



CIVL 2022 PLENARY – ANNEXE 33M PROPOSAL UNITED KINGDOM – SAFETY AND STANDARDS
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Background

Cross Country events, both Hang gliding and Paragliding, now have a long history of existence. But developments within them are largely in the domain of organisers of CAT 2 events, with CAT 1 events being based on tried and tested techniques. This has developed a healthy style of event that many pilots participate in, and has led to successful CAT 1 events throughout most of that period.

In recent years though, accessibility to tools to organise an event has become much easier, and more and more events are going it to the domain of private individuals, with less contact with National Organisations. This is not necessarily a bad thing in itself, and can, and has, led to some great innovation, from Live Tracking, to accessibility for newer, low-level pilots, training events and even the PWCA's existence. All instead of just National events.

Whilst all this is occurring though, it is true to say there is a continual level of safety risk in our sport. Accidents can and do happen, and they are very significant in frequency and nature. But not just safety; fairness and sporting issues also continually emerge within events. There is no current method of control of CAT 2 to create a consistent level of safety and approach to event organising. There is no handbook to which organisers and staff can refer. There is no standard approach to many common issues. The only way of learning is to attend other people's events.

Current Methods

An organised competition involves many staff, but there are three key persons in every event that are in control of safety, fairness, and standards.

Organiser [**ORG**]: This person may or may not be skilled in competition organising, but will usually know the region the event operates in.

Meet Director [**MD**]: This person absolutely should be very familiar with safety, rules and methods, but doesn't necessarily know the region the event operates in

Safety Director [**SD**]: This person should be very familiar with how to set a safe task, that is sporting and fair to all, and understand all aspects of safety in an event.

In Accuracy and Aerobatics, judges need a formal qualification. But in the crucial role of Event Director, Meet Director, Safety Director ... in all disciplines, no qualification is required, and for Cross Country, not a single member of the organisation is required to demonstrate any understanding of event management whatsoever.

Of course, they must still gain the support from their NAC in order to gain the required permissions to organise an event, and usually ensures we finish with an event of a similar standard to the ones we have now. But.... Maybe we can do better!

Objectives

I **do not** wish to create a rigid system where innovation is stifled. But I would like to see a system where key staff are trained to a basic level, are shown examples of what should be in place at any event, such as documented procedures for various scenarios, methods of approaching various situations etc. Also a level of awareness to matters that should be known, but often are overlooked, such as the difficulties of an EN-B in a competition predominantly attended by CCC wings, or females in a male dominated world, or of how to successfully rescue a pilot when there are no helicopters available. The list is endless, but so important to a safe and sporting event.

With it being for a working group to analyse, the objectives, as I see them presently, are to:

- Create a qualification for three key types of person that are involved in all events. MD, ORG & SD
- Probably for an event to run only two of these three need be present, either a qualified MD & SD, or MD & ORG, for example. For sure it would be possible to run a safe event without one of them being qualified and we must not be too restrictive.
- This must be developed over a period of 3 years, for an international training scheme to be deployed
- A grandfather system of awarding them to highly experienced persons can be used, with minimal 'training'
- An annual budget must be allocated to allow for the training to initially occur

To be clear, I **DO** want to create a training and qualification system for key staff. I do **NOT** want to create a system of control for events, which would lead to the stifling of innovation within the sport.

Proposal

Create a working group to analyse in depth the situation and define what is needed to move forward. This could include, but is not limited to, Officials certifications, training, databases, annual budget, new resources, etc.

Terms of reference for this working group should be presented to the plenary for approval.

Serbia, January 2022

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