



# REPORT BY THE FAI JURY ON THE 20124 FAI F3A European CHAMPIONSHIP FOR AEROBATIC MODEL AIRCRAFT

Grandrieu/Belgium, July 2024

## Overview

The 2024 F3A European Championship was organised and executed by AASH (Association d'Aeromodelisme du Sud Hainaut) under the auspices of the Association d'Aeromodelisme and the Aéro-Club Royal de Belgique, from July 20 to 27, 2024. The AASH flight site afforded a good flying opportunity for 57 competitors from 18 nations and two invited individual competitors from Australia and Iran.

## Pre-contest information

General and specific information was communicated to participants via three Bulletins. All aspects of the championship, lodging, travelling, costs, rules, and procedures were covered. Email contact made correspondence significantly convenient and fast, for organizers, officials, and participants. On the official website informations were published.

## Accommodation and catering

Competitors and supporters/helpers were accommodated mostly in France, within a driving distance of around 30 minutes to the flight site. Participants were offered a good choice of accommodation options. The accommodation in the various hotels was of a normal standard and at acceptable costs.

Jury members and Judges were accommodated in Le Grand Hotel in Maubeuge.

For Jury, Judges, officials and participants a very tasty lunch was offered at the flight site.

Breakfast and dinner for Jury and Judges were at the hotel and of very good quality.



## Practice fields and competition site

There were several official practice sites available to competitors within reasonable driving distances. The practice sites were easy to find from maps and directions issued by the organizer.

The flight site and the manoeuvring area were checked by the FAI Jury. It was correctly marked and the grass runway was of good quality. Ready boxes were available.



For judges and officials and preparation of competitors tents were provided by the organizer.

## Model aircraft processing and official practice



Model aircraft processing took place in a tent. The staff was well informed and run the processing smoothly.

Official practice flights were offered to each competitor before the preliminary rounds started.

Flying was done at the same time as model processing, and there were no weather delays.

## Organisation and execution

The championship was conducted in a friendly way. The contest director and his personnel were always kind and accommodating. Competitors were called in good time to occupy the ready boxes for their flights, and those using electric propulsion devices (majority) had their equipment tested for voltage prior to each flight. The published daily starting order ensured that all competitors were ready for their flights.

Frequency monitoring was not necessary all competitors used the 2,4GHz transmitting equipment according to the rules, no transmitter impound was needed.

For timekeeping an open visible display was available. It was not easy to see the exact timing because of the very low contrast of the display. The organizer did his best to improve the visibility. No time out occurred.

Score tabulation was done by Mr Roland Poidevin and his wife Marie Helene using the Notaumatic system, with raw scores appearing shortly after the conclusion of flights. Scores were published in paper and on a screen in the tent. Live scoring was possible and could be watched by smartphone. The TBL statistical averaging system was used in the scoring software. The standard of flying was exceptionally high, with a diversity of model aircraft, equipment, and flying styles. Continuous random checking during the competition for conformation to the specifications took place, and the top three finalists had their model aircraft re-checked at the conclusion of the event.

## Weather conditions

At the time of the opening ceremony it was sunny and mostly very hot. During the days of competition low clouds did not allow to start the competition. So there were some delays. Flight conditions were mostly good, sometimes it was windy and bumpy. As the weather forecast for the last day was really bad, (rain and low clouds) the reserve day was used in advance for first Semi-Final round. This was communicated to all participants. Final flights on Saturday could not be done as announced from 8:00 in the morning because of low clouds. So only two Final rounds were possible.



## Communication

The contest director was in communication with the flight line officials, and was mostly available at all times to answer queries from team managers, contestants, supporters, and officials.

The flightline director ran the competition in a smooth way and was always in communication with FAI Jury and judges.

## Conduct of jury and judges

No protests were lodged. The jury members were well versed in the Sporting Code requirements and complemented each other in their different fields of expertise and experience. The jury members were always on the field and available to questions and queries at all times.

Ten judges were used in the competition, with two groups of five judges each. Extensive judges' briefings, with visual aids, and several training flights were conducted prior to the start of the preliminary flights of the championship, and again prior to the semi-final.



A post-competition judges' analysis will be generated. The results of the judges' analysis will be distributed to all judges, and recommendations may be made to the CIAM Bureau.

## Award ceremonies, functions, closing banquet

The opening ceremony conducted on the field. The FAI anthem was played, and the FAI flag displayed prominently for the duration of the event.



The awards ceremony took place at the AASH flight site, FAI medals, diplomas and trophies were awarded to the winners.



### Conclusion

It is the opinion of the FAI Jury the 2024 FAI F3A European Championship for Aerobatic Model Aircraft has been a very successful event. The organizers were really friendly and ran a great Continental Championship.



The FAI Jury:

Peter Uhlig  
(Germany, FAI Jury President)

Wolfgang Matt  
(Liechtenstein FAI Jury Member)

Pierre Pignot  
(France, FAI Jury Member)

Photos by Michel Van, published in Daily News.