

AEROBATIC PARAGLIDING

Season 2018 – Preliminary report



CAT 2 COMPETITIONS

In 2018 we had 6 cat. 2 events (3 in 2017): 1 in Norway, 2 in Italy, 1 in Switzerland, 1 in Turkey and 1 in France (La Réunion island).

4 cat. 2 events counted for the **Acro World Tour: 49 pilots** (52 in 2017) from **16 nations** (13 in 2017) took part to the **AWT 2018. 6 of them were ladies (4 in 2017).**

All together 25 runs were flown (8 in 2017).

All planned events took place normally and were only marginally affected by meteorological issues.

No accidents, no incidents! :-)

Event	Location	Date	AWT	Solo pilots	Synchro teams	Nations
Vertigo	Voss (NOR)	23-27.06	Yes	30	N/A	10
King of Brenta	San Simeone (ITA)	18-22.07	Yes	31	N/A	13
AcroMax	Trasaghis (ITA)	11-15.08	Yes	24	N/A	13
Sonchaux Acroshow	Villeneuve (SUI)	24-26.08	Yes (Finals)	16	N/A	9
Turkish Championships	Ölüdeniz (TUR)	17-19.10	No	18	N/A	7
Master Acro	La Réunion (FRA)	25-28.10	No	12	N/A	4



2018 AWT FINAL STANDINGS

The title of **winner of the AWT 2018** was assigned to **Horacio Llorens (ESP)**.



SOLO OVERALL

- 1st: Horacio Llorens (ESP)
- 2nd: Theo de Blic (FRA)
- 3rd: Rafael Goberna (BRA)

LADIES

- 1st: Claire Mercuriot (FRA)
- 2nd: Johanna Hamne (NOR)
- 3rd: Anne Schmidinger (AUT)

SYNCHRO

Unfortunately, synchro competitions - the most exciting expression of aerobatic paragliding – had to be frozen due to lack of teams. Nevertheless, synchro demo flights were performed during the breaks of the competitions in the form of show flights.

2018 - FROM APWT TO AWT

The discipline needed a revolution. In 2018 the new **Acro World Tour** concept was introduced, consisting in 3 qualification competition (mix format, standard for the first 2 runs followed by a direct elimination phase in the battle format) plus a final including the 14 best pilots of the season + 2 wild cards (battle format only). The new competition format was very well welcomed by everyone: pilots, spectators, organisers, judges, media...

A video production team followed the AWT Finals which were held during the Sonchoux Acroshow, the most important aerobatic paragliding event of the world, with around 30'000 visitors over the week end. Audiovisual products of different lengths and formats were produced (news cut, web clip, highlight...) and are still being distributed worldwide with a good success.

The 2'30" web clip and the 26' TV highlight can be seen here: www.acroworldtour.com



Despite the increase in Cat 2 competitions in 2017, the future is still unsure. The calendar of the next season is still work in progress and some of the events are not confirmed for 2018. We are working hard to convince old and new organisers, we hope that a new investment in marketing and media production will help this process.

PROPOSAL FOR MODIFICATION OF THE AEROBATIC ANNEX

Since no Cat 1 competition is planned for the next few years, no major modification is needed. A list of minor changes to the technical part of S7B will be presented before the plenary meeting.

JUDGES SEMINARS

Judges seminars were held during 3 AWT stages. No trainee has been promoted as qualified judge in 2018.

Judging an aerobatic competition is a very hard job, and it's always very difficult to scrape together the minimum number of qualified judges required for a competition. We have been training some new judges during the last seasons, but just enough to replace the ones who retired. Judging battles requires even more skills, and this is all the more reason why we now need to radically increase the number of judges with the highest technical capabilities.

→ JUDGE SEMINAR IN MAY 2019, ORGANYÀ (ESP)

In the light of the above, it was convened that the best way to achieve this goal is organising a full immersion seminar dedicated to training, outside of competitions. Théo de Blic (young and very skilled pilot, Champion in 2017) is willing to collaborate by organising such a seminar, which is being planned in May 2019 in the most suitable location, the magic mountain of Organyà. A request of budget is being drawn up.

On behalf of the Aerobatic subcommittee
Claudio Cattaneo – Chairman

