

2026 World Aerobatic Championships

Team Canada Report

Team Canada would like to thank the organizers, officials, volunteers, and all those involved in hosting the 2026 World Aerobatic Championships. Overall, the event was very well organized and professionally conducted. We particularly appreciated the hospitality shown by the local community and the hangar owners, who welcomed the competitors and teams with open arms.

The following observations are intended as constructive feedback for consideration at the CIVA Plenary Meeting. Our goal is to identify opportunities to further improve safety, efficiency, and consistency at future championships.

1. Ground Movement and Aircraft Marshalling

Ground vehicle and aircraft movements on the taxiways should be more strictly controlled throughout the contest.

We recommend having designated personnel equipped with golf carts or other small ground-transportation vehicles available to **escort and guide aircraft whenever they are taxiing to the aircraft staging area or after landing**. This would provide a clear visual reference for pilots, reduce unnecessary ground movement, and help prevent conflicts between aircraft and vehicles due to at least 2 close calls involving an aircraft and a vehicle.

A consistent marshalling procedure would also make the movement of aircraft more predictable for everyone operating on the ground.

2. Aircraft Movement in the Vicinity of the Aerobatic Box

Aircraft movement in the vicinity of the aerobatic box while another aircraft is performing should be minimized.

Aircraft taxiing for departure, or returning to the field after landing, may create an unnecessary hazard when an aircraft is actively flying in the box. In the event of an accident or other emergency, additional aircraft operating in the area could potentially become involved despite having no operational requirement to be there. This could also be a distraction to the pilots flying.

Consideration should be given to implementing a more restrictive procedure, such as:

- Aircraft preparing for departure remain on the ramp or at a designated holding position until the active sequence has been completed before taxiing for takeoff.
- Aircraft returning to the airport remain approximately **2–3 NM from the field** until the active sequence has been completed, unless an immediate landing is required.
- Establishing clear radio procedures and designated holding areas for aircraft waiting to enter or depart the airport environment.

This would reduce the number of aircraft moving through the operational area while an aerobatic sequence is in progress and provide a more controlled environment for both pilots and officials.

3. Review of 0.0 Scores

A noticeable number of **0.0 scores** were awarded during the competition without video review, as the existing procedure does not require video evidence for a 0.0.

Team Canada recommends that **0.0 scores receive the same video review consideration as Hard Zeroes**, where appropriate.

Given the significant impact that a 0.0 can have on a competitor's overall result, requiring or strongly encouraging video review would provide an additional level of verification and consistency. This would be particularly valuable where there may be uncertainty regarding whether an element should receive a 0.0 or another score.

We believe that applying a consistent video-review process to significant zero scores would enhance competitor confidence in the judging process and provide useful documentation for resolving potential questions or discrepancies.

4. Overall Assessment

Despite the areas identified above, Team Canada felt that the **2026 World Aerobatic Championships were very well run overall**.

We are extremely thankful to the organizers, judges, officials, volunteers, support staff, and everyone who contributed to making the championship possible. We would also like to specifically recognize the local hangar owners and members of the aviation community who welcomed the teams with open arms and contributed significantly to the positive experience of the event.

Team Canada appreciates the considerable effort required to organize and operate a World Aerobatic Championship and submits these recommendations in the spirit of continued improvement for future CIVA events.

Submitted by:

Team Canada

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