



**16th FAI World Advanced and 4th FAI World
Intermediate Aerobatic Championships
12-20 September 2025. LHSM-Hungary**

Contest Director's Report

Tamás Ábrányi (HUN)



Epilogue

The Hungarian Aerobatic Club decided this January to place a bid for organising the 16th FAI WAAC & 4th FAI WIAC. We did so, although the time was short, to not let the year pass without a Category I FAI championship, as it would have further hindered the rather dire international status of the sport.

Organiser's goals

Our clear goal was to offer the best services available to make the event attractive for the contestants and their families. An aerobatic championship shall not only be about managing the requirements of the contest, it needs to be an event with sufficient publicity centered around the pilots. Publicity and audience are keys for any future sponsorships.

The venue

The Western coast of the lake Balaton and Hévíz was a conscious choice as the venue, being one of the most beautiful and best known touristic center of Hungary. The vicinity offers numerous opportunities for recreation and activities.

The only suitable aerodrome in the area is the Category 1 international Hévíz-Balaton Airport. Coordination between the contest flights and the undisturbed operation of the airport implied a significant challenge to the airport management and the organiser.

Further challenge and additional costs arised from building almost all the necessary contest infrastructure (hangars, contest office, team tents) as these were not available on the airport.



Accomodation and food

All participants were accomodated at Hévíz, in the NaturMed Hotel Carbona**** Superior. Our exclusive agreement allowed for the single room accomodation of all FAI post holders without surcharge, which is NOT a mandatory service for the organiser.

The buffet breakfast and dinner was served in the hotel with a variety leaving nothing to ask for. The hotel's spa and thermal departments were available for all participants without restrictions.

Lunch was served at the airport with two main courses to choose from, salad and dessert, at an adequate quality.



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Communications

We paid particular attention to the pre-contest communication, aiming to answer all incoming mails in 1-2 days, which goal we consider achieved.

All important information was posted on the contest website and in social and online media to gather further publicity for the event. Contest communication was managed by well-proven WhatsApp groups.

Contestants

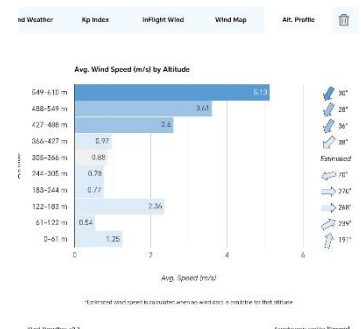
Out of the initial 80+ entries, 70 pilots shown up for the contest itself due to technical problems, injury-inflicting accidents and other work-related reasons. Despite these, 38 contestants of 14 countries flew in Advanced with 7 full three-member teams, while in Intermediate we had 32 contestants from 12 nations, allowing for 5 full teams.

Performance zone, judging positions

All box markers except one – falling on the runway – were well-visibly placed as the rules require. All judging positions (E, W, S) were established and available. According to the prevailing wind, morning flights were judged from the E position and afternoon flights from the W position except for one day, when the cross-box wind necessitated the S position. A special thanks goes out to our Romanian friends who provided us with the box markers free of charge for the contest.

Wind measurement

Wind direction and velocity was measured by a professional and licenced UAV pilot and drone at 300m and 600m QFE. Except for a 2-hour issue with the DJI central server on the first day, measurements went at a suitable pace and precision; the values, along with a graphic wind profile, were saved. Server synchronization problems were circumvented by direct data transfer.



8-12 of September 2025 – Official training days

The number of pilots exceeding the daily training slots necessitated us to develop a slot reservation app, which worked as intended. With that, close to 230 training flights were performed without any incidents, allowing 2-4 flights in the official box for all contestants.

12th of September 2025 – Opening briefing

The opening briefing and drawing of lots for the flight order of Programme 1 was held in the ballroom of NaturMed Hotel Carbona in accordance with the rules.

13th of September 2025 – First contest day and opening ceremony

Advanced category initiated the contest. With regards to the 18:00LT opening ceremony flights were ceased at 16:00, allowing for 17 pilots to complete their first contest flights.

The opening ceremony was held in Zalavár's History Park in the airport's vicinity. For the organiser, this might have been the most touching moment with hundreds of spectators being present. We would like to thank Romain Fhal and the Hawks of Romania for further elevating the ceremony's spirit with their flights.



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14-19th of September – Contest days

Contest days were going routinely. From the first day we aimed to handle 3 planes at a time: one performing in the box, another in the holding area and one ready for take-off to ensure time efficiency and high daily flight numbers. By the coordinated and professional work of Pavol Kavka contest director assistant, the apron managers and LHSM TWR staff we could conclude all training and contest flights without any incidents or accidents.

The weather turned rather unfortunate at the beginning, the cloud base and precipitation allowing only for afternoon flights on the 14th.

Wind velocity on the 15th morning fell close to the official limit, prompting us to measure it in every 30 minutes. An unnoticed 5° change in wind direction at the 0800Z measurement put the crosswind component 0,4kt above limit. The next measurement half an hour later showed decreased tendencies and components within limits. 3 pilots reported their intention to repeat their programs. After investigation and consultation with the Jury we concluded that 4 flights were affected in the time span in question, of which one pilot indicated no intention to repeat their programme, while the remaining 3 decided to fly their Free Known programme again, which the contest management accepted in accordance with the rules.

At the the afternoon the 18th of September the Championships became valid after finishing two programmes both of the categories.

20th of September 2025 – Closing day, airshow, awarding ceremony and gala dinner

Regarding the high number of contestants and two days of insufficient weather, the organisers decided to cancel the Open National Freestyle Cup to focus the time on contest flights. Audience was allowed in from 9AM with various activities besides the spectacles in the air. The classic airshow started at 1PM. A total of about 3.000 visitors were attracted by the event.

The awarding and closing ceremony was held from 6:30PM at the airport, then the gala dinner took place at the Kányavári winery.

16th FAI World Advanced Aerobatic Championships

Individual

1	FRA		Maxime Orth
2	FRA		Paul Chesneau
3	ROU		Mihai-Valentin Caval

Junior

1	FRA		Paul Chesneau
2	FRA		Adrien Picard

Teams

1		France
FRA	M	Maxime Orth
FRA	M	Paul Chesneau
FRA	M	Mario Alberti
2		Romania
ROU	M	Mihai-Valentin Caval
ROU	M	Petre-Florin Glonțaru
ROU	M	George-Florin Rotaru
3		United States
USA	M	Craig Gifford
USA	M	Kyle Collins
USA	F	Brittane Lincol



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4th FAI World Intermediate Aerobatic Championships

Individual

1	ROU		Sebastian-Martin Dan
2	ROU		Andreea Banesaru
3	ROU		Lucian Dragus

Junior

1	ROU		Andreea Banesaru
2	ROU		Eduard-Mihai Despesu
3	ROU		Mircea Olteanu

Teams

1		Romania
ROU	M	Sebastian-Martin Dan
ROU	F	Andreea Banesaru
ROU	M	Lucian Dragus
2		Czech Republic
CZE	M	Jan Sobotka
CZE	M	Tomas Petrman
CZE	M	Ales Ferra
3		Hungary
HUN	M	László Baku
HUN	M	János Sonkoly
HUN	F	Dóra Szilvási



Congratulations for the winners!

NO ONE PROTEST WAS RECEIVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL JURY!

Summary

We trust we could prove that the reasons for the years-long decline of aerobatic contestants in championships lie not primarily in outside factors but in internal issues. We also trust that we could organise a contest which the vast majority of the participants left with satisfaction and a whole lot of good memories, the pinnacles of which were:

- quality services (accommodation, food, other activities),
- publicity and media appearance (FB: >180.000 views)
(<https://www.waac2025.com> ; <https://www.facebook.com/waac2025>)



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- communication,
- innovative ideas (e.g., tree planting, guided hangar tours).



Could we reach all goals planned? Definitely not. We had to suspend the on-site scoring administration process due to the tremendous preparatory work belonging to the present, outdated scoring method. (the contest ate up about 14.000 printed A4 pages).

Despite the rules allowing streaming the official videos since last year, disagreement in its interpretations led us to be unable to broadcast these videos.

We could not accomodate requests from simulator pilots intending to participate in the contest either.

etc-etc-etc....

Acknowledgements

As the Contest Director, I would like to thank

- all contestants for the safe and fair participation,
- Chief Judge Quintin Hawthorne and the whole Board of Judges for the contest's judging and validation,
- warm-up pilots Romain Fhal and László Ferencz for their precise, skilled flights,
- the International Jury for their help and supervision,
especially for my friend **PIK Philippe Küchler, a.k.a. Schatzi** for the lot of assistance not directly belonging to him to keep the show running day by day,

and last, but not least, I'm grateful for and nod my head **to the volunteers** whose work is often overlooked. I will take the opportunity to list everyone selflessly working 14-15 hours a day or working along participating in the contest without complaint for the success of the contest and the future of our sport:



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Háber Vivien, Lipóth Boróka, Papp Nóra, Szép Marianna, Szilvási Dóra, Szűcs Patrícia, Baku László, Bali Csaba, Bárány Balázs, Géczi János, Láng István, Molnár Sándor, Nagy István, Palotás János, Pavol Kavka, Sáli Csaba, Simon Miklós, Szathmáry Lóránd, Sztranyovszki Péter, Tóth Ferenc, Zernovác Ármin, Wattay Ármin!



Thank you guys, a very respectable job! Well done!



Alsonemedi, the 08th of October 2025.

Tamas Abranyi CD