

*Fédération
Aéronautique
Internationale*



Meetings of the FAI Hang Gliding & Paragliding Bureau

Video Conference
on November 3 to 5, 2020

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FAI Hang Gliding & Paragliding Commission (CIVL) Bureau Meetings – Video Conference

Covid-19

In 2020

We had very few 'large' events, Cat 1 or Cat 2, the truly international ones. They happened before the pandemic.

We had 98 Cat 2 events, mostly 'small' with national pilots, despite the pandemic.

In 2021

Unfortunately, we have to be ready for the same. Bureau discussed how it could support large events to encourage true international participation –

- CIVL revenues being reduced we cannot bring financial support.
- We will keep facilitating applications and postponements.
- We will keep supporting whatever pandemic-related decisions the organisers come up with: they know better.
- We will encourage Cat 1 organisers to go as far as possible in the preparation of the 2021 World championships.
- If any Cat 1 championship is confirmed but some nations cannot participate, the championship will be evaluated by all parties, so a balance can be found between fairness to all nations, the desire of pilots to participate and the moral and financial obligations of the organisers. The final decision will be validated by the CIVL/FAI, the organiser and its NAC.

Cat 1 Competitions

Discussions will be initiated ASAP in all Committees about the minimum number of pilots and nations required to have valid championships in 2021. All CIVL Delegates and Event Directors will be informed of the process and will be invited to participate in the discussion. The CIVL Bureau will then push a proposal for each event to the February CIVL Plenary for its approval.

Cat 2 Competitions

See attached report by Elena, our Competition Coordinator.

When compared to 2019, one third of events happened and CIVL cut its revenue in two.

PG XC

Covid-19 issues as reported above.

Hike and Fly

It is a new form of competition that the CIVL cannot ignore, but taking care of it at this stage is not considered. Some questions need answers: What is the goal? What can the CIVL bring? What can it bring to the CIVL? How can we control it? Who does the work?

Bureau consensus is that we have to know better if it is organised, where and how. A specific Working Group will be implemented to find out the administrative reality of the discipline, if we should move forward with it and how.

HG XC Committee

Covid-19 issues as reported above.

Krushevo 2021

Some Class 5 pilots and team leaders have asked to be included in the 2021 World Class 1 in Krushevo. Class 1 Women last World was in 2014; should they also be included in the championship? The issue has been discussed on Basecamp and Class 1 pilots contacted. The general feeling is that the championship should stay Class 1 only, so the maximum of pilots can participate. As for women, they could be included in the very same way as in paragliding Cat 1.

It is noted that –

- A class 5 World was programmed in 2020 but only 19 pilots registered and 2 of the top 3 nations were absent.
- Women would rather fly independent championships but their number is dwindling. The programmed 2020 World registered only 9 pilots.
- The pandemic may disturb the game: if some nations can't participate, including Class 5 might allow the event to reach its financial balance.
- No decision is taken yet.

PG Accuracy

Covid-19 issues as reported above.

When competition report their results to the Competition Coordinator (CC), the CC may find that the **number of judges is below the minimum required**. The CC will contact the Committee Chair before deciding not to rank the event.

PG Aerobatic

Due to **Covid-19**, not a single event took part, except a friendly non-ranked meet in France late in October.

There is a project for a **Judges' training seminar in Latin America**. Nine countries have confirmed their interest. It may be in Guatemala in December 2021 with three instructors. A budget might be needed. The Bureau is following the project.

WPRS

Devaluation

Due to Covid, the decision was taken to freeze the devaluation factor.

There is no consensus in the Bureau to keep the factor frozen or not.

This will be discussed in all Committees.

Juniors

We have Junior categories in all paragliding disciplines but none in hang-gliding. The 2018 plenary decision was for PG only. The HG Committee will be asked if it wants a Junior category.

For information, the number of Junior compared to the number of pilots –

- PG XC – 201/6206.
- PG Accuracy – 106/1978.
- PG Aerobatic – 8/100.

Asia

Judges

Being a CIVL-recognised Accuracy Judge in Cat 2 may require the approval of the Judge's NAC.

AFA Asian Cup

The Airsport Federation of Asia project aims to develop the discipline. It includes a series of 'league' events in many countries and a 'final' called the Asian Cup. It is interesting and the Bureau will work on it. It is underlined that China will participate in the Cup.

PWCA Asian Cup

The potential of PWCA Asian Cup stays intact. One good event in Nepal just before the pandemic, fulfilling all expectations. Then Covid stopped the development. No plan yet for 2021, but there is a World Cup event scheduled in Korea in October, so maybe we can have an Asian Cup then.

Software

AirScore

The pandemic has slowed things down but progress is constant. The access to GitHub has been expanded as requested. The budget is respected and sufficient. AirScore needs to be tested in more events.

FlareTiming

Phil De Joux, creator of FlareTiming, asked for support for his XC scoring software. The Bureau refused as it wants to stay focused on AirScore.

PG Accuracy Scoring System

One is being developed in China. CIVL is following the project.

Event Managing System

The pandemic has slowed things down but progress is constant. Completion hoped for at the end of the year. We will need to find organisers and federations willing to test the system. See Elena Filonova's presentation attached.

CIVL Finances

Due to the pandemic, the 2020 final budget will be very different from what was defined in 2019. Due to the FAI finances reorganisation, we do not have enough information at this stage to estimate the difference.

At our 2020 Plenary, we voted the 2021 budget. We expect this budget to be also impacted by the ongoing pandemic. We will prepare an alternate budget taking into account what happened in 2020 and what could happen in 2021.

CIVL is lucky to have sufficient reserve –

- To cover any deficit in 2020 and possibly 2021.
- To finalise our current 'big' projects: AirScore and Event Managing System.
- To allow 'smaller' key projects in 2021, like judges' training.
- To keep Elena Filonova as our paid Administrator and Competition Coordinator (she is doing a great job).
- To propose no change in the sanction fees for next year (2021), but to put in place a request to increase these fees from 2022 onwards, in order to recover the lost revenue and fund future development projects.

CIVL Plenary

CIVL Bureau will decide at the latest on December 29, 2020, if the 2021 Plenary takes part as planned in Belgrade, Serbia, on February 4 to 7, or if it is virtual.

If in Belgrade, business as usual but with online live feed and possibility to vote.

If virtual, it could go like this

- 7 sessions from February 1 to 7
- 2-hour session from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., Lausanne time.

That's 14 hours of work instead of the 30 or so which we usually have, plus the many out-of-session hours discussing and fraternising.

We believe that we can achieve a successful virtual plenary only if we come prepared, which means that all issues will have been discussed extensively before. How to achieve this? This could be the way forward –

- The agenda will be published before December 20, 2020.
- All reports will be written before January 5, 2021.
- General proposals and issues: Basecamp Projects will be implemented. They will include members of the CIVL Bureau and Committee, Delegates and anyone interested.
- Specific proposals and issues: Basecamp Projects will be implemented. They will include members of the CIVL Bureau and concerned Committee(s), Delegates and anyone interested.
- Once proposals and issues are discussed, the Basecamp Projects will be restricted to Bureau, Committee Chairs and Delegates to find a consensus on issues and eventually suggest modifications to proposals. The result of this work will be made public.
- The ePlenary will include open meetings and official sessions.
- It will take part on a FAI online platform that allows secret ballot.
- Anyone can participate to open meetings.
- Only official delegations can participate in official sessions.
- Participants will have to register a few days before the Plenary.
- Open meetings and official sessions will take part in a Question and Answers format, as all matters will have been extensively discussed before.

If in Belgrade

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| Thursday 4 | Bureau and Open meetings |
| Friday 5 | Open meetings |
| Saturday 6 | Plenary |
| Sunday 7 | Plenary |

If ePlenary (provisional)

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| Monday 1 | Open meeting PG XC and HG |
| Tuesday 2 | Open meetings PG Accuracy and Aerobatic |
| Wednesday 3 | Reports and budget – Votes |
| Thursday 4 | Votes on proposals |
| Friday 5 | Votes on proposals |
| Saturday 6 | Provisional Budget – Bids & Bureau presentation |
| Sunday 7 | Votes on Budget – Bids – Bureau |

CASI Penalty to Appeal Process

Last CASI meeting (December 2019) tasked a Penalty to Appeal Working Group (PTAWG) to study the sanction to appeal process in all bodies of the FAI.

The final report of the Working Group has been published. See attached. More work is needed.

FAI Finances

The current situation is very worrying: the FAI reserves have been depleted and the cash available comes mostly from the Commissions reserves.

The membership revenue is steadily going down without any possible control, as the NACs decide freely the level of their financial obligations. This issue should certainly be the top priority for the next Executive Board.

Commissions Presidents have been requested and have agreed to simplify and unify their financial processes and to find out how they can do in a better and cheaper way some of the tasks currently done by the secretariat.

FAI Governance

The Commission Presidents wrote an Open Letter to the NAC. See attached. Commissions suffered these last few years from the abuses of the Executive Board, and especially the CIVL. Then the Covid came. The pandemic has been, in the governance regard, a blessing in disguise: Commissions took responsibility in these direst of times and the Executive Board was perfectly absent in the sport-related decision process.

FAI Statutes can be interpreted as purely hierarchical or as allowing vast delegation of powers. They certainly have to be clarified, but whichever way they will be considered, we don't see a big difference for the CIVL in the coming Executive Board 2-year tenure. The financial issues will be the priority and we doubt that, after its past failures, the Executive Board will try to boss around the Commissions.

Nominations for the FAI Coming elections

President

- Bob Henderson – David Monk

Executive Directors (6 needed)

- From the current Executive Board: Agust Gudmundsson – Mary Anne Stevens – Marina Vigorito.
- From the Commissions: Rodney Blois (General Aviation) – Wolfgang Lintl (Paramotor) – Stephane Malbos (Hang-gliding and paragliding) – Eric Mozer (Gliding) – Gillian Rayner (Skydiving).
- 'Freelancers': Thomas Gostner – Marina Kalousdian – Pankul Mathur – Patrick Naegali – Ronald Schnitker – Petteri Tarma – Graeme Windsor.