

## Report of the Chief Judge



Philippe K  chler, pik

14th WORLD ADVANCED GLIDER AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024 &

26th WORLD GLIDER AEROBATIC CHAMPIONSHIPS 2024

Oschatz, Germany, EDOQ

31.7.2024 – 10.8.2024

### Overview

21 pilots (16 in 2023) from 7 countries (6 in 2023) competing in Unlimited and 35 pilots (34 in 2023) from 11 countries (10 in 2023) competing in Advanced. 1 competitor flying as H/C in Unlimited and Advanced each this year.

Oschatz is located about 30 km E of Leipzig and about 40 km NW of Dresden.

3 types of aircraft could be seen flying: Swift S-1, MDM-1 Fox and SZD 59 Acro. It's again worth to mention that there was again a MDM-1 Fox competing in Unlimited in an otherwise full field of Swift S-1.

HMD was not used, despite efforts to make it available.

Website: <https://wgac2024.de>

Organizer: Fliegerclub Oschatz e.V., Head of local organizing committee: Roland MARSCH



Main hangar at Oschatz airfield

## Official Staffing

The board of judges consisted of:

- |                      |     |
|----------------------|-----|
| • ANDRAGHETTI, Luca  | ITA |
| • BIALEK, Maciej     | POL |
| • CUNNINGHAM, Andrew | GBR |
| • HAU, Steff         | GER |
| • LOUVEL, Remy       | FRA |
| • SUPRUNENKO, Galyna | UKR |
| • VALIVONIS, Juozas  | LTU |

Contest Director:

- |                       |     |
|-----------------------|-----|
| • VON LARCHER, Thomas | GER |
|-----------------------|-----|

Scoring Office:

- |                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| • WEISS, Stefan | GER |
|-----------------|-----|

Warm-up Pilots:

- |                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| • SCHAAL, Eugen | GER |
| • TEMPEL, David | GER |

## Overall Winners

**Advanced (WAGAC):**

**Unlimited (WGAC):**

**Individual:**



Lars Hofman  
MDM-1 Fox  
The Netherlands



Maciej Pospieszyński  
Swift S-1  
Poland

**Team:**

Lars HOFMAN, Björn STRAIJER  
and Jelle HEIKAMP  
The Netherlands



Moritz KIRCHBERG, Wolfgang  
SCHIECK and Michael SPITZER  
Germany

**Congratulations to the Champions!****General Overview**

The organization committee around the president of the Fliegerclub Oschatz has fully succeeded to make this World Championships a public event. I think I speak for all officials and pilots when I say that this was from an event point of view the best competition venue since a long time. With an opening ceremony held at the Oschatz town square introducing the teams and their members as true sportsmen and a Closing Ceremony with “Volksfest”-character a very good public interest was generated.

The local gliding club did a fabulous job in letting us feel at home. Be it with the food, be it with the friendliness or be it with the accommodation for the officials. An example an reference for future organizers.

The competition flights were, more than in past years, drawn by hard competition. This has led to several occurrences of, at least, unwanted situations in both classes. The lack of an HMD (Height Measuring Device) being used, did clearly its part for several flights coming low. Sadly the judges did not take enough care to hand out low penalties in several flights, despite being instructed and even demonstrated during warm up flights. In addition there was a take-off abort due to a technical issue on a towing aircraft which led to a rather unfriendly briefing between the contest director and the teams. The way this situation was handled and the talking about possible “lessons to learn” was clearly unsatisfactory for everyone.

The performance of the judge line was not satisfactory for me either. With many low's missed, situations not caught by the majority and even marks given to figures never flown and the already reluctant behavior at video sessions to agree to and confirm visible errors leaves me, as the chief judge, with shame in front of the competitors. I sincerely apologize for this.

On the last day, after the weather had cleared up and many spectators on site, the organizer allowed for a freestyle competition, mainly for the public flown by a handful of pilots. This was another very good element in the whole public relations work done by the organizer. With the pilots stopping their gliders right in front of the spectators line, they really were made feeling like stars. This is how it should be.



Overall the 2024 edition of the WGAC/WAGAC championships will stay in memory with an outstanding performance of the organizer and rather depressed image regarding the sporting part.



Opening ceremony on the town square of Oschatz with hundreds of spectators

## Judges Preparation

The judges and their assistants went through the usual one day preparation session. Due to organizational matters it was slightly shortened. The theoretical part consisted of the very few changes in Section 6 Part 2 of the Sporting Code regarding judging and some repetition of important elements from our book. The practical part took place as usual with flights each of Unlimited and Advanced category.

A thank you goes out to the pilots who participated in this.



The one and only judge line used

## Competition Flights

The Advanced class flew all 6 possible Programmes. In Unlimited Programme 6 was canceled on Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of August, the last competition day, after the warm-up pilot due to very low clouds moving in and ending in nearly overcast cumulus weather.



The flight line, showing all 3 types of gliders flown at WGAC/WGAC

## Judging Analysis

Advanced (WAGAC):

1	HAU, Steff	GER	11.25
2	VALIVONIS, Juozas	LTU	14.07
3	SUPRUNENKO, Galyna	UKR	14.89
4	BIALEK, Maciej	POL	15.49
5	ANDRAGHETTI Luca	ITA	19.99
6	LOUVEL, Rémy	FRA	20.51
7	CUNNINGHAM, Andrew	GBR	35.2

Unlimited (WGAC):

1	HAU, Steff	GER	11.3
2	VALIVONIS, Juozas	LTU	11.8
3	LOUVEL, Rémy	FRA	12.47
4	SUPRUNENKO, Galyna	UKR	13.5
5	BIALEK, Maciej	POL	13.7
6	CUNNINGHAM, Andrew	GBR	14.11
7	ANDRAGHETTI Luca	ITA	21.23

I do not want to comment any further on this, because for me these figures are clearly statistical values only.

Valivonis was judging for the first time on a WGAC/WAGAC judge line. Thanks Juozas for making yourself available! Of course a thank you goes out to all judges and assistants and the local staff supporting the judge line.

## Conclusions

The “high-G issue”: More and more we see in glider aerobatics hard flying accompanied by possible airframe overloads. Our rules do not cover this clearly safety relevant problem. In the past a judge could influence this behavior through the Harmony mark. But this is gone, for good. Nonetheless should we think in CIVA on how to counteract this problem. We only have the aircrafts we have. If one is gone due to an accident related to an airframe overloading, then the whole sport is in danger.

Proposal: Add a downgrade of 5 points (or more) per Figure flown with excessive g-load.

“Judge selection”: This year has clearly shown for me that the selection by a committee based on statistical values from past competitions based on very specific configurations in terms of pilots present, aircrafts used, number of Programmes flown, weather conditions etc. is a dead-end for me. Having to work with judges which do not have enough experience to see a negative flick instead of a positive one or rolling turn going the wrong way or whatever it is, is not satisfactory for a chief judge. Not to speak about low's not given or marks given to figures which have never been flown. The CJ is the leader of the line and stands for good or bad work. Sadly this year was, as it was formulated by a close friend of mine, the worst performance we ever had. I am not ready to continue this way and I have decided not to stand for the position of the Chief Judge anymore.

Proposal: The Chief Judge selects his team based on experience and trust by himself.

“Contest officials”: This year has also shown, that using people in the contest management with no experience on an event like this, especially CIVA worlds, is a risk for failing in a vital sector of our competitions: The back office and the lead of the contest as a manager. CIVA needs to pay much more attention regarding the selection of contest officials. Of course, experience needs to be gained first before it is available. It is my firm belief that the positions of the Scorer and the positions of the Contest Director are key positions for a successful and fair event. From my point of view this can only be achieved by “professionalizing” this key positions. Or in other words: Use people with a record and trust by the community.

Proposal: CIVA moves the Scorer and the Contest Director to official status, elected by plenary

“HMD”: Probably the key element for safety and a fair competition. In gliders the available 1000 m of box height is the available energy. A supervision of this available energy, at least on an international competition or even a World Championship is a must. CIVA needs to find a way on how to boost development in this field. Whether CIVA is going to be the owner of a future system or only the operator or, like it is right now, only the user of it is a completely different discussion. But the importance of support for a future system is non-negligible.

Proposal: Discussion within the bureau on how CIVA is acting in the future regarding the HMD (ownership, service contract, development bounty).

“flick/no-flick”: The current rules regarding no-flick being a HZ is not practicable. To identify whether the glider has flicked in a certain attitude, especially when low speed, is extremely difficult and needs experience regarding the type of glider and the situation where it occurs. To judge this afterwards in a fair manner on a video is nearly impossible and leads regularly to discussions and



“bad air”.

Proposal: A HZ, by definition, can be judged on the video. Therefore we need to remove the HZ. Change the mark to a big downgrade or a even a numerical 0.0 to be applied.

## **Thanks**

Big thank you goes out to the local organizer. They did, under the guidance of Roland Marsch, a wonderful job. Thank you Roland and to all of your team for the efforts taken and time invested. You guys showed us how to do it!

After 15 years of cooperation an era comes to and end. For medical reasons my assistants Schorsch and Marina Doerder will not be available in the future anymore. Schorsch, Marina; thank you so much for all you have done during the past years at CIVA glider aerobatic events. I think I speak for the whole community: Where would we be without you... The heart below goes out to you.



One picture, vicariously, of the drone show after the closing ceremony

“It's all just a matter of perception”

Philippe K  chler, pik  
17.10.2024, Oberegg, Switzerland