
7. Helicopters

Disciplines 7.1 & 7.2: Precision events

Event Description

In helicopter events, the crews, consisting of a pilot and a crewman, demonstrate their ability to coordinate their work to achieve accurate flying tasks, generally against the clock.

In the challenging "Slalom" event, the crews pick up a bucket of water using a hand-held rope dangling from the helicopter. The pilot manoeuvres the bucket through a series of gates, requiring the helicopter to move forwards, backwards and sideways. The bucket is placed on a small target at the end of the course. Losing water and exceeding the allocated time result in heavy penalties.

Other "Precision" events may consist of various challenging tasks such as, "Postman", "Pencil Sharpener" or "Bottle Opening".

Each "Precision" event takes place in a "box" in front of the public, thus giving spectators a clear view of the progress of each crew and task.

Venue

- *Location:* Main venue.
- *Air Space Requirements:* "Precision" events take place in a presentation "box" of maximum 120 x 200 meters, close to the ground.
- *Event Site:* No obstruction within 300 meters of any helicopter operation. The "box" should be located in front of spectators, above a smooth grassy area, free of holes.
- *Timing:* "Precision" events may take place at any time during daylight hours, but preferably from 11:00 to 17:00.

Competitors

- *Competitor type:* Teams
- *Team Composition:* 1 pilot+1 crew member
- *Number of entrants:* 10 teams
- *Support personnel:* 20 (local staff / same personnel for all Helicopter events).
- *FAI – CIG Referees:* 4 (1 Event Director+3 Jury members/Same people for all Helicopter events)

Duration

- *Practice Days:* 1
- *Competition days:* 2 or 3 competition rounds per precision event + 1 final round.
- *Reserve Days:* 1 to 2
- *Time per round:* Maximum 2 hours.

Technical Equipment specifically required for this event

- Marking tape
- 30 poles (standard ski slalom poles)
- 10 buckets and ropes (+ spare)
- Miscellaneous small material
- Fuel : AVGAS and Jet A1 required
- Scoring software*
- Radios and mobile phones*

* *This equipment may be shared with other Helicopter events.*

Estimated Operational Budget

(For 2 competitions + 1 final round for both Precision events)

- Technical equipment as listed above: Approx. USD 4'000.-
- Fuel: Approx. USD 3'300.-

Notes:

1. *This budget does not include the costs for venue, infrastructure, logistics, accommodation, volunteers and technical equipment required for conducting/ presenting the events, or for interacting with the public (see section 'Technical Equipment').*
2. *This type of event is flexible enough to take place between other air sports events, and/or to provide opportunities for additional rounds/demonstrations at short-notice.*
3. *"Precision" events would be particularly attractive and spectacular if on-board TV cameras with live transmission were available.*