



**PRESS RELEASE**  
For immediate release

## **FAI World Rally Flying Championships returns to Italy this August**

Lausanne, Switzerland, 4 June 2025 – For the first time in 26 years, the FAI World Rally Flying Championships is set to return to Italy—this time to Ferrara, in the northeast of the country. From 30 August to 5 September 2025, the city will host the world’s top crews in a showcase of strategy and precision piloting, as reigning Czech champions defend their titles against elite international contenders.

The 24<sup>th</sup> FAI World Rally Flying Championships is hosted by the **Aero Club d’Italia in collaboration with the Aeroclub Ferrara**. The exciting event with livestream tracking will showcase the strategic skills of the pilot-navigator crews during a world class competition in which **sixteen nations will battle it out** to reach the podium.

Crews from Austria, Chile, China, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain and the United Kingdom will compete against **reigning champions from Czechia Petr Jonáš and Marek Velát** who will hope to defend their titles.

**In 2023, it was France who claimed the team champion title** on their home turf in Mâcon. Will the Italians manage to achieve the team title proudly flying over the historic Po Valley, a UNESCO heritage site?

**Experienced Competition Director Filippo Papale** hopes so, noting that the area around Ferrara airport is, “***tailor-made for a world rally flying competition,***” due to its barycentric position in Europe. Papale, with over 20 years of organising Rally Flying competitions, plus experience as a judge and competitor, is aiming to encourage significant visitor numbers for the event.

### **About Rally Flying**

Rally Flying is not simply a race against time. Success lies in expert cartography, navigational accuracy, aerial proficiency and split-second timing. Each day, the two-person crews will be given an envelope just minutes before the allocated take-off time. The clues and photographs revealed upon opening the envelope will suggest turning points; the navigator will plot a track and declare a finish time, which the pilot will endeavour to meet by accurately following the flight path, whilst also taking aerial photos to show progress. There is also a landing task during each flight.

### **Competition Schedule**

- 25-29 August: Practice
- 30 August: Opening ceremony
- 31 August: General briefing
- 1-4 September: Competition flights
- 5 September: Closing ceremony

### **Editor’s note**

FAI will be reporting from the competition on the website and social media. Stay tuned!

Competition:

- [FAI news story about the championships](#)
- [Results of 2023 World Championships](#)
- [Event website](#)
- [About FAI Rally Flying championship competitions](#)

FAI:

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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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