



## Folgore on the World Podium: the Army Wins Silver at the Wind Games

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In the wind tunnel of Empuriabrava, Spain, the Italian Army parachute team achieved a prestigious second place at the Wind Games, an international event that annually attracts the elite of world parachuting.

The feat was accomplished by the team led by Marshal from Asti **Alessandro Binello**, also composed of **Andrea Cardinali, Stefano Falagiani, Marco Soro, and Federico (Andrea) Allamprese**, all part of the **Sports Activities Department** of the **Paratroopers Brigade Folgore**. A result of the highest profile, achieved after a very tight competition: after **10 closely contested rounds**, Italy finished behind **Poland**, the narrow winner, and ahead of **China**, completing a podium entirely formed by athletes from their respective national teams.

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The competition took place in the **VFS (Vertical Formation Skydiving)** specialty, a spectacular and highly technical discipline that involves performing figures and grips in **vertical flight**, both **indoor** (in the wind tunnel) and **outdoor** (in free fall, with jumps from an aircraft up to 4,000 meters). It is precisely the indoor activity, often less known to the general public, that represents a fundamental phase: in modern parachuting, the wind tunnel is indeed **preparatory** to traditional practice and, for elite athletes, is an essential tool for **refining techniques**, movement precision, and training on combinations of very high difficulty.

The evolution of indoor competitions is also contributing to pushing parachuting towards increasingly ambitious goals: the expansion and standardization of wind tunnel competitions indeed foster the prospect that, in the future, the discipline may approach recognition in the **Olympic** field. In the military field, the wind tunnel also assumes an operational value: it is used for **training and education** of parachutists and special forces professionals, improving control, coordination, and management of complex situations.

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The second place at the Wind Games is part of a tradition of established excellence. The Army team is **undefeated in Italy** and represents a unique entity at the international level: it is among the very few realities capable of winning **dozens of medals** in world and European competitions, **both indoor and outdoor**. The **Sports Activities Department - parachuting section** is based in **Pisa**, at the **Parachuting Training Center** of Folgore, and includes multi-medaled athletes in numerous disciplines.

Alongside competition, the department also maintains a constant presence at the most prestigious events: from the **Republic Day** to major institutional and international events, such as **G7, Armed Forces Day**, and other high-profile ceremonies. An intense activity that combines sport, professionalism, and representation, and that today is enriched by another significant medal: **the silver of Empuriabrava**, a brilliant confirmation of a group that continues to soar high.