

CIVL PLENARY 2010 – LAUSANNE – ANNEX 13

GERMANY PROPOSALS

PROPOSED CHANGES TO SECTION 7A:

1. WOMEN SCORING CLASS 1: For the purposes of scoring Class 1 women, the sum of the highest scoring 2 pilots in each team will be added daily to arrive at the team score. This gives more countries a chance at the medals.
2. STOPPED TASK TIME IN WOMEN'S HANG GLIDING COMPETITIONS: Due to the smaller number of women competitors, a stopped task will be scored as per Section 7 except that the time limit of 1.5hour will be replaced by 1 hour.
3. TEAM SIZE IN WOMEN'S HANG GLIDING COMPETITIONS: Team size of 6. Please see the arguments in the letter (below) from Corinna Schwiegershausen.

2 December 2009

Proposal to CIVL to Increase Team Size for Women's Championships

We would like the CIVL delegates to reconsider the rules for team size at Female FAI Category 1 hang gliding competitions in order to encourage as much participation among women as possible. Team size has historically always been six, but only changed for the most recent women's championships in Monte Cucco because of expected low attendance. Attendance was anticipated to be low because participation in the women's championships in Florida in 2006 were at an all time low of 19, despite a team size of 6. However, the reason for low attendance was the high cost of an aerotowing format competition in an expensive nation, the United States. However, the trend of higher attendance started again in 2008 and we hope that that can continue, giving good reason for again increasing team size to the standard 6 as it has been for so many years.

A team size of 6 would boost attendance because many pilots rely on team membership to finance what is normally the most expensive competition of the year. Since most countries do not support individual pilots that aren't part of the nations official team, without team membership, there would be no financial support to female pilots and that lack of support prevents many, if not most pilots from attending.

For many newer female pilots, a women's championship offers a unique opportunity to take part in an event that is specifically geared toward women. Most normal Category 1 and 2 competitions involve much longer tasks, flying with more aggressive pilots and don't provide the same incentives for women to participate. The women's championships offer a venue to focus on women's special requirements and can serve as a springboard for moving forward to other Category 1 and 2 competitions. We should be encouraging national federations to find more women pilots to compete! We are not doing this by unnecessarily restricting team size.

Moreover, larger team size encourages young, newer pilots by allowing them to learn from and in the team atmosphere where they can be mentored and guided by their

more experienced teammates. Outside this team setting, as individual pilots, they do not have the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge from the most skilled and capable pilots on the team and are virtually left on their own.

Another important factor is promotion of our sport in the media. Women pilots are a rare group that are able to garner more media attention than the average male pilot. Pilots who are able to secure sponsors and certainly those looking for sponsorship need to show what they can give in return. Providing 6 medals to each place in the team competition undoubtedly means more attention. The media isn't concerned about points, in most cases, points have no meaning whatsoever to them. However, a medal speak volumes and attracts interest in our sport. The impact of additional medals on media attention pays for the cost of the additional medals over and over again. This positively impacts the sport in general by encouraging more individuals to enter the sport.

Ultimately, it should be the goal of the CIVL to promote as large a turnout as possible at women's championships. The best way to do this is by increasing team size to the historical standard of six, ensuring that it is financially viable to all women interested in participating, encouraging mentorship between experienced and newer pilots, and increasing media attention to our sport.

*Best regards,
Corinna Schwiegershausen*