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2025 FAI DRONE RACING WORLD CUP REPORT

by Bruno DELOR

The FAI Drone Racing World Cup (F9U class) had been introduced in 2016.

2025 is the 8th edition by considering no World Cup had been held in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID pandemic.

CALENDAR

16 Drone Racing Open International World Cup events from 15 different countries were registered on the FAI Calendar for the year 2025.

Four of them had been removed:

- Indoor event named DR-5.0 (Lithuania) scheduled on January 18 and 19 removed on December 18 after being informed that it will be run with Tinywhoop models with rules not respecting the FAI F9U class rules.
- Paris Drone Racing World Cup event (France) scheduled on September 13 and 14 removed on May 26 after being informed by the organiser that the venue was no more available for competition.
- Sichuan Drone Racing World Cup event (People's Republic of China) scheduled on August 7 to 11, announced as being postponed on July 26 and then cancelled on August 10.
- Phoenix Drone Racing event (North Macedonia) scheduled on October 11 and 12 cancelled at the last moment due to a low number of competitors interested to participate.

So, 12 World Cup events from 11 different countries had been effectively considered for the 2025 World Cup ranking.

	FAI EVENT ID	LOCATION	COUNTRY	CODE	DATES
Riyadh Drone Racing World Cup	ID 16704	Riyadh	Saudi Arabia	KSA	January 23 to 25
Drone World Cup Tenerife	ID 17490	Santa Cruz de Tenerife (Esp	Spain	ESP	April 26 & 27
Aircrasher FAI Worldcup	ID 17556	Aichtal	Germany	GER	May 31 & June 1
Korea Drone Racing World Cup	ID 17489	Seoul City	Korea	KOR-1	June 14 & 15
Drone Racing World Cup Hungary	ID 17491	Mogyoród	Hungary	HUN	June 20 to 22
Södertälje World Cup	ID 17327	Sodertalje	Sweden	SWE	June 28 & 29
Trofeo F9U World Cup Italia	ID 17492	Varese	Italy	ITA	July 12 & 13
Drone Club Varna Cup	ID 17493	Varna	Bulgaria	BUL	July 18 to 20
DX Racing Serbia World Cup	ID 17494	Bela Crkva	Serbia	SRB	July 26 & 27
Türkiye Drone Race	ID 17601	Yedikule Fortress, Istanbul	Türkiye	TUR	September 6 & 7
Shanghai Drone Racing World Cup	ID 17557	Shanghai	China (People's Republic)	CHN	September 24 to 27
Seoul Drone Racing World Cup	ID 17928	Seoul City	Korea	KOR-2	September 30 to October 2

Note: A Masters Series had been introduced in 2019. No Masters event had been considered for the year 2024.

PARTICIPATION

443 competitors placed in 2025 which is more than last year but still significantly lower compared before COVID break.

185 juniors placed representing 42 % of the total number of competitors. This percentage continues to increase every year.

41 women placed in the World Cup ranking. The number of women had significantly increased but still represents a low percentage (9 %) of the total number of competitors.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2022	2023	2024	2025
Number of contests considered for the World Cup ranking	9	16	22	24	8	11	12	12
Number of organising countries	7	12	17	19	8	9	11	11
Number of registrations	327	575	1004	913	239	397	554	674
Average number of competitors per contest	36	36	46	38	30	36	46	56
Number of competitors placed	229	434	669	566	171	272	305	443
Number of concerned countries	17	37	41	46	22	31	37	55
Number of juniors (under 18 years)	18	76	133	149	52	87	118	185
Ratio of juniors	*8%*	*18%*	*20%*	*26%*	*30%*	*32%*	*39%*	*42%*
Number of concerned countries	4	18	23	28	11	15	22	28
Number of women	0	6	13	15	5	17	20	41
Ratio of women	*0%*	*1%*	*2%*	*3%*	*3%*	*6%*	*7%*	*9%*
Number of concerned countries	0	6	9	11	4	8	11	12
Number of participants placed in:								
9 contests				1			1	
8 contests				1			1	1
7 contests			1	4			3	
6 contests	1		9	5		1	2	2
5 contests		7	10	9	1	1	8	9
4 contests	2	7	12	15	7	6	13	7
3 contests	11	11	34	50	13	19	31	40
2 contests	66	113	144	103	17	60	73	78
1 contest	149	296	459	378	133	185	173	306
	229	**434**	**669**	**566**	**171**	**272**	**305**	**443**

		Competitors number	Seniors	Juniors	Women
AUS	Australia	3	2	1	
BEL	Belgium	4	2	2	
BRA	Brazil	1	1		
BRN	Bahrain	1	1		
BUL	Bulgaria	12	10	2	
CAN	Canada	4	4		
CHI	Chile	1	1		
CHN	People's Republic of China	94	18	76	24 *(23 being junior)*
COL	Colombia	8	8		
CRO	Croatia	2	2		
CZE	Czechia	3	2	1	
DEN	Denmark	2	1	1	
ESP	Spain	12	11	1	
EST	Estonia	3	1	2	
FIN	Finland	1	0	1	
FRA	France	13	11	2	1
GBR	Great Britain	6	4	2	
GEO	Georgia	2	2		
GER	Germany	22	15	7	
GRE	Greece	1	1		
GUA	Guatemala	1	1		
KKG	Hong Kong, China	2	0	2	
HUN	Hungary	16	14	2	2
INA	Indonesia	2	1	1	
ISR	Israel	3	2	1	
ITA	Italy	17	16	1	1
JOR	Jordan	7	6	1	
JPN	Japan	10	6	4	2
KAZ	Kazakhstan	7	2	5	
KOR	Korea	53	13	40	4 *(3 being junior)*
KSA	Saudi Arabia	6	6		2
KUW	Kuwait	2	2		
LAT	Latvia	9	6	3	
LIE	Liechtenstein	1	1		
LTU	Lithuania	7	7		1
MAS	Malaysia	1	1		
MEX	Mexico	1	1		
MKD	North Macedonia	1	1		
NED	Netherlands	2	2		
NOR	Norway	4	4		
OMA	Oman	4	4		
PHI	Philippines	2	2		
PUR	Puerto Rico	1	1		
POL	Poland	8	8		
QAT	Qatar	1	1		
RSA	South Africa	4	3	1	1
SIN	Singapore	4	4		
SRB	Serbia	11	10	1	1
SUI	Switzerland	5	5		
SWE	Sweden	9	7	2	
THA	Thailand	2	1	1	
TPE	Chinese Taipei	1	1		
TUR	Turkey	38	17	21	1
USA	United States of America	5	5		
VIE	Vietnam	1	0	1	1
		443	**258**	**185**	**41** *(26 being junior)*
	55 countries			***28 countries***	***12 countries***

CLASSIFICATION

The total World Cup score for each participant is the sum of their three best event results (numbers of points).

For each participant, one event result per organising country is considered for the World Cup ranking (better number of points for any organising country in which he has scored in two events).

The podium is as follows:

1- Killian ROUSSEAU (France) - 132 points

2- Yuki HASHIMOTO (Japan) - Junior - 132 points

3- Dimo SHTEREV (Bulgaria) – 131 points

The winner, Killian ROUSSEAU from France already won the 2018 and 2023 editions.

In the following sheet, are mentioned for the columns corresponding to the results:

- Country abbreviation code of the event as for example KSA (see correspondence on the event's list in page 1).
- Placing and number of competitors placed; as an illustration, 2/62 means second place with 62 competitors having flown in the event.

1	ROUSSEAU Killian		FRA	FAI ID 115646	**132 points**	KSA	2/135	**44 points**	GER	2/62	**44 points**	ITA	2/73	**44 points**
2	HASHIMOTO Yuki	**Jun**	JPN	FAI ID 164467	**132 points**	KSA	5/135	**36 points**	GER	1/62	**48 points**	ITA	1/73	**48 points**
3	SHTEREV Dimo		BUL	FAI ID 136621	**123 points**	KSA	7/135	**34 points**	HUN	1/41	**48 points**	SRB	3/54	**41 points**
4	WANG Siqing	**Jun**	FAI (CHN)	FAI ID 174556	**121 points**	SRB	1/54	**48 points**	TUR	4/56	**37 points**	KOR-2	5/59	**36 points**
5	YBANEZ Joaquin		USA	FAI ID 178024	**114 points**	KSA	3/135	**41 points**	SWE	1/36	**36 points**	ITA	4/73	**37 points**
6	BAILLEAU Guillaume	**Jun**	FRA	FAI ID 121762	**111 points**	ITA	3/73	**41 points**	SRB	6/54	**35 points**	TUR	6/56	**35 points**
7	VERSMISSEN Swan		FRA	FAI ID 139709	**107 points**	GER	5/62	**36 points**	HUN	5/41	**36 points**	SWE	2/36	**35 points**
8	YU Jingchun	**Jun**	CHN	FAI ID 176568	**105 points**	HUN	6/41	**35 points**	SWE	3/36	**34 points**	CHN	5/73	**36 points**
9	RONTO Roland		HUN	FAI ID 120779	**104 points**	HUN	3/41	**41 points**	SWE	5/36	**32 points**	SRB	10/54	**31 points**
	LASZCZAK Pawel		POL	FAI ID 118892	**104 points**	KSA	4/135	**37 points**	GER	9/62	**32 points**	ITA	6/73	**35 points**

The complete results can be downloaded on the FAI website with the following link:
https://www.fai.org/world-cups/drone-racing-2025

The second placed is junior and 4 juniors are placed in the top 10.

The best female is Enning YU, junior 9 years old from People's Republic of China. She is placed 39th in the overall World Cup ranking.

FAI DRONE PERMISSION

The possibility to issue FAI Drone Permission had been introduced in 2017 to accommodate the fast-growing sport of Drone Racing and to help the competitors who found difficult or too expensive to obtain a FAI Sporting Licence from their NAC.

From 2019, FAI takes into account formal request from NACs to refrain issue of FAI Drone Permissions for their country. In addition to BLR and RUS for which the NAC is still suspended due to the war in Ukraine, 13 countries are actually on the block list countries: CZE, ESP, GER, HKG, HUN, IND, JPN, KOR, MAS, NOR, SRB, TPE and USA.

FAI Drone Permissions issued in 2025 are detailed in the following table.

		Number of World Cup competitors	FAI Drone Permission issued *(identification based on the residency country)*	FAI Drone Permission used for World Cup contest	
				Number	Competitors percentage
Armenia	ARM		1		
Australia	AUS	3	4	1	*33%*
Belgium	BEL	4	2	1	*25%*
Brazil	BRA	1	1	1	*100%*
Bahrain	BRN	1	1	1	*100%*
Bulgaria	BUL	12	3	3	*25%*
Canada	CHN	4	3	3	*75%*
Chile	CHI	1	2	1	*100%*
People's Republic of China	CHN	94	141	59	*63%*
Colombia	COL	8	3	3	*38%*
Croatia	CRO	2	2	2	*100%*
Estonia	EST	3	3	3	*100%*
Finland	FIN	1	2		
Great Britain	GBR	6	8	5	*83%*
Georgia	GEO	2	2 *Nationality Russian Federation*	2	*100%*
Guatemala	GUA	1	1	1	*100%*
Hong Kong, China	HKG	2	1		
Indonesia	INA	2	4	2	*100%*
Italy	ITA	17	29	14	*82%*
Jordan	JOR	7	7 *1 with nationality Palestine*	7	*100%*
Kazakhstan	KAZ	7	6 *5 with nationality Russian Federation*	4	*57%*
Saudi Arabia	KSA	6	15	5	*83%*
Kuwait	KUW	2	3	2	*100%*
Latvia	LAT	9	7	2	*22%*
Lithuania	LTU	7	4	4	*57%*
Macau, China	MAC		2		
Mexico	MEX	1	5	1	*100%*
Netherlands	NED	2	3	2	*100%*
New Zealand	NZL		2		
Oman	OMA	4	6	4	*100%*
Philippines	PHI	2	1	1	*50%*
Poland	POL	8	1 *Nationality Belarus*	1	*13%*
Puerto Rico	PUR	1	1	1	*100%*
Qatar	QAT	1	2 *1 with Sudan nationality*	1	*100%*
South Africa	RSA	4	3	3	*75%*
Singapore	SGP	4	3	3	*75%*
Slovakia	SVK		2		
Sweden	SWE	9	3	1	*11%*
Türkiye	TUR	38	12	9	*24%*
United States of America	USA	4	1 *Nationality Haiti*		*0%*
		280	**302**	**153**	*55%*
		36 countries	**40 countries**	**33 countries**	

About 300 FAI Drone Permissions had been issued in 2025 but only half of them had been effectively used to participate in a World Cup event. That number is much higher compared to last year for which 61 FAI Drone Permissions were issued with only 25 of them effectively used.

Two events explain this significative increase of the request for FAI Drone Permissions:

- Riyadh Drone Racing World Cup event (January 23 to 25). The precise location in Riyadh and dates for that event which had been postponed from October 2024 to beginning 2025 had been distributed with a short delay before the event. The organiser had done important efforts by entirely inviting the competitors in order to get a maximum of countries participating with new ones especially from the Middle East region. So, 48 countries were represented with at least one competitor.

  Due to those reasons, the easier way for many competitors was the FAI Drone Permission to participate instead to get or renew a FAI Sporting Licence in a so short delay. 135 competitors participated including 56 with a FAI Drone Permission (41 %).

- Shanghai Drone Racing World Cup event (September 24 to 27). It was the first Done Racing World Cup event held in People's Republic of China. The details for that event had been distributed in a short delay before the event. This conducted to a low number of foreign competitors participating.

  73 competitors participated to the event. 66 were from People's Republic of China including 52 juniors and 20 females.

  Most of the Chinese competitors were member of the Drone Racing Association league created by ASFC in 2024 to develop drone racing in China but never competed in a World Cup event before and so were holding a FAI Sporting licence. Due to the short delay before the event to register, 80 % of the Chinese competitors flew with a FAI Drone Permission isued some days before the event.