

Silver for Folgore in Poland: Italian Army shines in Vertical Formation Skydiving

The team from the Reparto Attività Sportive of the Brigata Paracadutisti "Folgore" took second place in the indoor event.

Published on 19/11/2026

The team from the **Reparto Attività Sportive** of the Brigata Paracadutisti **"Folgore"** won a prestigious silver medal in **Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS)** at the **Flyspot Polish Open**, held in the wind tunnel in Katowice, Poland.

The Italian quartet sets its sights on the 2027 World Championships

Four leading athletes from the unit carried the colors of the Esercito Italiano to the second step of the podium in the team event:

- **Warrant Officer Alessandro Binello**
- **Warrant Officer Andrea Cardinali**
- **Corporal Marco Soro**
- **Private First Class Federico Allamprese**

This result confirms the excellence of the sporting branch of the Brigata "Folgore" and marks a key milestone on the road to the **World Championships** in the discipline, scheduled for **March 2027**. For several years, the Reparto Attività Sportive has complemented traditional sporting parachuting disciplines—such as landing accuracy and style—with *indoor* competitions, representing Italy at the most important international civilian and military events.

What Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS) is and how it works

Vertical Formation Skydiving (VFS) is one of the most spectacular and technically demanding disciplines in modern skydiving, practiced both in freefall and inside vertical wind tunnels (*indoor skydiving*).
Unlike traditional relative work (*Formation Skydiving*), in which athletes fly primarily in a flat, belly-to-earth position at speeds of around 180-200 km/h, in VFS skydivers fly in a **vertical orientation** — head-down (*head-down*) or head-up (*head-up*) — reaching airflow speeds of more than **260-300 km/h**.

The main competition rules

Official four-person VFS competitions (VFS 4-Way) follow strict rules established internationally by the FAI (*Fédération Aéronautique Internationale*):

1. **The team and competition time:** The formation consists of **4 athletes**. In the wind tunnel, each round has a timed duration of **35 seconds** of actual working time, starting when the first athlete leaves the net or enters the airflow.
2. **The draw for sequences:** Before the competition, a series of static formations (known as *Random*) and dynamic transition maneuvers (known as *Blocks*) are drawn from an official

catalog (*dive pool*). Each round features a specific sequence of 5 or 6 points that the team must repeat cyclically as many times as possible before time expires.

3. **Grips and point validity:** A formation is deemed valid by the judges only when all four athletes simultaneously assume the required orientation (e.g., all *head-down* or mixed combinations) and correctly complete all grips (hands on teammates' arms, legs, or wrists) specified in the official diagram.
4. **Total separation:** Between one formation and the next, all team members must completely break away (*total separation*): no physical contact is permitted while transitioning to the following formation.
5. **Scoring and penalties:** The team with the highest number of valid points at the end of the prescribed rounds (usually 8 or 10 rounds) wins. Judges review high-definition video of each round in slow motion: missed grips, incorrect orientations, or incomplete separations result in the point being disallowed (or penalties against the round score).

The silver medal won in Katowice demonstrates the exceptional level of teamwork, execution speed, and aerodynamic control achieved by the "Folgore" athletes, placing the Italian team among the leading contenders ahead of the 2027 World Championship.

News link: https://www.esercito.difesa.it/comunicazione/paracadutismo-sportivo--argento-per-lesercito-in-polonia/216777.html