

Proposal Switzerland: Junior class in Paragliding

Introduction

The pilot's age is already included in the current WPRS ranking system since summer 2019 and it is interesting to see that some of those pilots are amongst the best pilot in the world.

For the public recognition, to improve the possibilities for marketing and especially for supporting young paragliding talents, we would like to go a step further and implement a junior category ranking in championships, as it is already the case in accuracy (see Section 7C 5.4.4).

Especially at Cat. 1 events all the nations with young talents get the chance for more medals and we will see interesting tactical decisions by selecting those pilots.

With the junior category, we in Switzerland have a much better chance of receiving more money from state sports funding. A junior World Champion is rated almost as highly as an adult World Champions.

Rules

- Max. 25 years old
- It is simply an extract from the ranking list (as in the women's ranking).
- Minimum 8 pilots from 4 (World Championship) or 3 (European Championship) nations, so that there is a valid classification.
- The ranking is obligatory at the World Championships and the European Championships or there is a separate Junior Championship. For Cat. 2 events the ranking can be voluntary.

To less pilots in Cat. 1?

There are now few pilots under the age of 25 who fulfil now the conditions for participation in the WC and EC. But if this ranking is introduced and the junior titles are awarded, then there will be a great incentive and motivation for young talents to qualify for these major events. This means that more talented pilots will certainly try to perform better. This in turn promotes the next generation of top pilots in the elite category.

Only a separate Junior Championship?

A separate Junior Championship has an important disadvantage. It is obviously already difficult to find organisers for such major events. For another event it will be even more difficult. However, the option for a separate Junior Championship should be left open. If it does not take place, a separate junior category will be run at the WC and EC.

Our request

Please support our proposal at the next CIVL-Plenary Meeting.

Zurich, November 2021

Michael Sigel, CIVL-Delegate of Switzerland

Christian Boppert, General Secretary