

2024 FAI DRONE RACING WORLD CUP REPORT

by Bruno DELOR

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

So, 2024 is the 7th edition by considering no World Cup had been held in 2020 and 2021 due to COVID pandemic.

CALENDAR

14 Drone Racing Open International World Cup events from 13 different countries were registered on the FAI Calendar for the year 2024.

Two of them had been finally postponed:

- ASFC F9U World Chongqing (China) planned October 24 to 27, 2024.
- and Riyadh Drone Racing World Cup (Saudi Arabia) planned November 14 to 16, 2024.

So, 12 World Cup events from 11 different countries had been effectively organised and taken into account for the 2024 World Cup ranking.

	FAI EVENT ID	LOCATION	COUNTRY	DATES
PIHAB FAI Drone Racing World Cup	ID 16598	Capas, Tarlac	Philippines (PHI)	February 16 to 18, 2024
Aircrasher FAI Worldcup	ID 16563	Aichtal	Germany (GER)	May 11 & 12, 2024
Paris Drone Racing World Cup	ID 16540	La Queue en Brie	France (FRA)	May 18 & 19, 2024
FAI Korea Drone Racing World Cup	ID 16602	Seoul City	Korea (KOR)	June 1 & 2, 2024
Drone Racing World Cup Hungary	ID 16542	Mogyoród	Hungary (HUN)	June 7 to 9, 2024
Trofeo F9U World Cup Italia	ID 16679	Sumirago (VA)	Italy (ITA)	June 22 & 23, 2024
Drone Club Varna Cup	ID 16543	Varna	Bulgaria (BUL)	July 20 & 21, 2024
DX Racing Serbia	ID 16546	Bela Crkva	Serbia (SRB)	July 27 & 28, 2024
Phoenix Drone Racing	ID 16545	Prilep	North Macedonia (MKD)	September 14 & 15, 2024
Gaelic GP	ID 17049	Madrid	Spain (ESP)	September 20 & 21, 2024
Türkiye Drone Race	ID 16734	İstanbul	Türkiye (TUR)	September 28 & 29, 2024
Namwon World Drone Racing Masters	ID 17151	Namwon city	Korea (KOR)	October 4 to 6, 2024

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

PARTICIPATION

305 competitors placed in 2024 which is more than last year but still significantly lower compared before COVID break.

118 juniors in total from 22 countries are placed in the World Cup ranking which represents 39 % of the total number of competitors. This percentage is still increasing.

20 women from 11 countries, 9 of them being junior, are placed in the World Cup ranking. The number of women increases but still represents a low percentage (7 %) of the total number of competitors.

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

	Competitors number	Seniors	Juniors	Women
AUS Australia	1	1		
AUT Austria	2	2		
BEL Belgium	5	4	1	
BUL Bulgaria	10	7	3	
CAN Canada	2	2		
CHN People's Republic of China	38	2	36	5 (5 being junior)
CRO Croatia	3	3		
CZE Czech Republic	2	2		
DEN Denmark	2	1	1	
ESP Spain	16	13	3	
FIN Finland	2	2		
FRA France	22	17	5	
GER Germany	10	5	5	
GRE Greece	2	2		
KKG Hong Kong, China	7	5	2	
HUN Hungary	20	17	3	2
ITA Italy	15	14	1	1
JPN Japan	10	4	6	3 (1 being junior)
KAZ Kazakhstan	3	1	2	
KOR Korea	28	8	20	1
LAT Latvia	14	9	5	1
LTU Lithuania	4	3	1	1
MKD North Macedonia	3	3		
NED Netherlands	1	1		
NZL New Zealand	1	0	1	
NOR Norway	3	3		
PHI Philippines	4	3	1	
POL Poland	6	6		
ROU Romania	1	1		
SIN Singapore	1	1		
SRB Serbia	15	15		1
SUI Switzerland	8	6	2	1
SVK Slovakia	2	2		
THA Thailand	2	0	2	2 (2 being junior)
TPE Chinese Taipei	3	2	1	
TUR Turkey	34	19	15	2 (1 being junior)
USA United States of America	3	1	2	
	305	187	118	20 (9 being junior)
37 countries		22 countries	11 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- Minjae KIM (Korea) - **Junior** - 144 points
- 2- Killian ROUSSEAU (France) - 133 points
- 3- WonKyun CHOI (Korea) - **Junior** - 130 points

The winner, Minjae KIM (Junior) from the Republic of Korea already won the 2022 edition, and Killian ROUSSEAU from France is placed second this year after having 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 KOR-1 or HUN (see correspondence on the event's list in page 1).
- Placing and number of competitors placed; as an illustration, 1/53 means first place with 53 competitors having flown in the event.

1	Minjae KIM (08)	Jun	KOR	FAI ID 134296	144 points	FRA	1/53	48 points	HUN	1/51	48 points	BUL	1/53	48 points
2	Killian ROUSSEAU		FRA	FAI ID 115646	133 points	KOR-1	1/54	48 points	ITA	2/63	44 points	GER	3/58	41 points
3	WonKyun CHOI	Jun	KOR	FAI ID 168846	130 points	GER	1/58	48 points	FRA	3/53	41 points	KOR-1	3/54	41 points
4	Minseo LEE	Jun	KOR	FAI ID 114734	117 points	ITA	1/63	48 points	FRA	4/53	37 points	KOR-1	9/54	32 points
5	TaeYang KIM	Jun	KOR	FAI ID 124493	115 points	BUL	2/53	44 points	SRB	4/69	37 points	KOR-1	7/54	34 points
	Pawel LASZCZAK		POL	FAI ID 118892	115 points	SRB	2/44	44 points	GER	4/58	37 points	HUN	7/51	34 points
7	Arvin SCHRÖDER	Jun	GER	FAI ID 165038	113 points	TUR	2/55	44 points	FRA	6/53	35 points	ITA	7/63	34 points
8	Dorian COUAILLES		FRA	FAI ID 169322	104 points	HUN	2/51	44 points	GER	9/56	32 points	FRA	13/53	28 points
9	Yueqi HUANG	Jun	CHN	FAI ID 169379	103 points	TUR	5/55	36 points	BUL	7/53	34 points	SRB	8/69	33 points
10	Antoni A. GEORGIEV		BUL	FAI ID 114351	99 points	SRB	5/69	36 points	BUL	8/53	33 points	TUR	11/55	30 points

The complete results can be downloaded on the FAI website with the following link:

<https://www.fai.org/world-cups/drone-racing-2024>

The winner and the third placed are junior and 6 juniors (4 of them being from Korea) are placed in the top 10.

The best female is Luisa RIZZO from Italy, 2024 Women World Champion, and who is placed 19th in the 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 NAC's formal request to refrain issue of FAI Drone Permissions for their country. There are actually 15 countries concerned: BLR, CZE, ESP, GER, HKG, HUN, IND, JPN, KOR, MAS, NOR, RUS, SRB, TPE, USA.

Detailed data about FAI Drone Permissions delivered in 2024 are available in the following table.

FAI Drone Permissions have been issued to 61 persons from 17 countries. Only 25 of them from 9 countries effectively participated in World Cup events.

		World Cup competitors number	FAI Drone Permission issued (identification based on the residency)	FAI Drone Permission used for World Cup contest	
				Number	Competitors percentage
Belgium	BEL	5	4		
Bulgaria	BUL	10	3	1	10%
People's Republic of China	CHN	38	15	4	11%
Croatia	CRO	3	3	3	100%
Greece	GRE	2	1		
Italy	ITA	15	18	10	67%
Indonesia	INA		1		
Kazakhstan	KAZ	3	1 <i>Nationality Belarus</i>		
Saudi Arabia	KSA		1		
Latvia	LAT	14	1		
Lithuania	LAT	4	3	2	50%
Morocco	MAR		1		
Netherlands	NED	1	3 <i>One with nationality Poland</i>	1	100%
New Zealand	NZL	1	1	1	100%
Poland	POL	6	1 <i>Nationality Belarus</i>	1	17%
Slovakia	SVK	2	3 <i>One with nationalty Ukraine</i>	2	100%
Turkey	TUR	34	1		
		138	61	25	18%
		14 countries	17 countries	9 countries	