

2017 FAI DRONE RACING WORLD CUP REPORT

by Bruno DELOR

2017 has been the second edition of the FAI Drone Racing World Cup (F3U class) which is effective from 2016.

CALENDAR

16 contests in 12 different countries have been considered for 2017, instead of 9 contests in 7 countries for 2016.

2017 Open Internacional Ciudad de Sevilla	ID 11665	Seville (Spain)	24 - 26 March	ESP-1
2017 Lyon FPV World Cup	ID 11872	Lyon (France)	29 - 30 April	FRA
Drone Festival - Race	ID 11957	Gdynia (Poland)	13 - 14 May	POL
2017 Leiria Drone Race World Cup	ID 11749	Leiria (Portugal)	10 - 11 June	POR-1
2017 Seoul Drone Race World Cup	ID 11908	Seoul (Korea)	10 - 11 June	KOR-1
2017 Kyiv Rotor Cup	ID 11717	Kyiv (Ukraine)	10 - 12 June	UKR-1
Trencin FPV Cup 2017	ID 11952	Trencin (Slovakia)	08-juil	SVK
2017 Setubal Drone Race	ID 11670	Setubal (Portugal)	29 July	POR-2
2nd Mitteldeutscher FPV Race Cup	ID 11852	Bitterfeld (Germany)	19 - 20 August	GER
Royal Adelaide Show FPV World Cup	ID 12245	Adelaide (Australia)	9 - 10 September	AUS
Noosphere Race Cup	ID 12279	Dnipro (Ukraine)	23-24 September	UKR-2
2017 Air Masters World Cup	ID 11919	Spielberg (Austria)	29 September - 1st October	AUT
2017 F3U Bulgaria Cup	ID 11828	Plovdiv (Bulgaria)	30 September - 1 October	BUL
2017 Phoenix World Cup	ID 11757	Prilep (Former Yugoslav Rep. of Macedonia)	14-15 October	MKD
2017 Daegu Drone Race World Cup	ID 11909	Seoul (Korea)	27 - 29 October	KOR-2
2017 World Cup Spain - La Rinconada	ID 11664	Seville (Spain)	10 - 12 November	ESP-2

PARTICIPATION

	2016	2017
Total number of competitors placed	229	434
Number of concerned countries	17	37
Juniors number	18	76
Number of participants placed in:		
6 contests	1	0
5 contests	0	7
4 contests	2	7
3 contests	11	11
2 contests	66	114
1 contest	149	295

	Competitors number	Senior	Junior	Female
AUS Australia	16	12	4	
AUT Austria	16	16		
BEL Belgium	3	2	1	
BLR Belarus	4	4		
BUL Bulgaria	18	12	6	
CHN People's Republic of China	4	1	3	
CRO Croatia	4	4		
CZE Czech Republic	4	1	3	
DEN Denmark	1		1	
ESP Spain	48	46	2	
FRA France	44	39	5	
GBR United Kingdom	3	3		
GER Germany	11	11		1
HKG Hong Kong	2	2		
HUN Hungary	8	6	2	
INA Indonesia	1		1	
ITA Italy	7	7		1
JPN Japan	5	5		
KOR Korea	82	45	37 (1 F)	1
LAT Latvia	3	3		1
LTU Lithuania	1	1		
LUX Luxembourg	2	2		
MKD Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	4	3	1	
NED Netherlands	1	1		
NOR Norway	2	2		
POL Poland	28	25	3	1
POR Portugal	28	27	1	
RUS Russia	3	2	1	
SIN Singapore	2	2		
SLO Slovenia	2	2		
SUI Switzerland	8	7	1	
SVK Slovakia	10	10		
SWE Sweden	1	1		
THA Thailand	2	1	1 (F)	1
TPE Chinese Taipei	7	7		
UKR Ukraine	45	42	3	
USA United States of America	4	4		
37	434	358	76	6

CLASSIFICATION

The total World Cup score for each participant is the sum of their best four contest results (numbers of points). For each participant, one contest result per organising country is considered for the World Cup placing (better number of points for any organising country in which he has scored in two contests).

The 2017 winner is **Dario NEUENSCHWANDER** (Switzerland) with 142 points, followed by Andreas HAHN (Germany) with 134 points and by the junior Thomas GROUT (France) with 120 points.

Three juniors are placed in the top 5 which is impressive.

In the following sheet, are mentioned for the columns corresponding to the results:

- Country abbreviation code of the contest as for example KOR-1 or AUT (see correspondence on the calendar page 1).

- Placing and number of competitors placed; for example, 1/81 means first place with 81 competitors placed.

1	NEUENSCHWANDER Dario	SUI	142 points	AUT	1/34	41 points	UKR-2	2/32	35 points	KOR-2	8/81	33 points	ESP-2	8/54	33 points
2	HAHN Andreas	GER	134 points	FRA	1/66	48 points	UKR-2	1/32	39 points	ESP-2	12/54	29 points	GER	1/15	18 points
3	GROUT Thomas	Jun FRA	120 points	ESP-2	5/54	36 points	POR-1	3/34	35 points	FRA	10/66	31 points	KOR-2	23/81	18 points
4	ZAMORA CABANAS Alejandro	Jun ESP	118 points	POR-2	1/45	48 points	ESP-1	1/29	35 points	BUL	2/20	22 points	FRA	28/66	13 points
5	WIELGOSZ Jan	Jun POL	115 points	ESP-2	1/54	48 points	POL	4/35	32 points	SVK	3/24	24 points	GER	5/15	11 points
6	LOPEZ HERNANDEZ Adrian	ESP	85 points	POR-2	4/45	37 points	ESP-2	10/54	31 points	FRA	24/66	17 points			
7	LESTAVEL Yann	FRA	79 points	POR-2	10/45	31 points	FRA	14/66	27 points	AUS	5/18	14 points	GER	9/15	7 points
8	RHEE Junwhi	Jun KOR	78 points	KOR-2	1/81	48 points	FRA	11/66	30 points						
9	BOSSION Duncan	FRA	76 points	FRA	3/66	41 points	KOR-2	6/81	35 points						
	FERREIRA André	POR	76 points	POR-2	3/45	41 points	ESP-1	5/29	25 points	GER	6/15	10 points			

An Excel file with the complete results can be downloaded on the Drone Racing World Cup on the following webpage of the FAI website: <https://www.fai.org/world-cups/drone-racing>

FAI SPORTING LICENCE & FAI DRONE PERMISSION

In 2016, for the first edition of the World Cup, many competitors participated without getting a FAI Sporting Licence.

In those conditions, FAI has considered the need to accommodate the fast growing of the Drone Racing sport and to help connection to FAI of the Drone Racing community.

So, the FAI Executive Board has decided that FAI will temporarily issue FAI Permissions to individuals who wish to compete in FAI Drone Racing World Cup contests (see FAI letter dated 24 April 2017). The applicant and the respective NAC have automatically received a confirmation of such FAI Drone Permission.

203 FAI Drone Permissions have been delivered to persons from 27 countries.

Only 114 of those persons (23 countries) have participated to FAI Drone Racing World Cup contests. In addition, 8 of them had also a valid FAI Sporting Licence, which means their FAI Drone Permission was not useful. But, in any case, this confirms the interest of this FAI initiative.

More data about FAI Drone Permissions delivered in 2017 are given in Annex of the report.

It could be interesting to contact NAC's of the concerned countries to identify reason(s) why participants use the possibility of a FAI Drone Permission instead to request to their NAC a FAI Sporting Licence.

Recommendations:

- Maintain in 2018 the possibility to deliver FAI Drone Permission considering this initiative has allowed newcomers to be connected with FAI events and that recognition of Drone Racing is still not clear for some NAC's.
- Prevent possibility to deliver a FAI Drone Permission to a person who already get a FAI Sporting Licence (even if this licence is expired) or two FAI Drone Permissions for a same person (one case identified in 2017).
- Mention the nationality of the person on the FAI Drone Permission in order the organiser knows from which country is the competitor.

Remark: The 4 participants to World Cup contests from Croatia had a FAI Sporting Licence with UAV discipline instead of Aeromodelling and Spacemodelling discipline.

LOCAL RULES AND UNUSUAL OCCURRENCES

All contest have been run on option 1, except two run on option 2 (SVK and AUT).

It has not been possible to consider the 2017 Kyiv Rotor Club contest (UKR-1) for the World Cup placing because of a rainstorm during the competition which has damaged the server without finally no possibility to restore the datas.

The 2017 Lyon FPV World Cup (FRA) has been aborted on Sunday due to strong wind conditions. In those conditions, the placing has been done on the qualification stage results.

In some contests, race problems have been encountered with video interferences. Thought needs to be conducted to define technical solution for this relevant issue and minimize the negative consequence for the impacted competitor.

In some contests, local rules have been introduced considering the low number of participants and/or to avoid direct elimination:

- For Trencin FPV Cup 2017 (SVK), the result for the final stage (final and small final) have been considered with 3 flights. For each flight, the winner gets 4 points, the second placed 3 points, the third 2 points and the fourth 1 point. The placing has been done considering for each pilot his sum of points on the 3 flights. In case of tie, the placing on the qualifying stage has been taken in account.
- Regarding the low number of participants (16) at Royal Adelaide Show FPV World Cup (AUS), it has been agreed to replace qualification and elimination stages by three flights for every pilot. A random draw of the races (blind selection from a hat of the pilots for each race done by the officials) has been done in such a way each pilot flies different other pilots in each of its three races.
- For Noosphere Race Cup (UKR) and 2017 Phoenix World Cup (MKD), it has been applied for the elimination stage a principle of double elimination instead of a direct elimination. This system decreases the consequence of a video problem for the impacted competitor giving him a second chance.

Recommendation: Consider within the FPV Racing Subcommittee these local rules for eventual amendments of the F3U class rules.

OTHER COMMENTS

Official results

A template for the official results has been sent prior to the event to each organiser.

Recommendation: In complement of the official placing, request the detailed results in all races for every round.

FAI Jury

For a World Cup Open International event, requirements concerning composition of the FAI Jury are defined in CIAM General Rules Volume paragraph C.7.3. The three members of the FAI Jury must be from at least two different nations. One or two jury members may be nominated from the participants and, in that case, an alternate jury member must also be nominated for each participant jury member to serve on the FAI Jury when considering any protest involving that participant jury member. No problem has been noticed regarding composition of the FAI Juries.

A form for the FAI Jury report has been sent to the organiser before each contest.

No complaint has been noticed in any of the FAI Jury reports.

Identified discrepancies:

- For the 2017 Open Internacional Ciudad de Sevilla (ESP-1), all 3 members of the FAI Jury were from the same country (Spain). For the 2017 Kyiv Rotor Cup (UKR-1), only two members are mentioned for the FAI Jury and both were from the same country (Ukraine).
- Some FAI Jury reports have been sent without the signature of the FAI Jury President.

Recommendation: Complete the FAI Jury form in order to get information concerning presence of public (effort to attract spectators and estimated number) and media coverage.

Drone Racing Judges

According to the rules, each FPV pilot in any race must be accompanied by a judge who is standing next to or behind the FPV pilot. It has been considered that it was not necessary to have a CIAM list of judges for Drone Racing. So, it is the responsibility of the organizer to choose the judges with the appropriate experience, without reference to a CIAM list and requirement of different nationalities. It has been recommended to have dedicated judges rather than to use competitors who are not in the

considered race flying or helping a FPV pilot. No difficulty has been noticed on judges for the different contests.

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Annex - Data on FAI Drone Permission

	World Cup competitors number	FAI Drone Permission delivered	FAI Drone Permission used	Competitors percentage	Remark
AUT	16	7	2	13%	1 of those competitors has also a FAI Sporting licence with the same ID number (Michael PALLINGER)
CHN	4	1	1	25%	
CRO	4	1			
CZE	4	4	4	100%	
DEN	1	1	1	100%	
ESP	48	11	9	19%	
FRA	45	2			
GBR	3	4			
GER	11	14	8	73%	
HKG	2	3	2	100%	
INA	1	1	1	100%	
ITA	7	56	7	100%	6 of those competitors have also a FAI Sporting Licence with the same ID number
JPN	5	5	5	100%	1 of those competitors has also a FAI Sporting licence with a different ID number (Tetsuo ONDA)
KOR	82	23	22	27%	
LAT	3	3	3	100%	
LUT	1	2	1	100%	
MAR		2			
POL	28	5	5	18%	
POR	28	22	20	71%	
SIN	2	1	1	50%	
SLO	2	4	2	100%	
SUI	8	13	5	63%	
SVK	10	5	5	50%	
THA	2	2	1	50%	
TPE	7	5	5	71%	
UKR	45	4	3	7%	
USA	4	2	1	25%	
27		203	114		