



PRESS RELEASE
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China wins the first ever FAI World Drone Soccer Championships in Shanghai

Shanghai, China, 18 November 2025 – **China swept the podium at the inaugural FAI World Drone Soccer Championships, dominating both categories with gold and silver medals, while Korea secured strong third-place finishes in each class.**

Organised by the Aero Sports Federation of China (ASFC) and the Shanghai Science and Technology Sports Management Center, the first world championships in this rapidly growing sport took place at **Shanghai Stadium from 15 to 18 November.**

During three days of high-intensity matches, teams demonstrated precision flying, coordinated strategy, and fast decision-making. Supporters filled the arena, while fans around the world followed the action via **daily livestreams.**

Teams from **18 nations competed** in one or both of the two classes:

- F9A-A: 5 active players (+ 2 substitutes), using larger drones of up to 40 cm diameter
- F9A-B: 3 active players (+ 2 substitutes), using smaller drones of up to 20 cm diameter

A striking feature of this first edition **was the very young age of many competitors**, with numerous players between 10 and 15 years old demonstrating exceptional control, quick thinking, and team coordination. Their performance highlighted the sport's accessibility and fast-growing appeal among younger athletes.

China captured both world titles with commanding performances, securing **gold and silver in F9A-A** and **gold and silver in F9A-B**, confirming its leadership in the sport's early competitive landscape. **Korea** achieved consistent excellence as well, earning **bronze in both categories.**

The top teams received their FAI medals at a vibrant **Closing Ceremony on 18 November.**

President of the FAI Aeromodelling Commission, Antonis Papadopoulos said: *"What a fantastic debut for this sport. The level of skill, teamwork, and sheer excitement we witnessed over these three days was remarkable. **My warmest congratulations to all the teams, and especially to China** for an outstanding performance. We are **deeply grateful to our hosts and organisers** for delivering such a well-run and truly memorable first FAI World Drone Soccer Championships."*

Editor's note

FAI provided coverage of the Championship with regular updates on Facebook and Instagram. Images (free for editorial use, please credit) are available on Flickr.

- [Images](#) (Flickr)
- [Results](#)
- [Livestream replays](#)
- [Competition website](#)
- [More about Drone Soccer: FAI's first head-to-head team sport](#)

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About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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