of Condor 3 introduced significant advancements in virtual gliding, including:

- **Enhanced Flight Physics:** Providing a more authentic gliding experience.
- **Improved Visuals:** Offering detailed landscapes and dynamic weather effects.
- **Interactive Weather Zones:** Introducing up to five weather zones for varied and challenging flight conditions.
- **Multiplayer/Multicrew:** Two pilots can now share a 2-seater glider over LAN or Internet, with controllable handover and built-in cockpit audio for communication.

The community has embraced these enhancements, noting a more immersive and realistic virtual soaring experience.

<https://www.condorsoaring.com/v3whats-new/>

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/news/condor-3-a-new-horizon-for-virtual-gliding-enthusiasts>

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/news/condor-3-two-months-of-virtual-soaring-evolution>

## FAI Virtual Gliding's Olympic eSport Ambition

In 2024, FAI Virtual Gliding officially submitted a bid to the **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** to be recognized as an **Olympic eSport**. This initiative aims to bring virtual gliding to a broader audience and establish it as a premier competitive discipline in the world of eSports. With its combination of real-world aviation principles, strategic decision-making, and technological advancements, FAI Virtual Gliding presents a unique opportunity for inclusion in future Olympic eSport events. The bid reflects FAI's commitment to innovation and to bridging the gap between traditional air sports and digital competition.

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/news/press-release-virtual-gliding-awaits-olympic-esports-games-decision-with-optimism>

## Global Development and Future Goals

We expect to release the **official competition schedule for 2025** soon. The beginning of 2025 saw several **test events on Condor 3**, aimed at assessing the new simulator's capabilities and refining competition formats. These tests are paving the way for potential **new forms of racing**, thanks to the enhanced features and flexibility provided by Condor 3. As technology evolves, we anticipate further advancements in virtual gliding that could reshape competitive formats and attract a new generation of virtual pilots. The Virtual Sailplane Grand Prix scoring format (with 1000 points for the winner of each competition day, and a position-based scoring) that we created in 2022, is the leading scoring method in the Virtual Gliding World by far, allowing a fair scoring for all. We expect the VSGP Series to be back in 2025, for a third edition.

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/news/thrilling-start-to-the-fai-esports-series-2025>

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/news/a-thrilling-conclusion-races-5-to-8-of-the-fai-esports-series-2025>

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/news/the-loop-challenge-a-thrilling-success>

## Conclusion

The achievements of 2024 have reinforced FAI Virtual Gliding's leadership in e-airports. Significant efforts are underway to welcome newcomers and grow the competitive field for future events. Looking ahead, we remain committed to expanding our global community, refining the virtual soaring experience, and pursuing Olympic recognition in eSports.

<https://www.virtualgliding.fai.org/join-us>

**Antoine Havet**

## PRO CHAMPIONSHIP - OVERALL RESULTS

	Pilot	Score	Pilot	Score	
1	MAY Marcin May	4479	21	W22 Jim Acketkoft	1661
2	DC1 Davis Chappins	3773	22	HLE Hubert de-Lentaigne	1650
3	O9 Frank Schwerdtfeger	3741	23	AM Arne-Martin Guettler	1640
4	JJJ Jeroen Jennen	3377	24	RPB Richard Badham	1632
5	UWE Uwe Melzer	3344	25	CK Chris Kiehn	1469
6	TKM Tim Madsen	3234	26	A33 Artur Dziuk	1466
7	KMI Mihaly Knausz	3217	27	SOI Francois Seijffert	1447
8	RED David Redman	3173	28	PLT Philippe Lata	1357
9	93 Felix Neuburger	3087	29	GJB John Blyth	1229
10	BF Ben Fest	3033	30	BY3 Iann Benesovsky	1085
11	VZ6 Zoltan Varga	3007	31	1JG John Foster	1009
12	S19 Sean Churchill	2851	32	AL1 Andrii Lohvynchuk	900
13	MX Mikko Nurminen	2786	33	51 Tom Johnston	641
14	HG1 Ryan Wood	2563	34	8K Ronny Lindell	621
15	ZBY Zbyszek Tkocz	2555	35	XA Joshua Arntz	621
16	MDD PATRICK MEDARD	2391	36	2MC marco raaijmakers	583
17	CN Norbert Kiss	2296	37	269 Donat-Pierre LUIGI	172
18	WRW Witold Rozak	1851	38	MYR Tamas Mayer	138
19	LS Sandor Laurinyecz	1830	39	057 Pavan K	120
20	SXS Sander Terpstra	1696	40	F1 Josh Meyers	0