



Bulletin 1

2026 FAI F5B World Championship for Electric Model Gliders - seniors, women, and juniors

Mareeba, Queensland, AUSTRALIA

8th - 13th August 2026.

Website: <https://aefanet.com/>

ORGANISER AND LOCATION

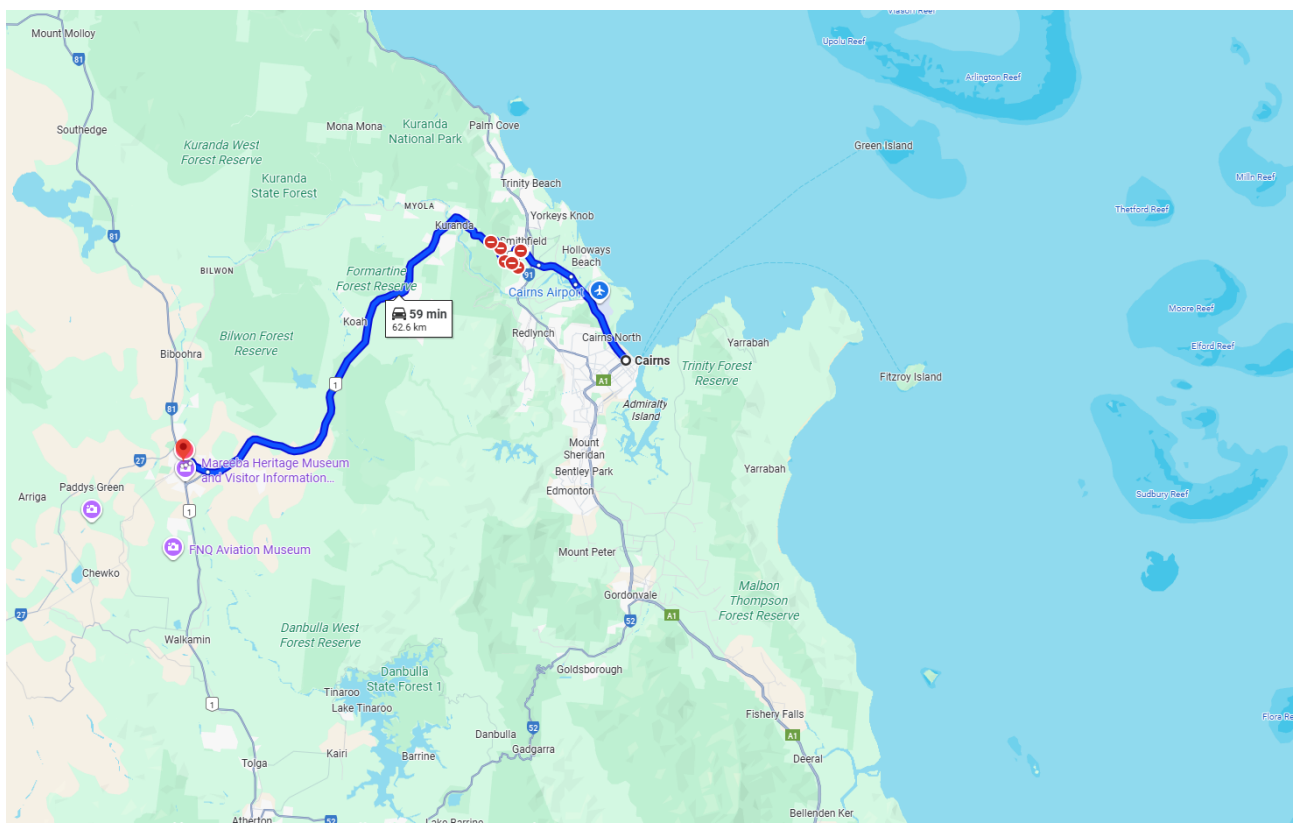
The event is organised by The Australian Electric Flight Association (AEFA) in conjunction with the Model Aeronautical Association of Australia (MAAA).

Mareeba is a town of 9000 residents, located in north Queensland, approximately a 1 hour drive West of Cairns. Its location allows easy access to many tourist attractions including The Great Barrier Reef, Cape Tribulation, Daintree Rainforest, Mossman Gorge and The Atherton Tablelands to name a few. It is in the tropics and so offers warm weather year-round. Cairns is serviced by its own international airport.

The event will take place at the flying site of Model Aero Sport Club of Tropical North Queensland (MASCOTNQ), Adil Rd, Mareeba, Queensland. The flying site is located approximately 5km north of the centre of Mareeba. GPS coordinates are: -16.964045, 145.395859, altitude is 417m AMSL. It is recommended that visitors to the event fly to Cairns, arrange their own hire car, and drive to Mareeba. Accommodation options will be outlined in Bulletin 2.

Mareeba is located in the tropics, and so tends to have wet and dry seasons rather than hot and cold associated with summer and winter. August is the last month of Winter in Australia, and is the dry season in Mareeba. Typical high temperatures of 26C are expected with light winds, minimum temperatures average 12C at this time of year.

Mareeba is in a time zone that is 10 hours ahead of UTC.



CLASS

F5B – Electric Powered Motor Gliders

RULES

FAI Sporting Rules

The following documents will be applicable by consulting the edition effective at the date of the event:

- FAI Sporting Code Section 4 - Aeromodelling Volume F5 – Radio Control Electric Powered Motor Gliders
- FAI Sporting Code Section 4 - Aeromodelling CIAM General Rules Volume.
- FAI Sporting Code General Section Volume.
- FAI Code of Ethics.
- FAI Disciplinary Code.

Junior

According to CIAM General Rules Volume C.5.1, a competitor is considered to be a junior up to and including the calendar year in which he attains the age of 18. So, a competitor will be considered for the championship(s) as being a junior as long he/she is born from the 1st January 2008.

FAI Sporting Licence

Every competitor and each team manager of any national team must possess a valid FAI Sporting Licence (Aeromodelling discipline) registered in the FAI database. A FAI Sporting Licence is not required for the helpers.

The holder of a FAI Sporting Licence may be required to produce, as proof of identity, an official document including his/her names, photograph and signature.

Complaint and protest (See FAI Sporting Code General Section Volume 6.2.2 & 6.3.2, and CIAM General Rules Volume C.20)

The purpose of a complaint is to obtain a correction without the need to make a formal protest.

It is recommended that a complaint is made before submitting a protest.

If dissatisfied by the decision, the complainant(s) concerned must inform the Contest Director as soon as possible of the intention to submit a protest.

All protests must be presented by the team manager(s) in writing in English to the Contest Director and must be accompanied by the deposit of a fee of 50 CHF (or equivalent amount for a different currency). In the case of a joint protest, every protesting team manager must pay the protest fee.

Anti-doping statement

A competitor who needs for medical reasons to take any of the substances listed on the WADA Prohibited List must have a valid Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) signed by FAI.

To access the current WADA prohibited list of substances and additional information regarding the TUE, see the FAI website with the following link: <https://www.fai.org/page/anti-doping-therapeutic-exemptions>.

UAV REGULATIONS

In Australia, the regulations governing the operation of Model Aircraft are controlled by the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA). These regulations and local club rules particular to MASCOTNQ must be adhered to. For more information on the CASA regulations please follow the below link and under the section of Guidance Material, follow the link to AC 101-03. Local rules will include a height limit of 1500'AGL.

<https://www.casa.gov.au/rules/regulatory-framework/casr/part-101-casr-unmanned-aircraft-and-rockets#Guidancematerial:~:text=AC%20101%2D03%20%2D%20Flying%20a%20model%20aircraft%20or%2>

Radio Control frequencies

Aircraft will be controlled using 2.4GHz with a maximum ERIP of 1W.

Identification of the models

According to CIAM General Rules Volume C.11.1, each model aircraft shall carry:

- The national identification mark followed by the FAI Unique ID number with letters and numbers at least 25 mm high.
- A model identification code with letters and/or numbers at least 10 mm high, clearly visible and different for each nominated model aircraft of the competitor.

Note: A model aircraft must not carry a national identification mark, an FAI licence number or an FAI sticker which relates to any person other than the competitor.

Model Aircraft Specification Certificate and sticker

According to the CIAM General Rules Volume C.12, each NAC shall process every model and shall issue for each model aircraft the Model Aircraft Specification Certificate provided by the FAI.

A sticker shall appear on each model aircraft.

Note: The Model Aircraft Specification Certificate and the design of FAI sticker may be downloaded from the 'DOCUMENTS' section of the CIAM website (<https://www.fai.org/ciam-documents>) by clicking on 'CIAM FORMS & OTHER DOCUMENTS' section, and then on 'Events'.

Model aircraft not properly processed by their NAC, with FAI certificate and sticker, must be processed by the organiser at a cost of 8 Euro for each model.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

English will be the official language of the Championship.

PARTICIPANTS

Every NAC may enter a team consisting of:

- Team manager.
- Maximum of three competitors (without age and gender requirements).
Optionally, one additional Junior competitor (without gender requirement) **and/or** one additional Female competitor (without age requirement).

Note: So, a national team must at least include one competitor and may include a maximum of five competitors with the two optionally additional competitors.

- Official helpers.
- Supporters.

The reigning Senior World Champion; Thomas Waeckerlin (SUI), is also invited (subject to approval of his NAC) to participate regardless of whether he qualifies for the national team or not. If he is not a member of the national teams, his score will not be considered in the team results.

Note: The team manager is mandatory but may be a dedicated person or one of the competitors of the national team.

Additional individual competitors

According to CIAM General Rules Volume C.5.3 f), the organizer will evaluate after the deadline defined for submission of the Preliminary Entry Form (PEF) the participation level which may be expected. If the number of expected participants is below the minimum number which makes the event financially viable, the organiser will ask CIAM to consider cancelling the championship(s), or to initiate a second phase for accepting additional individual competitors with a 'wild card'.

In case a second phase is initiated, the organizer, with the approval of CIAM Bureau, may send out invitations to the NACs which already had expressed with the PEF their intention to participate.

At the same time, the relevant CIAM Sub Committee (S/C) Chairman may also send invitations considering the World Cup ranking or similar criteria which will ensure that the invited competitors are competent to participate to the championship concerned. Those individual competitors invited by the S/C must also have the approval of their NAC to participate.

All individual competitors invited to participate during that second phase can only be part of the individual classification(s), and so will not be considered for the national team classification.

FAI JURY

1 Jury president – Sotir Lazarkov (BUL)
2 Jury member – John Adams (AUS)
3 Jury member (remote) – Manfred Lex (AUT)
Reserve jury member: Per Findal (SWE)
Reserve jury member: Tim Nolan (AUS)

ORGANISER OPERATIONAL OFFICIALS

Event Director – Brett Solanov
Contest Director - Steve Manganeli
Scoring - Terry Bebe (GliderScore will be used for processing of scores)

CLASSIFICATIONS AND AWARDS

Individual overall classification

FAI gold, silver and bronze medals and FAI diplomas will be awarded to the competitors placed first, second and third in the individual overall classification for the class concerned.

Individual Junior classification

FAI gold, silver and bronze medals and FAI diplomas will be awarded to the first, second and third placed juniors subject to at least six juniors competing in the class concerned. If the number of competitors is less than six, then only FAI diplomas will be awarded. The best placed junior earns the title of Junior World or Continental Champion subject at least six juniors from four different nations are competing.

Individual Women classification

FAI gold, silver and bronze medals and FAI diplomas will be awarded to the first, second and third placed females subject to at least six females competing in the class concerned. If the number of competitors is less than six, then only FAI diplomas will be awarded. The best placed woman earns the title of Women World or Continental Champion subject at least six females from four different nations are competing.

National team classification

FAI gold, silver and bronze medals and FAI diplomas will be awarded to the first, second and third placed national team for the class concerned.

A medal and a diploma will be awarded to the team manager and to all competitors of each national team concerned.

FAI Perpetual Trophies

Individual: Puffin Models of Bristol Trophy with Box, awarded in 2024 to Thomas Waeckerlin (SUI).

PRELIMINARY SCHEDULE

The following schedule may be subject to changes.

4th - 5th August – Practice

6th - 7th August – F5B Open Cup

8th August – Registration, Model processing, Team Manager's Meeting & Opening Ceremony

9th - 12th August – World Championship competition flights

13th August – Reserve day, Award Giving, Closing Ceremony and Banquet Dinner.

ENTRY FEES

Team Manager – 450 €

Senior Competitor – 450 €

Junior Competitor – 250 €

Female Competitor – 450 €

Official Helper – 50 €

Banquet Dinner – 50 € per person

The entry fees defined above include the additional fee of 10 CHF which the organiser must pay to the FAI for a team manager and a competitor.

According to CIAM General Rules Volume C.15.5.1 i), a person serving in more than one position (team manager, competitor, official helper, etc.) will be charged only the highest entry fee of the positions to be served.

DEADLINES

To assist with the organising of the event, could individuals please express their intention to attend, stating whether they intend to compete, be a team helper, or if they are available to assist with the running of the event. Could you also please notify us of additional friends/family who may use catering services at the flying site and/or attend the banquet dinner. All correspondence should be emailed to:

2026f5b@gmail.com

Preliminary Entry Form (PEF)

Each NAC which plans to send a national team is requested to fill out the enclosed PEF, and to return it signed and stamped no later than **February 28th, 2026**.

According to CIAM General Rules Volume C.15.10, if after the deadline to submit the PEF the number of entries in a class or classes is low, it will be up to the organizer, in consultation with CIAM Bureau, to cancel the competition for the class or classes concerned.

Such decision will be taken after the deadline for the PEF and before the deadline for the Final Entry Form submission. This shall be announced together with the Bulletin 2.

Final Entry Form

All entries and payments must be received on or before 6th May, 2026.

Entry fees will not be accepted at the arrival, except for an exceptional circumstance and subject prior agreement of the organiser.

In case a participant or a national team withdraws after the entry fees have been paid, a full or partial refund of the entry fees will be considered only in case of force majeure or exceptional circumstances.

LODGING AND FOOD

Mareeba has 3 motels, and more accommodation is available in nearby Atherton (30 min drive), and a little further afield in Port Douglas and Cairns (1 hour drive). Other accommodation may be available through websites such as Airbnb and stayz.

Mareeba motels:

1. Mareeba Motor Inn – has a swimming pool, bar and restaurant. All rooms at this motel have been reserved for the World Championship and officials will stay here. To book a room here please contact them and mention that you are part of the Model Aircraft Championships. bookings@mareebamotorinn.com.au
2. Jackaroo Motel – has a swimming pool. <https://jackaroomotel.com/>
3. The Cape Gateway Motel – basic rooms, no swimming pool. <https://capegatewaymotel.com.au/>

Please note that August is prime tourist season in Mareeba, and accommodation can be difficult to find if left to the last minute.

Places to eat in Mareeba include:

1. Gateway Hotel
2. Ant Hill Hotel
3. Mareeba Leagues Club
4. Relished Food and Gift
5. Secret Recipe Thai Restaurant

Depending upon demand, the local model flying club will cater for breakfast and lunch at the flying site, the cost of which will be approximately AU\$15 per person per meal. There are several dining options in Mareeba for evening dining, where a typical main meal will cost approximately AU\$25-45.

INSURANCE

The MAAA will provide third party insurance for all participants during the competition for accidents involving injury to others and damage to property according to the host country legislation.

Participants are recommended to organise their own individual health and travel insurance before travelling.

VISA

Participants and attendees should check with their local Australian Embassy or Consulate regarding visa requirements for visiting Australia. Further information can be found at: <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-finder/visit> .

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Bulletin 2

Bulletin 2 will be published no later than March 15th, 2026.

Medical service

There is a public hospital in Mareeba with 24 hour patient care.

Local currency

Currency used in Australia is the Australian Dollar (AUD). There are many outlets that will provide cash using standard global cards such as Visa, Mastercard, Cirrus etc. Currency exchange is available at Cairns airport.

ORGANISER CONTACT DETAILS

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Please submit all correspondence for this event to: 2026f5b@gmail.com

Website: <https://aefanet.com/>