

November 28, 2024

CIAM DRONE SPORT SUBCOMMITTEE

2024 REPORT ACTIVITIES

For the year 2024, the CIAM F9 Drone Sport Subcommittee was composed of 30 persons from 29 countries including the Chairman.

The exchanges within the Subcommittee are done by using Basecamp. Three Basecamp projects are actually in place:

- CIAM F9U Drone Racing WG.
- CIAM Drone Racing E-Sport WG.
- CIAM F9A Drone Soccer WG.

Volume F9 Drone Sport

The edition of the Volume F9 Drone Sport effective 1st January 2024 had been published on December 30, 2023.

F9 Drone Sport Technical Meeting (TM)

The 2024 Drone Sport Technical Meeting (TM) had been held by zoom on Saturday March 16 with 22 participants from 18 countries. Minutes of the meeting, dated March 17, had been published on March 27.

2024 Drone Racing World Cup (F9U class)

14 Drone Racing Open International World Cup events from 13 different countries were registered on the FAI Calendar for the year 2024. Two of them had been finally postponed:

- ASFC F9U World Chongqing (China) planned October 24 to 27, 2024.
- and Riyadh Drone Racing World Cup (Saudi Arabia) planned November 14 to 16, 2024.

So, 12 World Cup events from 11 different countries had been finally organised and taken into account for the 2024 World Cup ranking.

305 competitors were ranked in 2024 which is more than last year but still significantly less compared before COVID break.

The winner, Minjae KIM (Junior) from the Republic of Korea already won the 2022 edition, and Killian ROUSSEAU from France is placed second this year after having already won the 2018 and 2023 editions.

118 juniors in total from 22 countries are ranked in the World Cup ranking which represents 39 % of the total number of competitors. This percentage is still increasing. The winner and the third placed are junior and 6 juniors (4 of them being from Korea) are placed in the top 10.

20 women in total from 11 countries, 9 of them being junior, are ranked in the World Cup ranking. The number of women also increases but still represents a low percentage (7 %) of the total number of competitors. The best placed female is Luisa RIZZO from Italy, 2024 Women World Champion, and who is placed 19th in the World Cup ranking.

The FAI web mini site for the Drone Racing World Cup is accessible by clicking on the following link:
<https://www.fai.org/droneracingworldcup>

Drone Racing World Drone Racing Championship (F9U class)

The WDRC 2024 had been held in Hangzhou, China from October 31 to November 3, 2024.

The organiser was the Aero Sports Federation of China (ASFC) with China National Sports Group (CNSG). The track had been designed and realised by Starmach company and the event had been run with the support of the US company Drone Sports Inc. (DSI).

FAI President, David Monks, joined the event from the beginning to the end.

The venue was the football stadium in the Shangcheng District Sports Center.

The track was 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.

107 competitors from 30 countries, including 45 juniors and 11 females, have competed with 225 participants in total taking into account the team managers, helpers and supporters.

All the competition had been livestreamed in real time on the FAI YouTube channel and on the large screen in the stadium. In addition, the event had been broadcasted on Chinese TV.

The FAI web mini site for the 2024 WDRC is accessible by clicking on the following link: <https://www.fai.org/wdrc>.

World Games 2025

The World Games (TWG) are an international multi-sports event held the year following every Summer Olympic Games. They are administrated by the International World Games Association (IWGA), non-profit organization recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and composed of 39 International Sports Federations including FAI for air sports.

The 12th edition of the World Games, TWG 2025, will take place from Thursday 7th to Sunday 17th August 2025 in Chengdu mega-city, Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China.

The IWGA together with the Chengdu Local Organising Committee decided to include the Drone Racing class in the program for the TWG 2025. Drone Racing will be the only FAI Ambassador.

The Drone Racing event will stand on four days from Wednesday August 13 to Saturday August 16 in the secondary stadium of the Dong'an Lake Sports Park, Longquanyi District, Chengdu.

The format of the event is similar to the World Games 2022 in USA. It will be a mixed men and women event (single classification) based on a 32 athletes quota including, wherever possible, 8 to 10 women.

A CIAM information document had been distributed to all NACs and CIAM Delegates on April 5.

This document includes the rules for the selection of the athletes defined by conforming the TWG Qualification System Principles. The selection lists for men and women based on the results of the 2024 FAI Drone Racing World Cup events and WDRC had been published on November 16.

The FAI web mini site for the 2025 TWG Drone Racing event is accessible by clicking on the following link: <https://www.fai.org/worldgames2025>.

E-Drone Racing

Drone Racing is well adapted to combine real sport and E-sport. An e-drone racing competition consists of races on a virtual circuit with remote pilots flying on a simulator. Rules and skills between real Drone Racing and e-Drone Racing are similar. In that situation, e-Drone Racing may be considered as an eSport and not only eGaming.

A first FAI online e-drone racing event had been run on September 2023 by considering the track designed for the 2023 WDRC track design. The track was implemented in the multiplayer EreaDrone

simulator available on the Steam platform for PC and the event had been held with the event management system developed by EreaDrone to support the FAI rules.

This event, which had been successful with 70 pilots from 26 countries participating, confirmed the interest to develop this activity within FAI.

E-Drone Racing is easy and low cost to participate by considering pilots compete at home and equipment required is only a game controller (e.g. Xbox) or radio transmitter connected to a Windows computer and Internet.

So, it has been decided to launch in 2024 the first FAI e-Drone Racing World Cup based on a series of 5 Open International events run on different circuits. This had been announced in a FAI News published on April 24.

Those events had been held from Mid May to Mid November 2024. The final stage of each event had been livestreamed in real time on the FAI YouTube channel with an English language commentator.

140 pilots from 35 countries participated at least to one event. The winner is Swan VERSMISSSEN (FRA) who already won the event held in 2023.

The FAI web mini site for the FAI e-Drone Racing World Cup is accessible by clicking on the following link: <https://www.fai.org/edroneracingworldcup>.

About Esports, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) unanimously approved at its meeting on July 23 in Paris the creation of the Olympic Esports Games (OEG) with a first edition to be held in 2025 in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

On 24 September, the FAI President David Monks expressed in a letter to the Chair of the Olympic Esports Commission, David Lappartient, the FAI interest to actively participate to the 2025 OEG with E-Drone Racing and Virtual Gliding. Based on the OEG general framework document received from IOC on October 8, FAI submitted on November 4 proposals for inclusion of FAI E-Drone Racing and FAI virtual Gliding. IOC position is expected in December.

The last competition of the 2024 FAI e-Drone Racing World Cup had been done in cooperation with the Saudi Federation for Cybersecurity, Programming and Drones with a circuit designed in AIUla's beloved Elephant Roc environment which is a must-see spot in Saudi Arabia. The competition had been run just before the 118th FAI General Conference Opening Ceremony, hosted by the Saudi Aviation Club in Riyadh with the EreaDrone team and the commentator present in order to present to the FAI delegates what is an e-Drone Racing event.

Drone Soccer (F9A class)

Four Open International Drone Soccer events had been registered for 2024:

- German Drone Ball Cup in Hannover, Germany on February 2 to 4.
- FAI F9A Drone Soccer USA Open International Cup in Alexandria, Virginia, USA on April 26 to 28.
- FAI Korea Drone Soccer Open International in Seoul city, Korea on June 1 and 2.
- FAI Hong Kong International Drone Soccer Competition in Hong Kong, China on December 21 and 22.

CIAM Bureau approved the principle of first FAI World Drone Soccer Championships (WDSC) to be held on 2025 in both F9A subclasses (drone ball diameter 20 cm and 40 cm). The Invitation to Bid document had been distributed to all NACs and CIAM Delegates on October 22 with a deadline to bid fixed on December 1.

The FAI web mini site for Drone Soccer is accessible by clicking on the following link: <https://www.fai.org/dronesoccerworldcup>.

Communication

The FAI Drone Sports website (<https://www.fai.org/drone-sports>) had been updated as necessary during the year. Different FAI News relative to Drone Sports had been regularly published on the FAI website and social networks.

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