

FAI Controller Report for the:

26th FAI World Formation Skydiving Championships
15th FAI World Artistic Events Championships
5th FAI World Wingsuit Flying Championships
5th FAI World Speed Skydiving Championships
5 - 11 October 2024
Beaufort USA

The event was organized in an unique location on the east coast Organised by Skydive Chicago and Skydive Paraclete XP and Hosted at Crystal Coast Skydiving in Beaufort

The event was attended by 273 competitors from 23 NACs.

12 Formation Skydiving 4 way open teams
5 Formation Skydiving Female teams
5 Formation Skydiving 8 way teams
4 Vertical Formation
7 Artistic Events Freely teams
44 Speed competitors
38 Wingsuit Flying Performance competitors
5 Wingsuit Flying Acro Teams

In general, the event was well organized and the 3 twin otters were efficiently coordinated and flown, The organizers were holding a test event called MFS at the same time as the FAI sanctioned events which at times was interpreted as the organizers were not giving priority to the FAI competition and in fact on Thursday only MFS competitors were flown when the weather was good at the beginning of the day creating a lot of distress to the competitors.

The weather was very good at the beginning of the event but mid-week a hurricane was approaching and crossed through Florida State. The organizers increased the rhythm and thanks to the FS and AE panel of Judges commitment they were able to finish the Formation Skydiving and Artistic Events by Wednesday the 9th leaving only the Speed and Wingsuit events for the last days of competition. On Thursday the weather deteriorated and only some loads of the non-official MFS event were completed.

There was an incident with the Position Lodging Device (PLD) (called Speed Measuring Device (SMD) in the speed events) used for Wingsuit and Speed events that, as up to this day, for unknown reasons were not connecting to sufficient satellites and thus causing some rejets. This led the organizers to interrupt the WS and SP events and initiated actions with the FAI and ISC to cover the cost of the rejets. Details will be given during the plenary.

FINANCES:

Payments of the Deposit and the Sanction Fees were delayed and were insufficient for unknown reasons. The payment deadlines must be sooner to avoid this situation in the future

JUDGING EQUIPMENT AND JUDGING PANNELS

The Judging panel for all the disciplines were conveniently located in a hangar in a very well distributed temporary infrastructure. The Intime scoring system functioned perfectly and the presence of Claire

King was much appreciated. The SP and WS Scoring Technical Director- Gary Taylor helped and assisted the judges when needed suggesting ideas and giving solutions and valuable input. The judging panels for all the disciplines worked extraordinary well, some days until very late at night and helping the other discipline panels when needed in any way possible. The judges were in a nearby hotel and rental vehicles were provided. Lunch at the Drop Zone was the same as for the competitors which was provided in take away plastic boxes. The Chief judges, Pekka Salmela, Silvia Wagner, Mike Pennock and Arnold Hohenegger were given credit cards to pay for the dinners excluding drinks.

VENUE SITE:

Venue site with team tents and vendor stands formed the competitor's village which created a nice atmosphere. Creeping tent was in the middle and professional packers were available. The packing area for the delegations was in their own tent on the grass.

NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The organizers did not have a loud speaker system for calling the jumpers but preferred to use a WhatsApp. This proved to be inappropriate and forced the Competitors to be constantly checking their mobile devices for the calls. Furthermore, the same WhatsApp group was used for calling the jumpers and any other notification from the organizers, so it made it very complicated to see the calls. Fortunately, there were no protest about the notification system although there were many complaints.

JURY

The Jury had many records to process and with the aid of the remote Juror they were all processed before the end of the event. The Jury had to deal with a protest of a WS competitor whose Wingsuit was not accepted by the Judges Panel. There was also a request to waive WS CR 4.2

OPENING AND CLOSING CEREMONIES

The opening ceremony was organized in an old military fort and was a nice venue, the ceremony and the competitors' briefings were rushed due to the closing time of the fort. The location was very nice but inappropriate for the Competitors briefing.

The closing ceremony was in a very nice conference center and included a very good dinner. Medals and trophies were awarded to the winners but as usual the ceremony was long.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

During the event, daily reports were sent to the FAI Communication Department and they posted news articles with Pictures and videos from the event in all of the FAI social media. The FAI fielded a professional photographer to cover the event, the organizers photographer also shared his work with the FAI and all can be seen in the FAI social media network.

Alberto Martin Paracuellos
FAI Controller