



FAI Parachuting Commission (IPC)

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In this Issue

1. President's Message
2. CP Distance Review
3. New Records
4. Members
5. Russia
6. Technical & Safety Matters
7. 4th Asian Beach Games, 2014
8. Bureau Interim Decisions
9. 2013 Plenary Agenda
10. World Games Test Event

Important Links

[FAI Homepage](#)
[Parachuting Commission](#)
[Sporting Calendar](#)
[Results](#)
[World Air Games](#)
[World Records](#)
[FAI Awards](#)
[Anti Doping](#)

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1. IPC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You will by now have received my report on the results of a meeting that the FAI President called with a delegation from the IPC Bureau.

As I have already reported, the matters of contention between IPC and the FAI have been discussed and resolved, on condition that the Executive Board of FAI concurs with the conclusions reached.

It has not been an easy year so far on this front. It is clear to me and the rest of the Bureau that the current structure of FAI does not cater adequately for IPC as part of an International Air Sports Federation. This has to change if IPC is to progress along the lines of its strategic plan which has been adopted and reviewed continually by the Plenary.

There are many differences between FAI's various air sports, not only in size, resources and international structure, but also in the activity. For a peak air sports body such as FAI to meet the needs of its various air sports, the task is not an easy one, but I think it could be made easier, by firstly looking at the FAI structure.

Is an association of only NACs the best way to structure an International Air Sports Federation? The alternatives canvassed in the "Going it Alone" document which I sent to all delegates in June quite succinctly proposes options should ASCs find that FAI participation becomes increasingly less relevant to their needs.

For parachuting, I don't believe the current structure limited to NAC membership is the best way forward. This is not just my personal view. Many of the world's national parachute associations have a bigger staff than the FAI office. They are used to controlling their own destiny in conjunction with other parachute federations, and are often bemused, if not frustrated by edicts from FAI, which they are told is owned by NACs. Many parachute associations are surprised to learn that the considerable subscriptions they pay through their "NAC" for FAI membership goes solely to supporting the FAI office and EB functions, and find it incredible that nothing trickles down for use by their ASC. Of course, there are also parachute associations that are an integral part of their NAC and seemingly pay nothing, or very little. Invariably, these organisations exist on considerable subsidy, which in today's economic climate, has a very threatened chance of continuing.

Please discuss these issues with your NAC counterparts and FAI representative, whether you agree with this point of view or not.

2. CANOPY PILOTING DISTANCE RULES REVIEW

The Bureau received a copy of a review of rules by the CP committee on July 20, 2012. The article is quite long and is available to delegates on request.

The following extracts are included for your information

“The IPC-Canopy Piloting Commission has received a letter of concern, sent by Mike Teague, a renowned CP-Pilot and Chief Instructor of the CP-Commission in South Africa (RSA). This letter was sent to the IPC-President and to the IPC-CP-Commission by the IPC-Delegate of RSA, Jacqui Bruwer.

For possible conflicts of interest for the Chair of the IPC-CP-Commission, Jacqui Bruwer, I was asked as Deputy Chair of the IPC-Commission, to take the lead in handling the answer to this letter of concern on behalf of the CP-Committee. All of the Committee members agreed to this procedure.

Since the letter was directed to the IPC-President as well, it is the understanding of the IPC-CP-Committee that it is accepted, to have the CP-Committee officially taking the lead in answering to this letter and to the recommendation given by Mike Teague and at the same time, keeping the IPC President informed.

The CP-Committee-members thank Mike Teague for his input and bringing up his concerns. There is universal agreement, that safety has the first priority in our sport. There is also agreement, that all disciplines in Canopy Piloting require experience to achieve a high performance and good results. We all do know, that most of the injuries in Canopy Piloting do not happen in the first half of the ranking list of a given competition, but to those ranked further down the list. This is not a surprise. It is a surprise, though, that the issue of dragging water in CP-competitions actually has become an issue.

.....
In the last 6 months a total of 10 CP-competitions have been run around the world, in which the CP-Distance rules 2012 were applied, including 6 national championships (USA, Denmark, Great Britain, Germany, Norway and RSA). A total of close to 750 jumps have been made in dragging-distance so far.

Most, if not all of these events were held in a sequence of CP-Events, which allowed a “mental preparation” of the competitors during the events towards the dragging-distance event. That mental preparation does have a positive effect in all sports, is especially true in a sport like CP, where different techniques need to be performed.

It has been learnt quickly that applying a logical sequence of getting the mind set to dragging water actually was the essential tool for adjusting the competitors' minds.

Starting with Speed for one or two rounds, then transitioning to Accuracy for two rounds as a mind-setting tool to dragging and getting a feel for the water and then go for the transition to the Distance event, seemed to work best in the events, in which this process was applied. Some locations even combined this with a thorough briefing of the competitors through one of the most experienced competitors on the field, to explain how to handle this best. The combined Nationals of Great Britain and Germany in Bad Lipspringe may serve as an example.

At the CP-Nationals in RSA, in which 11 competitors were participating, it was decided to discontinue using the new 2012 IPC-distance rule after the first round. At other Nationals the competitors were reminded, to consider the jumps during the Nationals as a practice run for the participation at the Mondial 2012, rather than as qualification criteria. And they did.

In the letter from Mike Teague it is stated, that the desired effect of reducing the distance can be achieved by just applying the VE-penalty rule. This statement does contrast somewhat with the observation of other competitors, that the majority of competitors start to ascend above 1.5 metres in the 40 metre area of the course. They will continue to carry the risk of injury with them into the landing area by dropping down from a higher level.

With dragging the entry gate top competitors get over 150 metres already.

....the CP-Committee would like to present the statement and comment of the known CJ at the US-Nationals and member of the CP-Committee, which expresses and underlines the CP-Committee's decision:

Quote:

“The USPA Nationals and Meet 5 of the FLCPA were the safest CP events I have ever been a part of. It was truly amazing and wonderful! The current Distance event is a totally different and new event and if the competitor flies like they have in the past it is dangerous and they can get injured and even killed. That is their choice. It is not the rule that is dangerous it is how the competitor chooses to fly.”

End of Quote.

The Committee has left the door open to accommodate the wishes of those participants in CP-Distance events, who enjoy setting new distance records by keeping the past competition rules as an alternative solution to achieve Performance Distance records, especially apt for those, who have the experience and the material to handle this way of flying CP long distances without getting injured at the end.

Last but not least, the letter of concern contains a statement about difficulties in judging dragging in the Distance event. The CP-Committee does not want to comment on this issue, for being a true judges' issue. The CP-Committee took the time to collect responses from Chief Judges, who had first hand experiences with the new distance rule during their Nationals in 2012. They have been attached in a separate statement.

The conclusion out of the answers is not new either:

- Put your best/most experienced judges into the key positions on the field, is the key factor, not the discipline.
- For the competitor the type of footwear seems to be an essential factor to achieve a good effect during dragging.

The CP-Committee wants to point out, that the new rule is not a solemn decision of a few. Like all rules in parachuting this rule, as well, went through a true democratic process. It has been discussed within the specific committee, before it was presented and discussed in the open meeting of the IPC. Feed-back and input, pros and cons, after discussion again went through a democratic vote within the Committee again, before the final presentation of the proposal. The exact wording, which is in the rule now, has been presented to the IPC-Plenary at its annual meeting in Buenos Aires in 2012. The rule has been approved unanimously, by all IPC-delegates.

It must be understood, that any changes must go through the same democratic process, if this issue is raised and brought again to the IPC-Plenary Meeting in 2013. A motion to the IPC is open to all IPC-delegates. Nevertheless, one must also consider, that following the approval of the 2012 rules in distance, around the world competitors from many nations took up the challenge and trained to master the application of the new rule. The results are promising and mainly by controlling the master-mind.

It seems, that "mind setting" is the major training tool to master the new distance course. "Mind-setting" and training seems to play a major role in CP, as in all CP events. The CP-Committee is thankful to have received this letter of concern from South Africa, to watch even closer the development of Canopy Piloting in the future and how athletes are going to handle this sport.

Rainer 'Exi' Hoenle
Deputy Chair CP Committee

3. NEW RECORDS

Delegates will have received notification of the records being set this year. In regard to the following preliminary record claims that have been received at FAI in relation to the recent high altitude attempts in the USA, the IPC is working with USPA and FAI to determine what recognition (if any) can be made for the jump made by Captain Joe Kittinger in August 1960 from a balloon from around 102,800 feet.

<i>Exit altitude - General - Altitude Records</i>	<i>29 610 m</i>	<i>2012-07-25</i>	<i>Felix Baumgartner (AUT)</i>
<i>Freefall distance - General - Altitude Records</i>	<i>25 680 m</i>	<i>2012-07-25</i>	<i>Felix Baumgartner (AUT)</i>
<i>Vertical speed without drogue - General - Speed Records</i>	<i>864 km/h</i>	<i>2012-07-25</i>	<i>Felix Baumgartner (AUT)</i>

4. MEMBERS

Associate membership of the FAI is available for countries who only wish to participate in parachuting. The cost is CHF 2,562 per year, which goes to support FAI activity. Associate membership entitles delegates to attend IPC meetings, and competitors to compete under their own flag.

Recent activity

Paraguay is currently a Temporary member, which only allows participation at competition under the FAI flag. Paraguay is hoping to participate under its own flag at Mondial 2012.

Kenya has applied for associate membership of FAI in respect of the Kenya Skydivers Association.

5. RUSSIA

At the invitation of the President of the Russian Parachute Federation, FAI President John Grubbstrom and I visited that country in April this year. During the course of the visit, we met with the Russian Sports Minister, representatives of the National Olympic Committee and National Committee for non-Olympic Sports, Russian Air Sports Federation President, the Organization of Defence Volunteers assisting Sport in Russia, and a number of other dignitaries. Sergey Serendeev, President of the Russian Parachute Federation has a plan to expand parachuting into as many states of Russia as possible to maximize assistance for parachuting development. Also joining in the visit was Nebojsa Duskovic, from Montenegro, Meet Director for the proposed European Championships and World Cup in Style and Accuracy that was set for Grozny in 2013.

During the course of the visit we met representatives of the city of Chebaksarya, host of the 2013 CP European Championships and World Cup, which is famous for not only hosting international sporting events, but also for its beer museum. The visit included a trip to the snow covered airport where the competition will be held.

At short notice, Sergey arranged for a visit to Grozny. Grozny has been rebuilt and appeared to be calm and secure. However a terrorist car bombing in the area last week, which resulted in the death of three, has heightened security concerns both within the FAI EB and the IPC Bureau. There are many governments with travel warnings against visiting the area, and FAI is obliged to consider the liability risk of sponsoring a FCE in this location. Currently, discussions are taking place on suitable alternative solutions.

Graeme Windsor
President, IPC

6. TECHNICAL & SAFETY MATTERS

The completed 2011 Safety Report forms are now being sought from all countries. Please send these, as soon as possible, to Liam McNulty – lmcnulty@skydiveireland.ie Thanks to those who have already forwarded the reports. Please note that the AAD survey has been discontinued so there is no need to send an AAD form.

An accident occurred recently, in which the wing of a descending aircraft, which had just dropped jumpers, struck a skydiver and killed him. The body of this skydiver struck two other skydivers, seriously injuring them. In light of this, albeit a rare and unusual type of accident, aircraft descent procedures might be looked at by associations and parachute centres.

(This information is based on a preliminary notification, is not definitive, is given without prejudice and does not attempt to influence any investigation being conducted into the incident).

From the 2010 Safety Report

Significant Figures

- 44 of the 66 fatalities (67%) appear to have occurred with the parachutist having at least one good parachute on his/her back.
- 39 of the 66 fatalities (59%) occurred after the successful deployment of the main parachute.
- 10 of the 66 fatalities (16%) might have been avoided by AAD use.
- 59 of the 66 fatalities (89%) appear to have been caused by human error.

4 (6%) of the 66 fatalities were First Jump Students
There were no Tandem fatalities in 2010

7. 4th Asian Beach Games, Thailand 2014

The following report is based on information received from Faye Cox, Secretary-General of the Asiana Parachute Federation.

Following the initiative by Asiana President Mubarak with the officials of the OCA (Olympic Council of Asia) and with the support of the IPC, Asiana has been recognised by the OCA as the organization representing parachuting in the Asian areas. As a consequence, a presentation of skydiving and parachuting competition events and reasons for inclusion of parachuting in future Asian Games was presented on behalf of Asiana by Han Zhaofang at the recent Asian Games in China.

Asiana has now reached another milestone in its history, with the OCA recommending that parachuting be

included in future Asian (Asean) Games through the Asiana Parachute Federation. Asiana now needs to provide a supporting role towards organising the parachuting events and responsibilities that go with this event and continue to promote the further development of parachuting and skydiving in the Asiana area.

Tengku Abdillah, President of the Aeronautic Sports Association of Malaysia also holds the positions of the President of the Asean Aeronautic Sports Association and is the Vice President of the Federation Aeronautic Internationale (FAI), Asian Region. The fact that Tengku has been appointed as the FAI Vice President for the Asian areas is another plus for Asiana as he will be able to contribute to the success of the activities with a much greater understanding of these regions.

The Royal Aeronautic Sports Association of Thailand (RASAT) is organizing a planning meeting for early September. This is expected to be attended by Asiana representatives from the area and representatives from IPC and Asiana will be present. RASAT will be looking for support from neighbouring countries in preparing for the Asian Beach Games air sports, as well as FAI, IPC and Asiana.

The IPC President is planning on participating in a planning meeting involving the Regional FAI V-P, Asiana and the NAC representatives in Bangkok early September.

8. IPC BUREAU DECISIONS

Fuller details/background regarding any Bureau Interim Decision may be had by contacting a Bureau member or the Committee Chair of the Committee concerned.

12 Feb 2012	2012/01/02	<p>Subject - Approval of Deputy Chair of the 2012 Canopy Formation Committee, and new Deputy Chair of the Judges Committee.</p> <p>Details - The position of Deputy Chair of the IPC Canopy Formation Committee had been left vacant at the 2012 IPC Plenary Meeting, pending a later nomination by the CF Committee Chair Lindy Rochow-Williams, and approval by the IPC Bureau.</p> <p>The Plenary approved this course of action and Barry McAuley was subsequently nominated to hold the position of Deputy Chair of the CF Committee for 2012.</p> <p>As Barry McAuley had been Deputy Chair of the Judges Committee, and moved to become Deputy Chair of the Canopy Formation Committee, it was necessary to appoint a new Deputy Chair to the Judges Committee. Judges Committee Chair Pia Berggren proposed to the Bureau that Sara Sacchet be appointed.</p>	<p>Bureau Decisions - The IPC Bureau approved the nomination of Barry McAuley as Deputy Chair of the Canopy Formation Committee for 2012.</p> <p>The IPC Bureau also approved the nomination of Sara Sacchet as Deputy Chair of the Judges Committee.</p>
28 April 2012	2012/02/04	<p>Subject - Approval of Bulletin #1, 11th FAI European Formation Skydiving Championships, 18th FAI World Cup of Formation Skydiving, 8th FAI European Artistic Events Championships & 9th FAI World Cup of Artistic Events, to be held at Prostějov, Czech Republic, 27th August – 02nd September 2012.</p> <p>Details - Bulletin #1 had been sent to the Bureau for approval, and release and publication following approval.</p> <p>The Bulletin had been approved by the Chairs of the FS and AE Committees, the FAI Controller and the Chief Judge.</p>	<p>Bureau Decision - The IPC Bureau unanimously approved the release and publication of Bulletin #1.</p>
02 Jun 2012	2012/03/06	<p>Subject - Approval of Para Ski Competition Rules for the Para Mondial 2012, to be held in Dubai, UAE, 28 November – 09 December 2012.</p> <p>The Para Ski event at Mondial 2012 will be a Demonstration Event.</p> <p>Details - The proposed Para Ski Competition Rules for this event were forwarded to the Bureau by the Chair of the Para Ski Committee, Michael Egger. The Para Ski Committee had approved these proposed rules.</p>	<p>Bureau Decision - The IPC Bureau unanimously approved the Para Ski Competition Rules for Mondial 2012, and sanctioned their release and publication.</p>

02 Jun 2012	2012/04/06	<p>Subject - Deposit and Sanction Fees for Mondial 2012 to be lodged to an IPETA (International Parachuting Events & Tours Association) account, on trust for IPC.</p> <p>Details - The 2012 IPC Plenary Meeting set a date of 15 May 2012 for the establishment of IPETA. The Bureau, with Agnieszka Solomon and Alberto Martin Paracuellos, met in London on 13/14 May to finalise the set-up process.</p> <p>To date the funds requested by IPC in respect of IPETA, as authorised by the IPC Plenary, have not been released by FAI</p> <p>The 2012 Organiser Agreements, Schedule 1, paragraph 1.1 and 1.2 state that the Deposit and Sanction Fee are to be paid to the IPC. The IPC wishes to use such funds to establish and operate IPETA.</p>	<p>Bureau Decision - The IPC Bureau, by majority decision, decided that, when IPETA is incorporated and a bank account has been set up, both the Czech Republic and the UAE will be directed to pay the required Deposit and Sanction Fees directly to the IPETA bank account.</p>
14 Jun 2012	2012/05/06	<p>Subject - Nomination and approval of Richard 'Buzz' Bennett as IPC representative to the FAI Working Group that will review the FCE Organiser Agreement.</p> <p>Details - FAI indicated an intention to update and modify, where necessary, the Organiser Agreement. IPC President Windsor proposed that Richard 'Buzz' Bennett, as he is Chair of the IPC's Rules & Regulations Committee, represent IPC on this group.</p>	<p>Bureau Decision - The IPC Bureau unanimously approved this proposal and nominated R. 'Buzz' Bennett to represent IPC on this Working Group.</p>
23 Jun 2012	2012/06/06	<p>Subject - Request by Bosnia & Herzegovina for extension of one month, to 31 July 2012, for Mondial 2014 Bid to be sent to IPC.</p> <p>Details - Bosnia & Herzegovina provided a Letter of Intent at the 2012 IPC Plenary Meeting in Buenos Aires to bid for Mondial 2014. The bid deadline for a 2014 Mondial is 30 June 2012.</p> <p>Due to the recent tragic aircraft accident in Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina requested as extension of one month, to 31 July 2012 to make the bid.</p>	<p>Bureau Decision - In view of the extenuating circumstances and in the absence of any other known bidder at this stage, the IPC Bureau unanimously approved the request and agreed to extend the time by which the bid for Mondial 2014 is to be made to 31 July 2012.</p>
06 Jul 2012	2012/07/07	<p>Subject - Request for the addition of 'Junior Category' to Records in Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing, and to amend existing rules to recognise this addition.</p> <p>Details - The German Delegate, Dr Rainer 'Exi' Hoenle, requested that the Bureau consider the addition of a 'Junior Category' to Records in Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing.</p> <p>The Freefall Style & Accuracy Landing Committee endorsed the request.</p> <p>The request for a Bureau decision between Plenary Meetings was made so that, if successful, this category of record could be added for 2012 FCEs.</p>	<p>Bureau Decision - The IPC Bureau, by majority decision, agreed to the addition.</p>
30 Jul 2012	2012/08/07	<p>Subject - Approval of Bulletin #2 - 11th FAI European Formation Skydiving Championships, 18th FAI World Cup of Formation Skydiving, 8th FAI European Artistic Events Championships & 9th FAI World Cup of Artistic Events, to be held at Prostějov, Czech Republic, 27 Aug-02 Sept 2012.</p> <p>Details - Bulletin #2 had been sent to the Bureau for approval, and release and publication following approval.</p>	<p>Bureau Decision - The IPC Bureau unanimously approved the release and publication of Bulletin #2.</p>
07 Aug 2012	2012/09/08	<p>Subject - Approval of non-budgeted expenditure of approximately AUD 2,400 flight cost, plus allowable expenses, for President Graeme Windsor to attend a meeting in Bangkok on 3 -4 Sept 2012, to promote the inclusion of parachuting in the 4th Asian beach Games in 2014.</p> <p>Details - The Bureau considered this item in the light of the importance of IPC support for ASIANIA and its work in promoting parachuting in Asia, and the inclusion of parachuting in the Asian Beach Games in Thailand, 2014, and also to supplement the anticipated support from the new Regional FAI V-P.</p>	<p>Bureau Decision - The IPC Bureau unanimously approved the expenditure of the amount for air travel cost and other additional allowable expenses for Graeme Windsor to attend this meeting.</p>

9. PLENARY 2013 AGENDA

The 2013 Plenary is scheduled to be held 26-27 January 2013, in Banja Luka, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

The closing date for receipt of items for the 2013 Plenary agenda is 27 November 2012.

As Mondial 2012 will take place 28 Nov - 09 Dec 2012, reports from Committee/Working Group Chairs will not have details of Mondial experiences, and recommendations or rule changes arising therefrom.

The following will therefore apply:-

1 The Committee/Working Group Chairs send a report by 27 November, as normal.

2 The Committee/Working Group Chairs will send a 'Supplementary Report' by 31 December 2012. This would allow them have anything arising from the Mondial discussed. The Recording Secretary will send these 'Supplementary Reports' to Delegates, and have these reports posted on the web site, by 10 January 2012. Delegates may have to make arrangements to get their countries' instructions on voting on matters in these 'Supplementary Reports'. Please note that this leaves less than two weeks to make such arrangements, as the meetings prior to the Plenary will commence on 22 January 2013.

Please also note that papers produced at the conference must get into our recording/reporting system, which means no hand outs will be allowed without an electronic copy to the IPC Recording Secretary. Problems have occurred in the past due to papers being distributed without electronic backup, so this must be avoided.

10. WORLD GAMES TEST EVENT - CALI

Update from IPC Liaison Officer, Ronald Overdijk (Note: this item was supplied some time ago, and has been edited because of the Newsletter production delay, and the fact that the test event in Cali has now been completed. A further update on the test event will be released in due course).

Parachuting will be part of the World Games again in 2013. The contested discipline for parachuting is Canopy Piloting (CP). Also, Paragliding Accuracy will be held. Typically, between 25 and 35 sports are contested at any particular World Games, [The World Games 2013](#) in Cali, Colombia will host some 33 different sports. The World Games are organized and governed by the [International World Games Association](#) (IWGA)

To test the infrastructure and logistics for the two airports and to give potential participants in the 2013 competitions the opportunity to gain local experience it was decided to organize a test event in 2012. The test event was held at Marco Fidel Suarez Air Force Base in the heart of Cali from August 6 through 11. The test event was open for 36 selected top CP competitors from the whole World. Special competition rules were drawn up in order to present an interesting and attractive competition. The event is made more attractive by the use of helicopters as launch platforms. Prize money for the medal winners is also available. For more information about the event please look at <http://worldgames.fedaereos.org/>

For those who did not yet have the test event results: <http://www.btk.de/results/2012wg-cali/2012wg-cali.htm>