



## 2024 FAI F3F World Championship for Model Gliders Limoux – France 6<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024

### FAI JURY REPORT

This 2024 FAI F3 World Championship for Model Gliders Class F3F was organised under the leadership of the French Aeromodelling Federation (FFAM).

#### Venue

The competition took place in Occitania, in the foothills of the Pyrenees. All the slopes were around Limoux, the farthest slope at 34 km. The cliff near Saint Ferriol (GPS: 42.911039, 2.217105) allowed flying at NW wind, the slopes in the vicinity of Laurac le Grand (GPS: 43.225227, 1.967475) and at Escueillens-et-Saint-Just-de-Bélengard (GPS: 43.114353, 1.999419) were suitable for SE wind. This area has a low probability of sufficiently strong winds from other directions. Both SE slopes were used due to different meteorological conditions (fog).

The slopes and the access farm roads are on private land, so the organisers agreed upon their use for flying and parking during the World Championship with the owners.

#### Participation

Fifty-five competitors from 19 countries entered the Championship; 14 teams were from Europe, three from Asia, one from America and one from Australia. No juniors or female competitors participated.

#### Organisation

The World Championship was well organised. The Head of the organising team was Andreas Fricke, strongly supported by his wife Gracinda DeAlmeida. The organising staff included more than twenty people which were qualified and experienced. The number of officials allowed the smooth running of the competition.

The headquarters of the Championship was in Alet les Bains, in the ruins of a former abbey.

A two-day (on October 5th and 6th) FAI Open International F3F 2024 (World Cup) competition was held before the championship for practicing judges and pilots. The weather allowed to complete only two rounds, which was not sufficient for getting a valid World Cup competition but helped to get experience for the organisers and for competitors too.

#### Weather and Course of the Competition

During the World Championship, the weather changed each day. The average wind speed and the overall course of the rounds are summarized in the following table.

Date	Round	Group	Slope		Wind m/s	Start	End	Comment
07.10.2004	1	All	Escueillens	SE	6	12:10	14:25	Start delayed because of fog
	2	All			5	14:30	16:45	At the end the wind speed decreased
08.10.2004	3	1	Saint Ferriol	NW	6	12:15	13:35	Start delayed for insuffitiend wind

Date	Round	Group	Slope		Wind m/s	Start	End	Comment
09.10.2004	3	2 and 3	Laurac	SE	8	9:26	10:34	
	4	All				10:37	12:09	
	5	All				12:11	13:53	
	6	All				13:55	15:30	Light drizzle for 5 min
	7	All				15:33	17:08	
10.10.2024	8	All	Saint Ferriol	NW	8	9:00	10:37	
	9	All				10:40	12:13	
	10	All				12:14	13:59	
	11	All				14:03	15:50	
	12	All			4	15:52	17:35	
	13	All			12	17:36	19:13	
11.10.2024	The weather forecast predicted low wind from variable directions							
12.10.2024	14	All	Escuiellens	SE	9	9:02	10:31	
	15	All			12	10:32	12:01	
	16	All			9	12:04	13:32	
	17	All				13:33	15:02	

### Accommodation and catering

The competitors found hotels and other lodging possibilities by themselves within the region of Limoux. The organising staff of the Championship stayed and the Jury members were lodged in the hotel L'Évêché at Alet les Bains.

The competitors provided food themselves. The organiser offered free croissants and coffee or tea to the field. The organiser prepared sandwiches, waffles, and soft drinks on the slope for the organising staff's and Jury's lunch. The breakfast and dinner were served at the restaurant L'Évêché.

### Team Managers Meetings

The contest director called the first Team Managers Meeting on the slope Escuiellens on the morning of October 6th during the World Cup competition while the competitors were waiting for wind. At this time, all team managers were present. Some details of the rules were clarified. An important point was the presentation of one local rule: increasing the low wind limit from 3 m/s to 4 m/s (see F3F.17. Weather Conditions and interruptions.) The reason was to avoid landing below the slope edge at low wind conditions because all three competition slope edges are above precipices, and retrieving a model landed on the slope would be dangerous. The Jury approved this modification as a safety matter.

Some short Team Managers Meetings were called between the rounds as needed.

### Publicity

Some articles were published in the local newspapers during the week. The Opening Ceremony was run on the main square of Limoux. Also, there were articles on the FAI web page.

The current results were published every day on the F3X Vault web page.

### Safety

On each slope, the safety line, according to paragraph 5.8.10., was marked by two flags, and a judge guarded the crossing of the safety plane with a sighting device. In some places, the safety line was close to the edge, and a few pilots got a penalty for overflying the safety plane.

By marking tape, the organiser marked safety spaces around every judge's place, the ready box, the area for spectators and the competitor's depot. The landing area was marked partly by tape, and if there were distinct objects like roads, walls, fences, or ditches, the border was defined by such objects.

At Escueillens, where the landing area had to be crossed by competitors to get to the flying course, two officials controlled the traffic and stopped people during the plane's landing. Although some penalties for crossing the safety plane were applied during the competition, there were no serious safety problems.

### **Processing**

The organiser checked the nose radius and correct marking for all model gliders entering the championships. No problems appeared during the processing.

The organiser also checked the models' weight after the flight of some model gliders at the contest site. Mostly there were selected models after making an excellent flight result. All checked models were within limits.

### **Opening and closing ceremony**

The opening ceremony occurred Sunday evening in the main square, Place de la Republique in Limoux. Andreas Fricke, the mayor of Limoux, the sport representative of Occitania region gave opening speeches. Andreas Fricke invited the participating teams individually to the podium and read their names. After this parade, the president of the FAI Jury opened the World Championship on behalf of the FAI. The opening ceremony concluded with the FAI anthem and raising the FAI flag.

The prizegiving ceremony took place in the former Abbey Cathedral of Our Lady of Alet le Bains. This place represented a respectable surrounding for this occasion. At the beginning of the ceremony, the mayor of Alet le Bains gave a speech followed by deputy mayor of Limoux. Then, the FAI medals, diplomas and trophies were handed to the individual and team winners. After a short speech, the CIAM FAI president, Antonis Papadopoulos, closed the Championship, the FAI Anthem was played, and the FAI flag was lowered. After the prizegiving ceremony the organiser offered in the garden of the hotel L'Évêché snacks and drinks.

The banquet was prepared in the hotel L'Évêché. The organiser also held a raffle with small presents from sponsors. The menu was reasonable and sufficient. Water, soft drinks, and wine were available for drinking.

### **International Jury**

The International Jury consisted of Tomas Bartovsky (CZE), president; Antonis Papadopoulos (GRE), member; and Laurent Henry (FRA), member. Reserve Jury member Carlos Aymat (ESP) was also present during the whole Championship.

### **Protests**

One protest was submitted, but this protest was connected to the incident that happened the previous day. After the jury informed the protester that the protest had been submitted late, he withdrew it.

### **Conclusion**

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, this was an excellent World Championship, and the organisers are to be highly commended for its preparation and running.

Limoux October 13, 2024

Tomáš Bartovský  
Jury President

Antonis Papadopoulos  
Jury Member

Laurent Henry  
Jury Member

