



RIYADH DRONE RACING WORLD CUP 2025

FAI Riyadh Drone Racing World-Cup

Bulletin

23-25 January 2025



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Event Overview

Riyadh will host the 2025 FAI World Cup, bringing together competitors from across the globe. The event will take place at Boulevard Riyadh City, a central venue equipped to handle international competitions and easily accessible for participants and visitors. The event coincides with Riyadh Season 2024-2025, an annual city-wide festival offering a wide range of cultural entertainment. Participants and visitors can enjoy additional activities and explore what Riyadh Season has to offer throughout the city. For more details in Riyadh Season events, visit the official [Riyadh Season website](#).

Location: Boulevard Riyadh City, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

[Map link to location](#)

Accommodation: Participants will stay at the Hilton Garden Inn Riyadh Financial District from January 22 to 26, 2025.

[View Hotel on Google Maps](#)



Accessibility:

- **International Airport:**

Riyadh's main airport, King Khalid International Airport (RUH) , connects the city with major destinations worldwide offering direct flights.

- **Shuttle Services:**

Complimentary shuttle services will operate from the airport to official hotels for registered (participants and teams. These shuttles are scheduled for January 21th and 22th to assist with easy transfers upon arrival.

- **Taxi and Ride Services:**

Convenient transportation options, such as taxis and ride-hailing apps like Uber and Careem, are widely available in Riyadh. These services can be used for direct travel from the airport to your destination, whether it's a hotel, a venue, or anywhere else within the city.

Average Weather Conditions in Riyadh (January 20–29, 2025):

In January, Riyadh typically experiences mild winter weather, with average temperatures ranging from 11°C to 21°C (52°F to 70°F). Mornings and evenings can feel chilly, while daytime temperatures remain pleasant for outdoor activities. Average wind speeds are around 10 mph (16 kph), making it suitable for events during this period.

Race Venue:

- Race venue will be held indoor in the following venue [Race location](#)

- Distance to from airport to the Venue:

The Boulevard Riyadh City venue is located approximately 35 kilometers (around a 30-minute drive) from King Khalid International Airport.

Rules and Regulations

FAI Sporting Rules

The event will follow the **FAI F9U (Drone Racing)** class rules.

Supporting Documents:

- **FAI Sporting Code Section 4 Aeromodelling Volume F9 Drone Sport 2024 Edition - Effective 1st January 2024**
- **FAI Sporting Code Section 4 Aeromodelling CIAM General Rules Volume**
- **FAI Sporting Code General Section Volume**
- **FAI Code of Ethics**
- **FAI Disciplinary Code**

Junior: Competitors born on or after January 1, 2007, are eligible as junior according to CIAM General Rules.

FAI Sporting License

Each competitor must hold a valid **FAI Sporting License (Aeromodelling discipline)** or **FAI Drone Permission**, registered in the FAI database. Helpers do not require a FAI license or a FAI Drone Permission.

Complaints and Protests

- **Complaints** : Complaints can be raised directly with the Contest Director or relevant officials to resolve issues informally. Each complaint must address a single issue.
- **Protests:** If a complaint cannot be resolved satisfactorily, a formal written protest may be submitted with a **50 CHF (or equivalent)** deposit. Protests should cover only one issue and must be filed within **60 minutes** of the incident.

Note: A **Contest Protest Form** will be available online as an aid but without any obligation to use it to protest.

The deposit is returned only if the protest is withdrawn before the beginning of the effective treatment of the protest or is upheld.

Anti-Doping Statement

Competitors using any **WADA-listed substances** for medical purposes must have a **Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE)** from FAI. For details, refer to the [FAI anti-doping page](#).

UAV Regulations

Participants must adhere to UAV operational regulations established by Saudi authorities, as represented by the General Authority of Civil Aviation (GACA). Specific UAV guidelines for the World Cup will be provided during registration. Please note that flying drones outside the designated race venue without the explicit permission of the event director is strictly prohibited. Violations will be treated as emergency matters.

Official Languages

The official languages for the event are English and Arabic , with English as the primary reference for official rulings and documents.

Ethics and Behavior

All participants are expected to maintain high standards of conduct in line with the FAI Code of Ethics.

Helpers

As specified in FAI F9U class rules, each pilot must be assisted during the race by one and only one helper who stays next to him/her during the whole flight. The helper must keep the model in visual line of sight and must inform the pilot of anything occurring that can affect his/her piloting, especially about safety.

Officials

- **FAI Jury :**
 - Sotir Lazarkov (BUL) President
 - Abdulmalek AlGarayis (KSA)
 - **Third jury member will be announced at technical meeting**

- **Supervisor Judge :**
 - Eric Li-Koo (GBR)
- **Pilot Judges :**
 - Angelika Moebius (GER)
 - Frédéric Theurel (FRA)
 - Oscar Chinello (ITA)
- **Starter**
 - Stefan Luteijn, Starter (NED)

- **Contest Management :**
 - Event Director : Basel Habib (KSA)
 - Race Director : Jesse Hulswit (NED)

Race Management

Dutch Drone Racing team will oversee all aspects of race management.

Race Track

The official race track design will be published in advance on the VelociDroneSimulation platform, allowing participants to preview and practice. The track is designed to meet FAI competition standards, ensuring a fair and competitive environment.

Race Format

The race format will follow Scenario A, with 64 competitors selected from the qualification stage using the double elimination sequence. The qualification stage will have 3 rounds, ranking pilots based on the fastest time to complete 3 consecutive laps according to F9U Rule C.6.3 Option 1. The elimination stage will allow competitors eliminated once to re-enter through a secondary bracket (double elimination approach). The final stage will feature a single 3 laps race with the top 4 competitors from the elimination rounds.

Equipment Requirements

LED Light

The use of LED light unit according to the specifications defined in the F9U class rule C.1.6 is mandatory to enhance visibility, especially for pilots positioned behind or below.

Video Systems

Allowed video systems include analog and digital HDZero, with a maximum power limit of 25mW. Pilots using analog systems are encouraged to use high-quality video transmitters and antennas.

Antenna Requirements

Pilots must bring antennas with both Right-Hand Circular Polarization (RHCP) and Left-Hand Circular Polarization (LHCP). The race direction team will specify which polarization to use at different stages of the competition to minimize interference.

Radio Systems

Permitted radio transmission systems include:

- 2.4GHz systems, with a maximum power limit of 25mW
- 868MHz systems, with a maximum power limit of 25mW, using Race mode where possible.

Event Schedule

The daily competition schedule may be subject to changes, and any adjustments will be announced in advance. However, the event dates are fixed.

Thursday, January 23rd

- 8:00 – Arrival of guests
- 8:30 to 10:30 – Registration of pilots and Model processing by officials
- 10:30 to 11:30 – Briefing & Track Walk
- 12:00 to 14:30 – Practice round
- 15:00 to 23:00 – Qualifying rounds
- 23:00 End of Day One

Friday, January 24th

- 09:00 to 11:30 – Qualifying rounds
- 11:30 to 12:30 – Break
- 13:00 to 15:30 – Qualifying rounds
- 15:30 to 16:00 – Break
- 16:00 to 18:00 – Elimination rounds for top 64 pilots, double elimination format
- 18:00 to 18:30 – Break
- 18:30 to 19:30 – Elimination rounds continue
- 19:30 to 20:00 – Break
- 20:00 to 21:00 – Elimination rounds continue
- 21:00 to 21:30 – Break
- 21:30 to 22:30 – Elimination rounds continue
- 22:30 End of Day Two

Saturday, January 25th

- 14:00 to 15:00 – Elimination rounds for top pilots
- 15:00 to 15:30 – Break
- 15:30 to 17:30 – Elimination rounds for top pilots
- 17:30 to 18:00 – Break
- 18:00 to 18:30 – First Semi-final
- 18:30 to 19:00 – Second Semi-final
- 19:00 to 20:00 – Final
- 20:30 – Prize award and ceremony

Complementary Information

Accreditation Cards

Following model processing, each competitor will receive a Accreditation card. Pass cards must be kept on hand at all times for identification and access to event areas.

Activity Zone

An Activity Zone will be available at the event, offering various interactive and recreational activities for participants and spectators. This area provides a space to engage with other drone enthusiasts. The Activity Zone will be open throughout the event days and is designed to complement the competition with entertainment options.

Riyadh Season

The event coincides with Riyadh Season 2024-2025, a city-wide festival offering diverse cultural, entertainment, and dining experiences. Attendees are encouraged to explore Riyadh Season activities outside of competition hours. For more information, visit the [Riyadh Season website](#).

Power and Charging Information

In Saudi Arabia, the standard plug type is Type G (three rectangular prongs), and the voltage is 230V at 60Hz. Charging stations will be available, and attendees are advised to bring power banks or charging adapters compatible with this voltage for convenience.



Contact and Emergency Information

General Inquiries:

Email: rdwc@safcsp.org.sa

Emergency Contacts:

Local Emergency Services: 911

Event Emergency Contact through WhatsApp: +966536076795



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