

## Jury Report

2024 FAI F5B World Championship for Electric Model Gliders

Maricopa, Arizona, USA

10th to 15<sup>th</sup> of November 2024

The 2024 FAI F5B World Championship for Electric Model Gliders was organised by the local club **SouthWest Soaring Society** under the Academy of Model Aeronautics (AMA)

### Venue

The competition took place on **Silent Wings Ranch**, just outside of the town of Maricopa in Arizona, USA, this is a place dedicated to model gliding and owned by a club member, a really nice place for flying gliders.

### Participation

Twenty-three competitors from 8 countries, of which 5 countries had a full team, entered the Championship, a very low number and it was very good of the AMA to really go ahead and run the Championship with this low number of entrants.

One really hopes to get a bid from one of the European Countries for the 2026 World Championship and a larger entry to go with that.

One junior participated in the Championship and who became second best of the four in the Australian team, but no female competitor participated.

### Organisation

The World Championship was well organised. The Head of the organising team was Steve Manganelli strongly supported by his wife Michelle, who served in several positions during the event. The organising staff was sufficient on all posts and the event ran smoothly.

The headquarters of the Championship was at the Harrah's Hotel and Casino in Maricopa city.

A two-day (on 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> of November) FAI Open International F5B 2024 competition was held before the championship for practicing judges and pilots. but also helped to get experience for the organisers and for competitors too.

### Weather and Course of the Competition

During the World Championship, the weather was steady slight wind from varying directions and temperature, cold in the morning, but nice during the day.

The Silent Wings Ranch was dedicated to flying model gliders and as such was set up to be used for a World Championship without any problems and we had no problems during the Championship.

## **The flight Safety**

The organizer declared a safety area at the team managers' meeting. The safety area was announced as marked by ribbons in front of the Shaded area where the tabulations was performed.

## **Processing and battery checking**

For all model gliders entering the championship, the weight of both the model and the batteries were checked before the Flights and further spot checks was done during the rounds, ending up with 70% of the competitors was spot checked during the 8 rounds and all found to be legal.

Correct markings were checked. The organiser had prepared stickers to identify all exchangeable parts, including the competitors name on the stickers.

## **Opening and closing ceremony**

The opening ceremony took place on the field, with the Contest Director giving practical advice and then the Jury President declared the championship open, and the FAI Anthem played, and the FAI flag was raised.

The closing ceremony with awarding of medals and diplomas took place on Friday at the Harrah's hotel followed by the banquet at the same place

Closing Ceremony was finished with the statement of the Jury President, who declared the Championship closed, the FAI Anthem was played, and the FAI flag was removed.

## **Protests**

There was no protest submitted during the Championship.

## **Conclusion**

In the opinion of the FAI Jury, this was a very successful World Championship carried out in a friendly atmosphere. At the Closing Ceremony, the participants on many occasions expressed, their satisfaction with the good organisation of this Championship. The organisers and in particular Steve Manganelli and his wife, are to be commended for preparing and running this successful event. We also like to thank Justin Rizor, the owner of the Silent Wings Ranch for letting the AMA/FAI use his Ranch to do the F5B World Championship.

Narve L. Jensen  
Jury President

Jim Allen  
Jury Member

Sotir Lazarkov  
Jury Remote