

**Competitors Sub Committee (CSC) Agenda
2021 CSC Meeting – ONLINE**

1. Current Members

Andrew BAIRD	USA	CHAIR
Paolo OGGIONI	ITA	
Gerald STURZLINGER	AUT	WRL
Uwe SCHNEIDER	GER	WRL
Maury SULLIVAN	USA	
Tadas Gegevicus	LTU	
Hikomori SOEJIMA	JPN	
Sam PARKS	USA	
David STRASSMANN	GER	
Sylvia MEINL	GER	
Markus KALOUSDIAN	BRA	
Igor MIKLOUSIC	CRO	

2. Roll call, accounting for absences.

The following members were present.

Andrew BAIRD	USA	CHAIR
Uwe SCHNEIDER	GER	WRL
Maury SULLIVAN	USA	
Hikomori SOEJIMA	JPN	
Sam PARKS	USA	
David STRASSMANN	GER	
Sylvia MEINL	GER	
Igor MIKLOUSIC	CRO	

The following Observers were in attendance.

Muir	Lindsay	GBR
MOLNAR	Peter	HUN
SPAETH	Debbie	USA
BAREFORD	David	GBR
PELLEGROM	Erwin	NED
WEBER	Claude	LUX

3. World Ranking List update

a. List-keepers TBD

If a change to the WRL list keepers is needed it will be discussed after hosting of the data has been determined. For now, there is no change, and both members are happy to stay on.

b. Proposals for maintaining the World Ranking List

The online WRL has not been working properly since a server change last year. The mid-2020 list is visible at watchmefly.net. NTSC is working on a proposal to host the WRL at watchmefly.net – and will present a motion to that affect if agreed upon in their upcoming committee meeting.

There was a discussion about reworking the WRL formula, to look at ways to (a) improve the ‘aging’ formula of the competition data, and (b) better incorporate other events/competitors from around the world.

Uwe agreed to provide the current formula to the committee so that it can be shared with interested parties.

A working group will be formed to develop alternative WRL formulae. The following meeting participants will be the initial members of that working group:

Andrew BAIRD	(USA)
Uwe SCHNEIDER	(GER)
Peter MOLNAR	(HUN)
Erwin PELLEGRONI	(NED)

4. Discussion and Review of 2020 Events (if any)

- a. Jury Reports
- b. Rules
- c. Scoring
- d. Safety
- e. Other

There were no 2020 events to review.

5. EDS: Invitation to chairman of EDS to speak to CSC regarding event issues.

- a. Discussion of EDS items

Lindsay Muir gave a summary of current EDS activity and expressed concerns about the continuing COVID challenges and the uncertainty of events. Although event planning is moving forward, we should be prepared for cancellation if travel restrictions continue to be imposed.

EDS and Section-1 working group are developing procedures regarding cancellation or postponement of events.

6. Invitation process for postponed events

- a. Discuss any issues relating to handling of invitation for postponed events.

2022 World Hot Air Balloon Championship.

Claude stated that the intent is to completely restart the invitation process. The 2020 invitation procedure was made under unusual circumstances and was unfairly affected by COVID. He stated that the only way to move forward is to restart the invitation process with first round invitations.

All countries will have the opportunity to submit pilots again, including new countries that have recently joined the FAI/CIA, but excluding any countries that are no longer in good standing (if any).

7. 2021 CSC Pilot Survey results

The 2021 CSC survey has not yet been released. Several new topics were discussed including:
Upward-facing cameras on board – should they be mandatory?

There was a discussion about their use, equipment required, lag times, possible need for standardized equipment, cost, availability, and alternatives to camera systems.

Sharing of Live Tracks

There is a marketing/PR need to share live tracks in near real-time. The issue of track sharing was discussed: including the need for a time-delay and likelihood that only 2D data would be shared. Since the rules state that each track is property of the competitor, tracks can't currently be made public without a rule change.

8. Remote Competitions
 - a. Feedback from Competitors

Feedback has generally been positive, although there have been some scoring challenges. The scoring process is long (24/7 for 14 weeks in 2020). Some tracks didn't come through in watchmefly.net and there were some technical issues. Perhaps with the new sensor, the tracks will be better. There were some bugs with time offset, and a difference between tracks and the GPS sensor. The task setting was interesting, and tasks were flown in nearly every condition. Terrain made a big difference in how the tasks could be flown. Some areas were not able to participate due to COVID lockdowns.

The difference in terrain winds can lead to unfairness depending on the location.

- b. Should we adopt as 'official' competition type?
 - i. Are new rules required?

There is a proposal for new Balloon Live contest with rule changes. See AX Forum, and/or NTSC minutes.
- c. Balloon Live Sensor/App
 - i. Discussion on Use

Claude: Update support and FAQ. (will be published in the coming weeks)
 - ii. Plans for integrated scoring?

Short term: integrate – use watchmefly.net – simple scoring software, and result calculation. Needs a budget to develop. Probably by end of 2021.
Long term: integrate scoring into the app itself. Buttons change color based on marker colors. Integrate with task setting. App can change UI accordingly.
Possibly: invalid goal identification.

9. Competitor Issues for 2022 / Survey topics

Deferred until after the 2021

10. Old Business

- a. Results of prior year recommendations to other Committees and working groups
 - i. Operator of the Controls
 - ii. Release of physical markers

Uwe reported that these two issues has been discussed in the AX working group but no solution found. One person is the PIC, but under air law the PIC can give commands to other crew members, but unable to solve at this time. AX has discussed limiting mixing of nations – all in the basket must be from the same NAC). Solo competition is one solution to this problem. However, requiring the pilot to be the sole manipulator of the controls is not enforceable, and as previously stated conflicts with air law. The CIA can't supersede this rule.

Sylvia: we still need to determine what skills we are testing, in order to develop the best rules for this issue and general competition.

Note from CSC Chair: This is still an issue that needs some thought and work because the status quo invites abuse (an example of this has been provided in previous CSC documents). As the complexity of tasks and pilot workload continue to increase, there is a competitive advantage from having two on board *who can manipulate the controls and release markers*, and this has never been

the intent of balloon competition structure. Monitoring who is at the controls or releasing markers cannot be policed perfectly (or at all if the aircraft is up high) it become most critical in the MMA when the aircraft is low. This is the time when there is a lot happening in the basket and the pilot's control and judgment is being tested the most.

Just like our current ground-contact rules, a pilot may 'get away with it' but breaking the rule involves the risk of penalty, which is a deterrent.

As for the question of Air Law, the pilot, in an emergency, can instruct his crew to do whatever he/she wishes. The fact that there may be a competition penalty for this is irrelevant. An emergency will always take priority.

Until this issue is fully addressed, requiring some flights to be solo is a temporary solution.

- iii. First round invitations
Not addressed in this meeting.

11. New Business

- a. 2021 Feedback from previous committee/working group online meetings
- b. Any other new business

12. Summary of CSC-Working Group recommendations and Proposed Motions to the CIA Plenary Meeting

No Motions will be presented at the Plenary.

13. CSC Members and Chairperson for 2021/2022

No new members were identified, and none stepped down. Therefore, the proposed members are:

Andrew BAIRD	USA	CHAIR
Paolo OGGIONI	ITA	
Gerald STURZLINGER	AUT	WRL
Uwe SCHNEIDER	GER	WRL
Maury SULLIVAN	USA	
Tadas Gegevicus	LTU	
Hiromori SOEJIMA	JPN	
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14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 21:20 UTC