

<i>SUBJECT:</i>	Canopy Formation Committee Report for ISC Plenary 2026	<i>AGENDA #</i>	16
<i>AUTHOR:</i>	Natasha Higman, Chair, Canopy Formation Committee		
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## **Canopy Formation Committee Report For ISC Plenary January 2026**

### Competitions

As is customary, no World Cup or Continental Championships were carried out in the year between World Championships. The majority of athletes prefer a 2-year competition cycle.

### Records

Rather than a competition, the Canopy Formation Community focused on World Records. During November 2025 the following World records were set:

- Large Formation Sequential, 2 formations, female: top performance 23-way, beating the successful 16-way and the 21-way during the event
- Large Formation: 104 participants.

Following the changes to Section 5 approved by the 75<sup>th</sup> Plenary, the record will, for the first time ever, include the names of the videographers accompanying the performers. Without their skill and commitment judging these records would be impossible.

Many Committee members contributed to this achievement. Pasi, Eduardo, Sam and Peter were all at the event as jumpers. Marylou was at Jump Florida very actively supporting the on-site FAI Judge and I was honoured to be one of the remote judges.

Following the request for a principal contact point for records, I am pleased to share that Marylou has agreed to be the Committee Contact Point for records. Thank you!

### Rule changes

During the record event, it became clear that although there has been significant advancement in the skills of diamond-shaped offset large formations, vertical stack building has been dormant since the 1980s. They are distinctly different skills, also apparent in the CF Competitions. 4-way and 2-way Sequential requires the offset flying skill and 4-way Rotations the vertical stack flying.

There is an opportunity to revive this skill set, and develop new engineering and gear advancement as well as the skills of the participants. The Committee therefore proposes the introduction of a Vertical Large Formation record category. Similar to when sequential large formation records were introduced, there is no desire to retire existing offset records and the minimum size of a Vertical Large Formation performance must be at 25% of the ratified Large Formation record.

The Committee proposes two rule changes to the Canopy Formation Competition Rules:

- Clarifying that the Plane and Plane/Stack formations do not apply in the Sequential events. This is clear to athletes, as planing takes up unnecessary time, however the question is often asked by judges, who have not competed. Adding this merely clarifies the existing situation.
- Reinserting the paragraph setting out the objective of the event. We believe this paragraph was accidentally deleted at some point. The wording is taken from the Formation Skydiving Competition Rules as the objective is the same.

**76<sup>th</sup> FAI/ISC PLENARY MEETING, 24-25 JANUARY 2026, RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA**

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All the Committee's rule change suggestions are shown in Annex 1.

The CF Committee wholeheartedly welcomes the work done by the R&R Committee and is committed to making the necessary changes to harmonise terminology across disciplines. The 2026 rules will reflect the terminology decisions taken by the 2026 Plenary.

### Judging

There was good progress at the beginning of 2025 towards developing a tool to allow for remote re-currency evaluations for judges. Unfortunately the support for this ceased in the middle of the year. A new tool is currently being investigated.

The CF Committee would like to thank the Judges' Committee for their continued patience while we seek a solution which meets the needs of all parties.

### Competition participation

The applications to participate in records show that the number of people doing Canopy Formation remains high. Yet competition participation remains low, in particular in the 4-ways. The Committee is considering what actions to take to help increase competition participation. As well as Committee thoughts, some discussions were held during the record setting event to find out why those interested in records don't take part in competitions. Possible actions include:

- Publishing an intermediate 4-way sequential dive pool, providing the opportunity for intermediate competitions to be held at national level which are consistent with each other
- Creating and maintaining a list of CF coaches across the globe, including those who can coach remotely, so that aspiring competitors can train at their home dropzones and still get high quality coaching

I would like to thank all members of the Committee for their continued commitment to furthering and developing Canopy Formation.

Tash Higman  
Chair, Canopy Formation Committee

### **2024 – 2026 CF Committee Members**

Chair:

Tash Higman (Delegate, Germany)

Deputy Chair:

Pasi Pirttikoski (Finland)

Members:

Eduardo Guillien (Argentina)

Marylou Laughlin (USA)

Alexandra Petitjean (France)

Peter Pfalzgraf (Germany)

Sam Haste (United Kingdom)

Gabriel Andrei (Romania)

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## Annex 1 – Rule change proposals

### 2026 Canopy Formation Rule Change Proposals

#### Clarification of configurations:

##### 2.3.2 Plane

The head of the upper jumper must be below the lower surface of the lower canopy. A grip must be on a front riser or an “A” line attached to the centre cell. [The Plane configuration only relates to 4-way Rotation.](#)

##### 2.3.3 Plane/stack

Plane, stack or any position on a riser or an “A” line attached to the centre cell between these configurations. A correct grip must be maintained. [The Plane/Stack configuration only relates to 4-way Rotation.](#)

**Rationale:** Clarification of when Plane and Plane/Stack apply.

#### Insertion of sentence on objective of Event

##### 3.3 Objective of the Events

[The objective of the event is for the team to complete as many scoring formations as possible within the working time, while correctly following the sequence for the round.](#)

The accumulated total of all completed rounds is used to determine the final rank of the teams and declare the winner.

**Rationale:** Reinsert the objective which was deleted in error at time point in the past.

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## 2026 Section 5 Change Proposal

### Defining Vertical Large Formation records

#### 3.3.2 CF Performance Records

##### Largest Formation

The record performance for the Largest Formation is the number of persons in one formation which is the "Record Formation". The "Largest Formation Team" is made up of the declared participants which are:

- The persons in the Record Formation
- Videographers of the Record Formation, and
- Alternates available to immediately join the Record Formation

Amounting to no more than 120% of the size of the Record Formation.

A written plan describing the Record Formation to be attempted and the declared Largest Formation Team must be submitted in advance to the Judges. The Record Formation must be complete as described with only members of the Largest Formation Team in the formation.

All persons in the completed formation must be connected by at least one grip either taken by the person or taken on the person.

A grip is

(a) a hand hold on an "A" line or front riser, or

(b) contact with the "A" line from behind with the front of the lower leg or ankle, defined as between the instep of the foot and below the knee. (the instep of the foot does not need to be marked with a tape) (both as defined in the relevant Competition Rules).

#### Vertical Formation Record Requirement

Plane, stack or grip in any position on a riser or an A-line attached to the centre cell between these configurations.

The record performance of the Vertical Formation is the number of persons on the Large Formation Team, not less than 25% (rounded up) of the size of the Largest Formation Record (World or Continental Regional, General, Female or Night, as appropriate), at the time the Vertical Record is performed.

Large Formation Sequential and Full Break Large Formation Sequential

**Rationale: Providing the opportunity to reinvigorate Vertical Large Formation flying skills**