
Discipline 8.2: Paramotors

Event Description

Paramotors are a relatively new development and appear to be the simplest form of powered aviation yet invented. The pilots fly under a paraglide-type wing and “wear” a power unit on their back, consisting of a light weight engine and a propeller in a cage. All manoeuvres are possible to do in a short field in close proximity to spectators allowing the public to observe the pilots’ work at close hand. A “triathlon”-type event may be held with Speed tasks (pylon race), Economy tasks (the pilot has to stay in the air as long as he can with a limited quantity of fuel) and Precision tasks (slalom). But the FAI Microlight Commission is currently developing new events with especially spectacular tasks that can be flown at low level even in urban environments.

Venue

- *Location:* Main venue (or stadium, or farmers’ fields). Speed and Economy tasks start/arrive at the main venue, but include cross-country flights allowing other air sports events to be held in the intervening period at the main venue.
- *Air Space Requirements:* Free airspace from ground to approx. 6’000 ft above ground level during flight operations. Maximum radius of 40 km from the main venue for navigation tasks.
- *Event Site:* A 100 x 100 meters take-off and landing area free of obstacles is required. Its surface should be short mown grass, smooth and free from holes. The spectator area should be established 20 to 30 meters off to one side of each strip.
- *Timing:* Periods of calm winds are preferred for Speed and Precision tasks in the morning (Sunrise +30 to +120 minutes) and/or late in the afternoon (Sunset -120 minutes to sunset). Endurance tasks should take place between 11:00 and 18:00 (thermal activity).

Competitors

- *Competitor type:* Individuals
- *Team Composition:* 1 pilot
- *Number of entrants:* 15 pilots
- *Support personnel:* 20 (local personnel for technical assistance/May be partly shared with Weight-Shift Controlled Microlights event)
- *FAI – CIMA Referees:* 5 (Event Director, Deputy and 3 Jury members/Same persons for Weight-Shift Controlled event)

Duration

- *Practice Days:* At least 1
- *Competition days:* 2 for competitions + 1 for finals (2 or 3 rounds may be flown per day)
- *Reserve Days:* 1 to 2
- *Time per round:* 15 minutes for Precision tasks. Up to 2 hours for Speed or Economy tasks.

Technical Equipment specifically required for this event

- 4 to 6 pylons for turn points. A pylon is a 6-meter high cylinder with a diameter of some 60 centimetres fixed on a platform with a ventilator at its base to inflate the cylinder (electric supply required)*
- 20 standard ski slalom poles
- Unleaded fuel (consumption: 7 to 10 litres/hour/paramotor)
- GPS Loggers
- Scoring software*
- VHF radios*

* *This equipment may be shared with Weight-Shift Controlled Microlight event.*

Estimated Operational Budget

- Technical equipment as listed above: Approx. USD 5'000.-

Notes:

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').