

JURY REPORT ON 2026 F1D WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP INDOOR MODEL AIRCRAFT

FAI Jury

Ian Kaynes	GBR	President
Roger Morrell	NZL	Member
Leo Pilachowski	USA	Member

Dates

June 17 to 20, 2026

Location

Kibbie Dome, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, USA

Information

Bulletin 1 and the Preliminary Entry Form were issued in October 2025. Bulletin 2 and the final entry form were issued in March 2026

Participation

The overall participation was disappointing. The organisers had left entry open until very late but some European countries did not attend, partly due to financial considerations and the increased cost of air fares in the last 3 months before the championships.

The open championships had 22 competitors from 8 nations and the junior championships had 5 competitors from only the USA, including the defending champion. This was particularly disappointing since the organisers had offered a discount on entry fees for teams bringing juniors, but attendance from Europe was probably hindered by the timing in the middle of the summer term at schools and colleges.

Accommodation

Most competitors stayed at a local hotel, less than a mile from the flying site. Lunch was available in the dome on flying days.

Flying site

The flying site is an indoor American football arena measuring 50m x 100m and 45m ceiling height. The site had been used previously for the 1996 Championships.

Weather

Flying conditions in the Dome were generally very good.

Competition

On the first two flying days the Tagliafico World Cup event was organised but, particularly on the first day the competitors concentrated on test flying and acclimatisation to the site rather than making competition flights. There was then a practice day which included the opening ceremony and team managers meeting.

For each competition day the schedule allowed test flying before the morning round from 9.00 to 12.00, a one hour lunch break and then the afternoon round from 13.00 to 16.00. The timekeeper pool system was followed (see below), with the timekeepers being allocated to competitors as they came to process their models before flying and the timekeepers continued with the competitor up to checking the weight of his used rubber motor after the flight. It was not allowed for any team to have more than one model flying at the

same time, but a competitor could start processing their model before another flight by the team had been completed. The system generally ran smoothly and was more economical and efficient than allocating a pair of timekeepers to each team.

Brett Sanborn of the USA made an impressive flight of 28.49 in the first round but in general the flights in the afternoon rounds were better than those in the morning, assisted by the sun warming the west end of the dome. 28 scoring flights were made in afternoon flights compared to 16 in the morning rounds. Sanborn went on to have all 6 of his flights above 27 minutes and scored 29.13 in the final round to win both the championship and also longest flight of the event.

The Junior Championships were strongly contested by the 5 Americans with all of the flyers improving their flight times as the competition progressed. The defending champion, Daniel Guo, was the clear winner and also made the longest flight.

The conclusion of the flying at the end of the day was somewhat delayed at times when reflights were made. Following a collision the reflight must be taken before the start of the next round or within an hour of the end of the last round. The F1 Subcommittee should consider if it would be appropriate to extend the “one hour after the end of the round” rule to apply all rounds.

Timekeeping

The timekeeper pool system was used, with the timekeepers being allocated to competitors as they came to process their models before flying and the timekeepers continued with the competitor up to checking the weight of his used rubber motor after the flight. It was not allowed for any team to have more than one model flying at the same time, but a competitor could start processing their model before another flight by the team had been completed. The system generally ran smoothly and was more economical and efficient than allocating a pair of timekeepers to each team.

Opening and Closing Ceremony

The opening ceremony was held in the dome with a novel form. Each team was invited to the stage in turn to collect their flag at the side of the stage, take it to the centre and have their photo taken. Then the customary short speeches and opening the event followed by the FAI anthem.

The closing ceremony took place in the hotel in conjunction with the banquet.

Protests

There were no protests or complaints

Conclusion

The Jury thank the AMA, NFFS and all organising staff for Championships that were run very well and were successfully concluded.