

FAI Controller Report for the:
10th FAI World Canopy Piloting Championships and the
4th FAI World Canopy Piloting Freestyle Championships

Held from the 25th to the 29th September 2024

Jasper Williams 05.10.2024

Dear Madams and Sirs

Finances:

All official finances and fees were paid timeously, although there was initially some confusion regarding the € and CHF exchange rates, and a solution was found with the FAI.

We have at the end of the competition a net Zero balance- no one owes anyone any outstanding monies.

Therefore, the FAI may pay the deposit back to the Organizer.

Travelling:

As far as I'm aware, all judges, jury and officials have had no problems with their travel arrangements.

Dropzone Preparedness:

Unfortunately, due to the bad weather situation onsite in the week before the OPP, some aspects of course setup could only be made during the OPP, and not before, which would normally be the case.

This led to longer than wished for delays changing and validating the individual courses during the OPP.

During the OPP, Competitors were offered training on the course in all disciplines, but due to wind during the Freestyle training period, Competitors elected not to jump.

Opening ceremony:

The opening ceremony was a success and the competitions were declared open.

Operations:

As you may have heard, the championships had relatively bad weather over the Competition period. Still, all rounds of the competitions were fully completed.

Decisions made by the Meet Director and Organizer ensured that the weather windows were used optimally.

We were able to jump early morning every day, and on a few days were able to go past 12:00. Generally though, the wind stopped jumping between 10:00 and 12:00

49 Competitors started the Classic events, 45 Competitors completed, 9 rejudges were done for various reasons. 408 Competition jumps were made.

35 Competitors started Freestyle, and 34 Competitors completed, 4 rejudges were done. 151 Competition jumps were made.

Injuries and Accidents and Safety:

The well-organized Ambulance service and paramedics were onsite before and during all official jumping. IMO, their professional attitude and timeous actions were correct and are to be applauded.

Skydive Pretoria is a high altitude Dropzone (4095ft, 1240m) and the conditions were made more challenging due to cool/cold nights, a warm/hot day and a Density Altitude that changed throughout the day.

8 yellow cards were given to competitors for dangerous approaches and unsafe flying.

We had 3 injuries during the classic events and 1 during the Freestyle event.

One competitor unfortunately succumbed to his injuries and was declared dead on site.

2 injuries in accuracy were 'caused' by the competitor 'popping up' and landing nearly vertically.

1 competitor has a foot injury, which after analysis at the hospital, elected to have this treated back home.

The other competitor landed hard with the reserve tray 'shelf' causing injury to his lower back. He was treated in hospital.

The competitor that succumbed to injuries onsite had impacted the edge of the pond on his approach. It is not known if he regained consciousness before he died.

The competitor in Freestyle had initiated a 'Blind Man' maneuver, lifted off the water and was flying backwards with a canopy that was not in level flight, which unfortunately whipped him hard at the ground as it dived. He has injuries to pelvis and back and foot.

All legal and organizational procedures were followed correctly by the Dropzone and Organizer.

Jury:

The Jury was proactively involved in advising and preemptively clearing up some issues onsite, as well as dealing with some rule questions and deliberations -It was a pleasure working with them.

Competitors Meeting:

A Competitors Meeting was held before the Closing ceremony, notes were taken and issues will be discussed in the CP Committee meetings to come.

Closing Ceremony and Prize giving:

The Closing Ceremony followed the FAI guidelines, was streamed live and went down well, followed by a buffet meal.

Jasper Williams