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Author:	Ronald Overdijk, IPC World Games Liaison Officer	Agenda ref. -	5.1
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PARACHUTING CANOPY PILOTING TEST EVENT FOR WORLD GAMES 2013 Cali, Colombia, 6-11 August 2012

IPC World Games Liaison Officer: Ronald Overdijk (Netherlands)

Competition Title: 2012 World Games Test Event Parachuting – Canopy Piloting

Location: Marco Fidel Suarez Air Force Base, Cali, Colombia

Dates: August 6-11, 2012

Introduction:

The World Games is a multi-sport event organised by the International World Games Association (IWGA) and the Cali Local Organising Committee (CLOC). The 2013 edition will feature more than 30 diverse non-Olympic disciplines, run simultaneously at various venues around the city. Two air sports have been selected, Paragliding Accuracy (PG) and Parachuting Canopy Piloting (CP). These are planned to take place with Marco Fidel Suarez Air Force Base (AFB) as venue (one of many in and around the host city, Cali), and are 'interleaved' to provide maximum spectator interest. As a demonstration sport indoor aeromodelling will be held, but at a different location than the AFB so no mention will be made to this sport in this report.

I have been communicating and working with the FAI (Jean-Marc Badan, and later Rob Hughes), the Colombian event contact (Markus Graeber), CIVL WG liaison officer (Louise Joselyn) and less with CLOC (Ricardo Ospina, later replaced by Miguel Piñeda) in order to prepare the CP event in combination with the PG event.

I have chosen to divide this report into two sections, the first for the competition itself, the second for the PR / exposure of the event. The reason for this is that the goal of FAI is to present sport to IWGA, media and public. Hence the sport part, being competition, and the presentation part, being PR and exposure. As can be seen in this report, generally speaking the competition was tested extensively but the PR part not quite as much, or on a different level.

Before I start I must express my gratitude to all those people who made the test event possible. I specifically mention Markus Graeber, who tirelessly worked to make the event happen. Despite several - minor and major - setbacks and delays the events were completed and almost all aspects tested. The following report highlights things to improve or to change, but that must not confuse the reader. Quite a few competitors expressed their gratitude for the competition.

Competition:

Preparation:

Due to several delays - mostly money oriented - the final and formal confirmation of the actual happening of the test event only was received on June 8th. I refer to the report of Markus Graeber for a full description of the events. So, competitors and staff only had 2 months to arrange their schedule and buy tickets. As IPC WG liaison officer I had been pro-active, assuming the event would take place regardless, taking into account some traditional Latin American delays and formalities. As such, CP ended up with a total of 27 competitors, of which 12 were from Latin America (including 3 Colombians). Of course, this also was helped by the willingness of several NAC's and competitors.

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After conferring with the IPC Judges Committee Rainer “Exi” Hoenle from Germany was selected as Chief Judge (for both 2012 and 2013 events). Jasper Williams (South Africa) was appointed as Course Technical Director (CTD). The venue layout had been discussed and decided upon already in 2011, by means of a working visit to FAI by me and Louise Jocelyn, and continuous contact with Markus Graeber. Competition rules for the test event were finalised by April 2012.

Competitor selection:

As said, there were a total of 27 competitors. Selection was based on the results of the Worldcup CP 2011 whilst further applications for vacancies were accepted, taking into account safety, regional representation and global spread. For the 2013 event, the selection event is the Mondial in Dubai. The selection process was also approved in 2012 and is as follows:

2 top male competitors from 12 top nations	24
4 top female competitors	4
4 wild cards (Colombia, Latin America)	4
4 highest ranking competitors	4
vacancies: fill up remaining highest ranking	-
Total	36

No slots were reserved this year for accompanying persons like team managers, coaches or head of delegation. Two accompanying persons from Russia formally registered for the event. For 2013 the recommendation for IWGA is to take note of a likely need for slots for these purposes. Of course, separate financial arrangements have to be made for those people.

Event:

The competition was off to a delayed start, as almost 2 full days were lost due to military, administrative, legal and financial issues. Markus Graebers report is very explicit about this. The helicopters were not available, the back-up plane could not fly, and the pond was not topped up. So, at the start it was known that the reserve day would be needed in order to complete the full program. The original schedule was planned as follows:

august 6	unofficial training	jumps
august 7	official training	1 jump
august 8-10	competition	9 competition jumps
august 11	reserve day	-

However, due to safety concerns relating to the high altitude of the AFB (3165 feet AMSL) it was decided that the first jumps should be reconnaissance / acclimatisation jumps as most competitors only jump at around sea level where parachute performance is different. The exact number of jumps was not decided then but evaluated with competitors after their first jumps. At about 3 ‘o clock on august 7 day a go could be given and almost all competitors did 2 unofficial training jumps. The next day, the remainder of the competitors did their second unofficial training jump. Then 2 more unofficial trainings jumps were done. After that competitors felt confident and secure about the dropzone, altitude and parachute performance so the official training jump was done as well. Then, straight into 2 competition jumps. August 9 and 10 more competition jumps. The reserve day (august 11) was used for the last 2 competition jumps and the final freestyle round. Weather was better than expected, winds in the afternoon did not go over the 7 m/s wind limit and 2 days did not shift direction. However, it must be assumed that for 2013 weather will be as per average.

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Taking the above into account a strong recommendation for 2013 is to have a minimum of 3 full days for unofficial training, including the official training jump, 3 full days for the competition (including the finals) and 1 reserve day. If more unofficial training days can be organized this would even be better. Any jump plane with a 4 jumper capacity would be sufficient for this purpose, with a preference for the same type as the one used for the official competition. Any financial implications are for the competitors themselves.

Prize-giving should be on afternoon at the last competition day, unless the reserve day is needed, as then the ceremony should be held.

Preference was giving manifest wise to CP above PG, as PG had started already, and was able to do launches in between landings and take-offs of the plane.

One round (3 go-arounds with 3 or 4 competitors) took about 1 hour. The Grand Caravan which was used can take 12 jumpers, leading to 3 flights of 3 go-arounds of 4 jumpers each, grand total 36 jumpers. So, this airplane is be sufficient.

The results can be downloaded at <http://www.fai.org/ipc-news/36122-world-games-test-event-parachuting>.

Competition rules:

The competition rules for the 2012 test event were in principle agreed on by the IPC CP competition committee and consisted of 4 rounds of accuracy, 4 rounds of distance and 1 final round of freestyle for the top 12 competitors. Freestyle was added in order to make the competition more attractive to public and media, the same reason why the speed event was deleted form the WG rules. These test rules were finalised and sent to FAI. IWGA did not receive them before the competition itself. For 2013 both FAI and IWGA should receive the 2013 CP competition rules.

Competitors felt that the freestyle round - while attractive by itself - is not in line with the other events as they are technical (accuracy and distance) while freestyle is artistic. Recommendation is to discontinue with freestyle for 2013. After that, there are options for the competition format for 2013:

1. As in 2012, without freestyle: 36 competitors: 3 rounds of a accuracy, 3 rounds of distance. After that 24 (or 18) competitors semi-final, 1 round of accuracy, then 12 competitors final, 1 round of distance. Time permitting after that, freestyle jumps could be performed for entertainment purposes for the public. Admittedly, freestyle is quite attractive to look at.
2. As in line with the regular IPC CP rules, including the speed event. Possibly with water dragging, on a straight course. The number of rounds to be decided, but taking into account semi-finals and finals. Finals could be speed.

Whatever is decided, IWGA needs to be informed beforehand of any ideas and proposal for change in this matter.

Staff / personnel:

Rainer "Exi" Hoenle is Chief Judge and Jasper Williams (South Africa) is appointed as Course Technical Director (CTD) both for both years (CTD). Exi selected the 2012 Judges panel. One judge was selected after a cancellation, see below. In principle the same judges will be used for 2013, with the proviso that one judge (distance operator) would be invited as well. The foreseen roster for 2013 is an appendix at the end of the competition section of this report.

Sufficient willing and bilingual volunteers were available. It turned however out they were hired for ½ days only. This was corrected in time. For 2013 volunteers should be available for the whole period, including the training day(s), with the same volunteers holding the same working positions, in order not to retrain different volunteers every day.

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Aircraft and logistics:

The original plan was to use military helicopters for the event. However, they were not available due to an incident in the South of Colombia, despite having several based normally at the AFB venue. A Cessna C-208B Grand Caravan was used for the competition, with space for (only) 12 competitors. 12 only due to insurance reasons.

The plane could not get any fuel at the AFB so at night it was based at Alfonso Bonilla Aragón international airport (Bonilla), about a 10 minute flight one way. There the plane loaded up on fuel for 12 to 13 flights, enough for a regular competition day of 4 hours of flying (4 rounds of 3 flights each). However, due to this full fuel load the plane was rather slow in climbing. This improved during the day because of the lessened weight due to fuel consumption. Furthermore, go arounds were quite long and the pilots were relatively inexperienced in parachuting operations. Several briefings with the pilot were needed in order to take care of take-off issues (too steep), go-around time and exit speed.

For 2013, the military helicopters at the AFB are my first choice of aircraft for flexibility and visibility reasons. This could be PR for the military and attractive to competitors and public. Available types are the Sikorsky UH-60 Black Hawk (12 jumpers) and/or Mil MI-17. That said, any military need is likely to draw the helicopters away from the event. That of course is not acceptable. Therefore, there must be an unbreakable contract between CLOC (or IWGA) and the military helicopter provider for 2013. This contract should be preferably signed in 2012. If this can not be arranged in time, the Grand Caravan is a tested and proven second option. There must be a second plane on available on a stand-by basis in order to deal with possible breakdowns. Furthermore, it would be highly recommended to be able to get fuel for the Grand Caravan at the AFB. If not, at least one flight per day - or more - must be made to Bonilla.

Airspace access / tower:

Airspace above the AFB is controlled by the AFB tower up to 5000 feet about the ground. Above that is controlled by Bonilla. Several jumpflights were conducted up to 5500 - 6000 feet as requested by competitors for safety reasons (enough altitude separation between jumpers on final before landing). Co-ordination between AFB tower and Bonilla proved flawless. No special permits were apparently needed for this, only notification from AFB tower to Bonilla ATC. Likewise, for 2013 it is expected jumpflights will be conducted up to 6000 feet. Both AFB tower and Bonilla should be advised about this.

Meteorological service:

A meteo briefing was given by a military expert every morning with a forecast for the day. While this was useful for PG, for parachuting decisions for the daily program are mostly decided upon the day before, especially for the first jump(s) of the day. Recommendation is to have such a briefing every evening, specially regarding the wind forecast.

Competition course:

Final specifications of the course were sent to Markus Graeber and discussed further with Exi and Jasper Williams. I refer to Markus Graeber's report on the financial, contractual and construction complications. The pond was good considering the short amount of time between signing the final contracts and the start of the event. However, the pond needed last minute corrections to meeting the minimum depth of 60 cm rule requirement, and for having an even and level bottom surface. The pond did not meet this criteria on the first jumping day of August 6th. The pond was levelled out by raising one side of the pond to be able to meet this safety requirement, but the correct water level continued to be a problem during the competition. Several refills, and on the last day continuous refill was needed. This was due to two things: evaporation, but not much, which was higher than expected, and mainly was due to severe leaking of the plastic lining in the pond.

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This plastic lining was too thin, had been taped together instead of plastic welded or glued, and had been damaged at several spots. It was also noted that there were lots of stones around at the sides of the pond, which is a big safety issue.

Strong recommendation is to extend the pond (see below), level it completely in such a way it meets the 60 cm minimum requirement (aim for between 70-80cm) thought the course over water at the entry gate, put in new and thicker plastic without any leaks and remove the stones. The area around the pond in the competitor run-off areas could also be grassed with lawn, or at least be made flat & cleared of obstacles. All this should be done before the end of 2012 in order to ensure that the bottom of the pond settles, and any further building problems dealt with in due time. Furthermore, a water supply must be available at all times to make up for water evaporation losses.

Also, after the competition IPC officials decided that - in view of the current competition rules - an extension of the pond by 15 ~ 20 meters on the entry side would be advisable for safety reasons, as competitors are making their final turn and entry into the course low above land, while this would better over water.

Normally floating buoys are used as course markers in the water. These were not available for the test event, and standing PVC tubes coated in foam were used. These worked satisfactorily and are recommended for the 2013 event.

The sand landing course is perfect. However, the sand is placed on ground which has been scraped by a bulldozer. Care must be taken that grass and weeds do not sprout in the sand. Options are manual removal or herbicides.

Judging and scoring equipment:

The judging system was hardware (lasers, sensors) from Jasper Williams, and locally bought hardware like tripods, cameras, course grid, etc. In total, 4 HD camera's were used and 2 lasers / sensors. This proved sufficient. The first entry laser / sensor was placed at 10 cm above the water as a test. This sensor worked 100%, but gave mixed results on the water dragging criterion. It also gave a positive signal when a competitor did not drag the water, but skipped it (dragging on and off with the foot bouncing the water). The judgement calls by the entry gate, as reviewed by the entry gate camera were 100% correct.

If cameras were to be used on all 4 watergates, serially connected in such a way to view each image on a monitor one after another (or on a single split screen) it could mean a move towards more automated judging. Such a system is available in Brazil and will be tested at the Mondial CP in Dubai, end of 2012. This event is also selection event for the 2013 WG. Goal is to implement this system for 2013 WG, with the Mondial being the test event for this. Only 2 extra HD camera's would be needed for this (1 for the system + spare overall). That said, the laser / sensor should be kept as they signal a positive pass with a beep, which is interesting for the public.

The scoring system was the BKTS system provided for by Björn Korth. These systems worked satisfactorily and except the BKTS system all hardware is still in Cali, to be used for 2013 WG.

One system which was supposed to be tested was a camera based distance measuring system, as used in water skiing, operated by Olaf Bottcher. Mr. Bottcher could not attend due to medical reasons but the system and the operator are reserved for 2013. The system is proven, operational and working.

Logistics:

Lunch was provided for in lunch boxes at the competition venue and were of good quality. This is adequate for 2013.

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Competitors boarded a bus for ground transport towards the boarding area of the airplane. This worked very well, whilst at the beginning two issues had to be arranged though. The first was that by military order the bus could not drive when jumpers were in the air. This rule was later relaxed but must be waived for 2013. The other issue was the route the bus took from the tents to the boarding area, it should not be in the way of any jumper before the course, for obvious safety reasons. Before the actual start of the 2013 event the driver should be briefed on this point.

Medical emergency services were available on site in the form of a medical post in tent and an ambulance. These were more than adequate. They were only needed one time due to a slight injury.

4 radios were provided for communication during the competition to CP staff (1 Meet Director, 1 Chief Judge, 1 CTD, 1 Scoring section judge). These are vital, but at one stage we really struggled as the PG staff were also on the same frequency as the CP staff. For 2013, this should be avoided.

Red tape:

Only a day before the start of the event it turned out that all competitors needed to sign a release form for the aircraft and that the medical insurance policies needed to be listed. This in order to find out which hospitals would accept competitors if injured. Also, visa procedures were changed about a week before the event, see Markus Graebers report.

These administrative hurdles - if really needed - must be known at a much earlier stage. At the 2009 WG, the local organiser asked proof of medical insurance at the accreditation office. If no proof could be shown, an entrant had to buy it on site, the organiser could provide this. This could serve as an example for 2013 in Cali.

Exposure / PR:

The exposure and PR was tested basically. Funds had been spent on a big screen, grandstands, a PA system, the 2012 test event website, and opening and closing ceremonies. Also, a commentator (bilingual Spanish and English) with CP competition knowledge had been contacted but he could not attend. A TV crew spent a day filming the events, leading to a 1,5 hour program on local TV on August 13th. Also, a photographer was present, and an article appeared in the newspaper.

Public access:

There was no separate entry for the public, so there were very little visitors, only family / friends of staff and military. The plan is to build a separate entry for the public in 2013. If so, entrance should be swift and welcoming. The entry of competitors and staff in 2012 was not acceptable, even including body searches.

Commentator:

The first two days, me and Alfredo Valencia commented to the public in English and Spanish. Later a commentator arrived but his knowledge of the CP (and PG) events was non-existent. Briefings did not improve this much, so basically only landing order of competitors was given. For 2103 a experienced male bilingual commentator has been reserved. Recommendation is to add a female commentator, locally or nationally known, with entertaining experience. They could work as a team, with one posing questions to the other about the events, like on TV news nowadays. This is a proven formula.

Grandstands:

Two grandstands were erected on the North side of the landing course. These were more than sufficient. For 2013 more grandstands should be erected, the number up to the space available along (the north side of) the course.

There was only a plastic ribbon between the grandstands and the competition course. For 2013 this must be a stronger boundary, e.g. barrier fencing.

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Big screen:

One big screen was erected at the south side of the course, so people in the grandstand could watch images on this. In practice however, the distance proved too far. The images of jumps showed could be seen actually at the same size in real from the grandstands, while the scores showed up too small. Recommendation for 2013 is to have up to three smaller screens (3x4m), located much closer to the grandstands at about 5 meters.

Results:

The competition results were shown on the big screen (see above) and on print for competitors at the notice board in the hotel. They were also available online at the website of the scoring system handling judge. For 2013 scores should be available through the BTKS system to the Swiss Timing scoring management. Early contact between BTKS and Swiss Timing is highly recommended, to make sure that both systems are compatible and in line with Swiss Timing / IWGA scoring representation. As Swiss Timing will be webbased, only one format only for the scores, screen presentation and the website is advised. As noted, each sport will have at least a Swiss Timing engineer on site to ensure a correct service. The engineer should be know so FAI can liaise with him.

Image:

Image is everything. In these modern times. Competitors jump a lot with camera's. The GoPro is the perfect example, it is everywhere and the quality is good. In 2013 good use must be made by media of in-air recording. Ideally, the organiser should provide competitors with a memory card.

A kiss and cry area should be established close to the grandstands, for interviews with competitors after landing. During this interview, part of the jump can be shown on the big screens, both from ground perspective as from the in-air recording.

After landing, competitors should walk back towards the tent area along the grandstands, and as such interact with the public.

Some packing of the parachutes should be visible, or close to the public, if possible. So, packing mats should be available near the competitors tents, while others should be close to the public.

Competitors should be - up to a point - available for talks to media and public. Everybody concerned should take notice that one of the primary goals of participation in the World Games is to present our sport.

Ceremonies:

Ceremonies were held for the official opening at the hotel, and for the official closing at the AFB. The opening provided a cocktail, a welcome speech and staff presentation, while the closing included banquet, thanks saying, a salsa show and prize-giving, including prize money. All this was very much appreciated by the competitors and staff.

For 2013, both ceremonies will be integrated into the overall schedule. Furthermore, a short opening and closing ceremony on site will be held according to a short IWGA procedure. Prize-giving will be (likely) at the AFB. Prize-giving should be official according to protocol, not allowing anything that distracts from official flags. As such, a stage with flagpoles and flags (of all entrant countries) should be available. Furthermore, the PA system should have the national anthems of all entrant countries.

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Appendix tentative staff / personnel list:

function	name	country	FAI / IWGA nr.
FAI Jury / FAI	to be decided		1
FAI Jury / IPC president	Graeme Windsor	Australia	1
FAI Jury / CIVL president			1
IPC WG liaison officer	Ronald Overdijk	Netherlands	1
Competition Director	Alberto Martin Paracuellos	Spain	1
Chief Judge	Rainer "Exi" Hoenle	Germany	1
Course Technical Director	Jasper Williams	South Africa	-
Judge (scoring operator)	Björn Korth	Austria	1
Judge (distance operator)	Olaf Bottcher	Germany	1
Judge	Barry McAuley	Canada	1
Judge	Mario Fabretti	Italy	1
Judge	Anders Berggren	Sweden	1
Judge	Igor Tiorlo	Ukraine	1
Commentator CP technical	Pablo Iragorri	Colombia	-

Note: the IF passport of 6 april 2011 has 10 slots for parachuting, but does not include the course technical director.

