

REPORT OF THE JURY PRESIDENT TO THE FAI

COMPLAINTS AND PROTESTS

NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS: 3 TOTAL NUMBER OF PROTESTS ADMITTED: 3

NUMBER WITHDRAWN: 0 NUMBER UPHeld: 0 NUMBER FAILED: 3

AMOUNT OF PROTEST FEES RETAINED: 200 Euro plus 500 PLN (Zloty) = approx. Euro 310

Proof of transfer to FAI is included.

A signed copy of the Event result is included with this report.

Also included you will find the Jury decisions (reports as transmitted to the Event Director) pertaining to the above protests, and all other documents regarding above protests.

A performance Bond release report has been sent to the CIA president within 8 days of the conclusion of the event. Ref: JHB Appendix G, Jury presidents checklist D.2.5. and Organiser Agreement 14.2 (A2019)

DATE & PLACE: Stockholm Sept 1st, 2023

signed: _____

 
John Grubbstrom, Jury President

General comments:

- **Summary:** this was an excellent Event with 45 competitors from 17 member nations. The Organiser, Grudziadz Balloon Club, should be congratulated. A large number of sponsors supported the Event, including the City, the Region and the National sport department.
- **CIA Protocol:** the CIA protocol for Opening/Closing ceremonies were followed.
- **The invitation process** adhered to the CIA rules which however are complicated and could be simplified. It is necessary to make it clear that the following sentence of the SC01 5.6.4.1 „ A pilot over 27 at the start of the event will only be offered a place at a Junior event if there are no other younger pilots eligible for nomination representing the same NAC who could take the place” applies to the second and third round of the invitation if the NAC declares that no more younger pilot is available. In this way, cases where a NAC nominates pilots over 27 in the first round and younger ones in the second round can be avoided.- There were no no-shows.
- **The General Briefing** was uneventful and followed the published notes. The weather information was excellent with regular pi-ball results posted on WhatsApp.
- **Competition:** Throughout the week the weather conditions were excellent with soft winds. The flying area with 9,000 ft ceiling was around the City of

Grudziadz, situated approximately in the middle between Warsaw and Gdansk (North Poland plain). The competition centre was in a very nice hotel located on a lake beach and in a forest a few km from the City. The briefing room was oblong – rectangular with only three tables per row, meaning the UK and US teams were at the end. Microphones were used but still there were some communication issues during briefings. The morning briefing was preceded by a generous sandwich and coffee/tea buffet. Pilots were given 15 minutes to read the Task data sheet before the Briefing which was daily at 0500 and 1700. First flight was 8 tasks.

There were seven flights and 40 (!) tasks. One task was cancelled on the last day flight. The task setting was very varied and there was only one common launch. The flights were safe and there were no accidents or injuries reported. On several occasions there were land-owner issues and one seems to become a liability case. The social programme was first class with an opening Parade, every evening live music and barbeque on the lake beach, an Awards ceremony in the theatre followed by a buffet and an evening very lively beach party.

-Rules: Although the General Briefing communicated verbally and in writing that one WhatsApp group would be used for “other important information for the flight” and for “target team correction of coordinates” this procedure was not taken completely seriously by all pilots. It seems there were no technical problems sending/receiving the information but rather that it was not possible to constantly monitor the App for information. It should be clarified how the Director can communicate to the pilots at individual launch sites or in flight and we suggest the Rules sub-committee investigates this.

We also suggest the Rules sub-committee considers changing the wording in Rule 12.1.2 to use the word “target” instead of “goal”.

- Complaints and protests: There were three complaints followed by protests. The protest files are scanned and enclosed.

They all were about changes made to the task data via WhatsApp. In one case the target team first moved the target to new coordinates before the launch period because of farmer problems, and then the Director during flight moved the goal upwards to 500 ft (254 ft AGL) into a 3D task, also because of farmer interaction. In another case a Minimum distance double drop was changed into a Gordon Bennett Memorial with the same target and scoring area (one marker instead of two) because of unlikeliness to achieve a result and increasing ground wind speed.

Although these changes were unfortunate the Jury did not feel it significantly changed the opportunities for all to win the task in question, and not specifically against the Rules and in line with General briefing information.

- **Event debrief** was well attended; # of Competitors: 26 - # of Officials: 7 - # of Crew Members: 20 - # of organizers/volunteers: 12

During the event debrief, emphasis was given to a very well organized event and everyone recognized the efforts of the organizing committee, the volunteers, officials and all. The administration and invitation process were smooth and communication with organizers prompt and detailed. The ED was praised for having set a great variety of tasks and each flight was conducted safely, nevertheless there was a big discussion about a few ED decisions in the last flights and the use of WhatsApp as a way of communicating competition information such as task variations etc. (these decisions had originated the three protests that the jury received during the event). Debriefing, scoring, flying area and safety had no issues. Social events were a big part of the organization of the event with live music and food every evening after the flight. Everyone agreed that this was a great plus to the success of the event. Refuelling was safe and fast, and there were no negative comments.

Cost of the event in line with the trend but being a very good event, it was ok. At the end of the debriefing the debate on the matters of the protests continued for a while specially from the USA and UK teams but always within a fair and educated manner. Points will be raised with the relative CIA subcommittees and Working groups.

Jury recommendations:

1. The principles for non-EASA pilots to be permitted to fly EASA balloons should be communicated well in advance. We suggest CIA takes action for such a document to be produced, giving space to include the contact person in organiser's national aviation authority.
2. It is obvious that better care of landowner relations must be secured before such a large Event. Although it seemed relatively easy to find individual launch points there were multiple issues regarding targets and landings. Target field land owner permissions should be secured in advance. Targets were moved because of this and this was communicated by WhatsApp to the pilots, in some cases in flight. They were asked to acknowledge but not all did.
3. **Release of Performance Bond:** the Jury recommends the release of all the Performance Bond.