



CIVL and PWCA cooperation on competition scene

December 2011: Following a successful meeting in October, of senior representatives of both CIVL and the PWCA, the two organisations have agreed on a continuing programme of cooperation aimed at creating a worldwide synchronised paragliding competition system.

“There is great synergy between our organisations and we have found that we recognise and appreciate each others’ strengths,” commented Agust Gudmundsson, CIVL acting President. PWCA President, Goran Dimiskovski added: “We have identified a number of areas where we can take immediate action that will help competition organisers worldwide.”

One of the first tasks will be to ensure early publication on the FAI competition calendar of all the planned PWC Cat 2-sanctioned tour events as well as Test Events for FAI Cat 1 competitions. The aim is to help other organisers avoid clashes, and enable competition pilots to plan ahead.

Another area of cooperation will be the merging of pilot databases. “FAI is undergoing a major overhaul of its databases and CIVL will soon be in a position which will allow us to work out how this merger is best achieved,” said Gudmundsson. There are already 36,000 paraglider and hang glider pilots on the CIVL database, and registration for a CIVL id is free of charge.

CIVL recognises the technical and organisational expertise within the PWCA enabling it to run some of the most highly regarded and prestigious Category 2 paragliding competitions on the FAI calendar. “Clearly the PWCA has a competent and flexible team that complements the expertise of local organisers, bringing a consistent high quality

reputation to its events, while remaining extremely pilot-friendly,” Gudmundsson stated. Dimiskovski added: “We are keen to work more closely with CIVL, and to make available, within the FAI framework, our technical competition organising team”.

The PWCA meanwhile, appreciates the importance of the protocol and standing associated with the highest level FAI Category 1 championships. Local organisers, municipal and regional authorities, as well as national Federations want to exploit the publicity opportunities surrounding opening and medals ceremonies, as well as during the event itself. “We are coming under increasing pressure from local organisers and sponsors to follow protocol and support such promotional opportunities, especially for the PWC Superfinal,” Dimiskovski explained.

Both organisations are keen to work together to ensure that there is a single premier individual event and a single premier team event on the FAI calendar. Many details will need further consideration between and within both organisations, and some restructuring of CIVL’s Cat 1 Championship format will most likely need to take place. For example, it may be necessary to split the FAI World Paragliding Championships into separate individual and team competitions.

Both parties see 2015 as the earliest possible target date for this new format FAI World Championship for paragliding. Bids for 2015 FAI World Championships will be made in 2013. Further discussions will most certainly be taking place at CIVL’s 2012 Plenary in February.

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