

13th FAI Para Ski World Championships 2011

Press Release



Wednesday March 2nd 2011, Gosau am Dachstein

From february 28th to march 5th the 13th FAI World Para-Ski Championships were held in the upper austrian ski ressort Gosoau am Dachstein. Together with Skydive HFSC-Freistadt and the community of Gosau the Austrian Aeroclub (national airport commission) organizes this World Airsport Event.

Monday 28.2.2011 Arrival and Training Day: 74 athletes, male and female competitors, as well as well as 30 coaches and officials from 21 nations were registered and dressed. From 10:30 a.m. all teams had the possibility to do some training jumps at the competition area. Eight nations used this opportunity to gain some experience on the landing area at Hornspitz Lift.

Tuesday 1.3.2011 Giant Slalom Qualification and Accuracy: Magdalene Schwertl and Markus Seifert, both from Austria, were dominating the giant slalom. Team Slovenia Elan won the skiing qualification, second place team Austria Red. After the team leader meeting at 11:30 the competition continued with Accuracy. During the first round accuracy technical problems occurred on the measurement system. Just before the round could be continued, the pilot reported a technical problem with the helicopter. The meet director ended the first competition day at 15:00 o'clock.

Wednesday 2.3.2011 2 runs Giant Slalom and 3 rounds Accuracy: The day started with two rounds giant slalom. Schwertl Magdalena from Austria won the giant slalom in front of Erica Franz from Switzerland and Irena Avbelj from Slovenia. Valente Marco from Italy won before Anton Gruber of Austria and Reinhold Haibel from Germany. After the giant slalom accuracy started at 12:30. The difficult wind conditions improves. Till 17:00 three rounds accuracy had been completed. After 2 runs giant slalom and 3 rounds accuracy the Para-Ski combined score for the leaders:

Man: 1. Aleksey Burenin RUS, 2. Uros Ule SLO, 3. Matej Becan SLO

Women: 1. Irene Avbelj SLO, 2. Erica Franz SUI, 3. Christina Franz SUI

Juniors: 1. Michael Grossegger AUT, 2. Viacheslav Pachkolin RUS, 3. Marko Premuzic CRO

Masters: 1. Erika Franz SUI, 2. Heinz Empl AUT, 3. Timothy Mace RSA

Team: 1. Slovenia ELAN, 2. Russia 1, 3. Austria White

The austrian competitors have good a chances to win medals on thursday. All results are online on www.paraski2011.at .

Para-Ski

As helicopters were not common in rescue service, Para Ski was developed from rescue service teams in the alpine areas. In winter search and rescue operations, rescue teams and their equipment were dropped by airplane in alpine terrain. Accuracy with the parachute and skiing skills were essential to the rescuers. Because of the need to practice and train, the parachuting discipline Para Ski was born ... a combination of accuracy parachuting and giant slalom.

Competitors are jumping six times from altitudes between 800 till 1000 meters above the ground. At the landing area there is a electronic measuring pad. Competitors are trying to hit the zero centerpoint of the electronic pad (2 centimeters in diameter) as exact as possible. Normaly with the heel of their right or left foot (first contact with the ground is counting).

As opposed to jumping in the summer the target must be located on a hillside. During the final approach the sloping hillside makes it difficult to steer the canopy straight ahead and hit the target at the centerpoint. Up to 16 centimeters the measurement is carried out electronically, from 16 to 50 centimeters judges measuring by hand.

Skiing: two runs giant slalom. The rules are based on the FIS regulations, only one special feature: if a competitor fails in one of the two runs, he is not removed from the standings, but burdened with a calculated maximum time. The times of the two rounds will be converted by a certain scale in centimeters and added to the total distance from the parachuting (fastest time = 0 cm, per second slower + 3 cm).

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Web: www.paraski2011.at

