

**Event Development Service (EDS) Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**26<sup>th</sup> February 2021**

**1) 2020/2021 EDS Subcommittee:**

Chair: Lindsay Muir (UK) Members:

Paolo Oggioni (ITA)

Maury Sullivan (USA)

Martine Besnainou (FRA)

Harold Cliver (USA)

Andrew Baird (USA) – Chairperson – Competitors’ Subcommittee

Debbie Spaeth (USA) – Chairperson – Public and Media Relations Subcommittee

**2) Roll call, apologies for absence**

**Present:**

Lindsay Muir (UK)

Paolo Oggioni (ITA)

Maury Sullivan (USA)

Andrew Baird (USA)

Debbie Spaeth (USA)

**Observers**

Ricardo Aracil (SPA) Sanne Haarhuis-Baird (NED)

Markus Haggénay (FAI) Claude Weber (LUX)

Mark Sullivan (USA) Marc Andre (SWI)

Benoit Pellard (FRA) Jonathon Perron-Clow (CAN)

Branko Ambrozic (SLO) Arkadiusz Iwanski (POL)

Zoltan Palhegyi (HUN) Lynn Sullivan (USA)

Katsura Endo (JPN)

**3) Review of 2020 Sanction Events, Technical Delegate Reports**

- 3rd Women’s World Hot Air Balloon Championship, Poland, 2020 - Cancelled
- 24th World Hot Air Balloon Championship - postponed to 2022.
- 64th Gordon Bennett Race, Poland – postponed to 2021.

**4) Review of planning status for Sanctioned Events for 2021**

5<sup>th</sup> FAI Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship: Leszno, Poland. 9<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Aug 2021.

Event Director: Eugenijus Komars (LTU)

Jury President - Garry Lockyer (CAN)

At the close of date for initial registration, 15 NACs had registered 53 pilots.

Type of logger to be used: Balloon Live if ready otherwise the old FAI Loggers

The event planning appears to be going well but the only big question is if the COVID 19 pandemic will have reduced enough over the next few months to allow the event to go ahead. It is hoped that a final decision will be made by mid-June. So far anyone can enter the country with a negative PCR test. Testing requirements are divided into three categories: Tourism, Business and Sport with Sport having the simplest requirements.

Markus Haggney noted that there is a new member of FAI – Armenia. Technically they became a member before the end of the invitation deadline and should be eligible to compete. The FAI and the organiser will look into this to see if they have already been included in the invitation mailings. The organizer is prepared to accept one extra competitor if needed.

Depending on the COVID 19 outcome, the Organiser is willing to talk about postponement: the budget will be available 2 years from now.

64<sup>th</sup> FAI Gordon Bennett Race: Wroclaw, Poland. 19<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2021

Event Director: Benoit Pelard (FRA)

Jury President: Thomas Fink

At the closing date for initial registration 23 teams registered an interest so far, including one from Macedonia.

A new sponsor has very recently given a verbal commitment so the budget is progressing as planned. The COVID 19 situation is still unknown and may affect whether the event goes ahead or not. The Organiser has proposed April 15<sup>th</sup> as a “go/no-go” date for the event with regards to the financial situation.

There was a discussion about how the event might be affected by teams dropping out due to COVID 19 – summarized below.

- The organizer is prepared to run the event with a small number of teams – as long as it meets FAI minimums to be a valid event.
- If by April 15<sup>th</sup> the budget is met and there is no indication that borders will be closed (or other severe COVID restrictions) the event will be a ‘go’.
- It could be cancelled later if countries drop out to the extent that fewer than 4 remain.
- There is still a risk that borders could be closed during the flight window, and that would have to be dealt with at the time.

Les reported that the Jury Board is looking at amending the no-show rule due to COVID 19. As is EDS and Section 1 WG.

22<sup>nd</sup> European Hot Air Balloon Championship: Szeged, Hungary. 13<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021

Event Director: David Bareford (GBR)

Jury President: John Grubstrom (SWE)

At the close of date for initial registration, 24 NACs had registered 71 pilots.

Type of logger to be used: Balloon Live if ready otherwise the old FAI Loggers

The event appears to be progressing as expected; however, as with all the events no one has any real idea if it will take place due to the pandemic. The suggested timeline for cancelling / postponing / going ahead with the event is sometime in June. If the event has to be postponed Hungary are happy to move the event to 2023.

## 5) **Review of planning status for Sanctioned Events for 2022**

24th World Hot Air Balloon Championship: Murska Sobata, Slovenia

The proposed dates of the postpone championship are 27<sup>th</sup> August – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2022.

HOWEVER, these dates clash with the 2022 Gordon Bennett Race and will be changed (probably 1 week earlier or later).

Event Director – Claude Weber

The number of Competitors per NAC remains the same at 3 per NAC.

Type of logger to be used: Balloon Live if ready otherwise the old FAI Loggers

It is proposed that the entry fee should be increased from 600 to 900 Euro.

As dates and entry fees have been changed the amended Sanction Application must be approved by the Delegates at the Plenary Meeting. EDS will recommend that the application be accepted and the Invitation Process be reset to accommodate changes in eligible NACs and changed competitors.

There have been some problems in refunding entry fees to a small number of Competitors. EDS and the organiser hope to have this issue resolved soon. Any unresolved refunds will be held in an account for the NAC of the competitor involved until the invitation process starts in 2022. There are a few entry fees which the competitor has asked the organiser to hold until 2022. There is a possibility that this money can be held by the FAI.

65<sup>th</sup> Gordon Bennett Race, Switzerland – postponed to 2022.

Proposed dates: 1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> September 2022

4<sup>th</sup> Women's World Hot Air Balloon Championship - postponed until 2023

No update at this time.

## 6) Sanction Applications and Intentions to Bid 2022 – 2024

- 2022 Women's Continental Championship – No bids
- 2022 Junior Continental Championship – No bids
- 2023 Continental Championship – Open for bids but only after a Motion at the Plenary meeting to extend the deadlines
- 2023 Junior World Hot Air Balloon Championship – Bid received from Poland
  - The sanction application has been received and will be approved at the Plenary meeting.
  - Event Dates: 8<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> August 2023
  - Location: Grudziądz, Poland
  - Event Director: Eugenijus Komars (LTU)
  - Equal number of competitors per NAC in the first round: 3
  - Entry fee: 300 Euro (Includes, morning coffee, propane, competition maps, Met services, some tickets to social events).
- 2024 World Hot Air Balloon Championship – Open for bids.

Intention to bid submitted by Mallorca.

Ricardo gave a verbal description of what he is offering and went on to say that he can accommodate 100+5 competitors, and possibly as many as 120+5 competitors. He asked if it is possible for the host country to have one additional place for Spain for PR and marketing reasons. He was advised that this is against the sporting code, and the request has been made by previous organisers and had always been turned down.

## 7) Sanction fees

No discussion of Sanction fees. There was a brief discussion about the possibility of including entry fees with the performance bond to facilitate the return of fees if an event is cancelled (now more of an issue due to COVID 19). Discussion only: no action taken.

## **8) Documents**

There was a discussion regarding the need for better communication and sharing of documents with organisers and other subcommittees. We all agreed that this sub-committee needs to be more helpful and improve feedback. There is a need to make completing a Sanction Application easier for Event Organisers. Andrew Baird (USA) (Chairman – Competitors’ Subcommittee) and Debbie Spaeth (USA) (Chairman – Public and Media subcommittee), with technical assistance from Marc Andre, will work on electronic documents.

The committee approved a new sanction application document and work will start as soon as possible to convert it into a suitable electronic format.

Many EDS documents on the FAI website are duplicate, completely missing or out of date. The committee will work towards updating the website.

## **9) Any Other Business**

The committee is working with S1 WG and the Jury Board on new guidelines regarding cancellation or postponement of events due to COVID 19. It has been suggested that the chairman of the Competitors Sub-Committee become part of this informal working group.

## **10) Motions to the Plenary Meeting**

None: Sanction Applications will be approved by the plenary as normal, including the amended sanction application for the 2022 World Hot Air Balloon Championship in Slovenia.

## **11) Committee members 2021/2022**

Lindsay Muir (UK) - Chairman

Paolo Oggioni (ITA)

Maury Sullivan (USA)

Andrew Baird (USA)

Debbie Spaeth (USA)

(Technical assistance from others outside the committee will be sought as necessary.)