



PRESS RELEASE
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Drone Soccer makes history: Shanghai to host first ever FAI World Championships in 2025

Lausanne, Switzerland, 4 March 2025 – **FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is proud to announce that the first ever FAI World Drone Soccer Championships (WDSC) will take place in Shanghai, China, from 15 to 18 November 2025.**

This groundbreaking event will be hosted at the Shanghai Stadium, a state-of-the-art venue located in Xujiahui Sports Park. The **Aero Sports Federation of China (ASFC)**, in collaboration with the **Shanghai Science and Technology Sports Management Center**, will organise and execute the competition, ensuring an exceptional experience for athletes and spectators alike.

A New Era for Drone Soccer

Drone soccer, an emerging Aeromodelling sport, combines **precision flying, teamwork, and strategy** in a thrilling, fast-paced competition.

What sets it apart in air sports is its **real-time, head-to-head gameplay**, where teams actively compete to score goals while defending against opponents. This dynamic format not only challenges pilots but also makes it an **exciting sport**, with fast action, strategic manoeuvres, and intense rivalries that **keep audiences engaged**.

The 2025 FAI World Drone Soccer Championships will feature two classes: **F9A-A (larger field and drones) and F9A-B (smaller, more tactical gameplay)**, with teams competing for the ultimate title in FAI-sanctioned drone soccer.

For the first time in FAI history, the F9A-B category will introduce a **dedicated women's division**, encouraging broader participation and fostering gender equality in drone sports.

FAI President Greg Principato expressed excitement about the Championship: *"Drone soccer is rapidly gaining popularity worldwide, and the 2025 FAI World Drone Soccer Championships will set new standards for the sport. Shanghai's top-tier venue, combined with cutting-edge technology, ensures a **thrilling and unforgettable competition for athletes and spectators alike.**"*

The 2025 FAI World Drone Soccer Championships represents a **significant step forward in the evolution of competitive drone sports**, bringing together innovation, skill, and international collaboration.

Cutting-Edge Technology & Competition Setup

The Shanghai Stadium will be transformed into a **world-class drone soccer arena**, featuring:

- Protective cages constructed with tempered glass and shock-absorbing materials for safety and enhanced spectator visibility.
- Advanced electronic scoring systems, using a combination of infrared RF sensors and photoelectric technology to ensure precise and fair match results.

- High-tech goal rings with integrated LED lighting and visual effects, creating an immersive experience for players and fans.
- Live match displays on giant screens and an official event website for real-time scoring updates.

Beyond the Competition: A Festival of Innovation & Sport

To celebrate the fusion of technology, sports, and entertainment, the 2025 FAI World Drone Soccer Championships will host a variety of public events, including:

- An Opening Ceremony featuring team parades, drone light shows, and speeches from dignitaries.
- An Aeromodelling Carnival, where visitors can experience drone soccer firsthand, explore the latest aeromodelling technology, and enjoy interactive exhibits.
- A Closing Gala Dinner, blending Chinese cultural elements with Shanghai's modern energy to celebrate the achievements of competitors and organisers.

Editor's note

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About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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