



CIVL 2022 PLENARY – ANNEXE 6A – V2 CIVL PRESIDENT REPORT

Stéphane Malbos — 24/01/2022

Events

First Category Events

We had four World Championships for each of our disciplines on the calendar: Hang-Gliding Cross-Country, Paragliding Cross-Country, Paragliding Accuracy and Paragliding Aerobatic. Only the first one did not happen when a few nations lobbied against it for pandemic-related reasons. It was a disaster for the organisers and very strange as said nations participated later in similar-size international events.

The Paragliding World was supposed to be run in France in May and was Covid-cancelled.

Tucuman, Argentina, stepped in and was trusted to organise it in November.

These championships had no Covid-related issues so far, except for added work for the organisers and administrative nightmares for participants to cross borders.

Second Category Events

From Nov. 2018 to Oct. 2019: 306 events, €48,888 revenue, €182 average sanction fee.

From Nov. 2019 to Oct. 2020 : 128 events, €23,412 revenue, €131 average sanction fee.

From Nov. 2020 to Oct. 2021: 204 events, €34,651 revenue, €174 average sanction fee.

The last 12 months shows that, although the international participation in these events is lower, we are growing back to a regular situation. See our Competition Coordinator report for details.

We heard of Covid-related issue only in the 2022 Monarca, not a FAI Cat 2 but ranked nonetheless.

Projects

Event Managing System Project

“civlcomps.org” is now completed. Events are being run with it.

The Noosphere-developed software can cover events of any size from registration and sporting licences check to publication of results and ranking, with everything in the middle like allocation of spots, website, blog, etc. It is available for free. It has been designed so any FAI Commission may adapt it to its needs with a minimum of work (hence money).

The EMS simplifies greatly all administrative operations and verification for the CIVL volunteers and administrator. The next logical step is the mandatory use of key elements in our events. It will help the CIVL to have a better control of events, databases and ranking.

Cross Country Scoring Project

“AirScore” is also completed and in the testing phase. Events of all size are scored in parallel with the current “FS” software. We are confident that in 2022 it will be OK'd and will replace FS as the reference scoring software.

Challenges

We faced the pandemic with determination. We cut corners so events could be organised on shorter notice, taking into account that most of them had little international participation. We thought that keeping the sport alive was more important than strictly following administrative rules. We never compromised safety. For instance, the mandatory championships test events were replaced by mandatory extra training days just before the event.

Through these dire times, our important financial reserve, built along the years by our pilots through the entry fees/sanction fee scheme, allowed the CIVL to be ran as usual and to keep developing the sport.

Our 2021 e-plenary ran smoothly with the participation of many people that we don't usually see. Our physical Bureau midyear meeting ran smoothly and underlined that there is nothing like spending four days together to go to the bottom of things and define strategies. Our next plenary (January in Belgrade) will be running both physically and virtually to get the best of both worlds. We have invested in equipment (camera, sound system) to make the meeting easier to follow.

More Projects

We believe that the CIVL must be run more professionally so we can reach a very high standard of production and services.

Elena Filonova, our Competition Coordinator and Administrator, plays a central role in the daily running of the commission, in its media programme, in its software development.

Spotless First Category events should be the reference for Second Category events. In First Category events, we have invested in top-level equipment (live trackers for Cross-Country, targets for Accuracy) and are making it available for free to the organisers. The Stewards and Jurors that we send are chosen in a restricted pool and are receiving significant daily stipends for their work. We may do the same some day for the judges. We intend to send our own media team systematically; this should ensure maximum exposure for these events.

The UK is coming up with an interesting approach to increase safety and standards. We support the proposal.

We need to keep investing in the sport. For this, at some point we will need additional revenue to keep our financial reserve to their current level.

FAI Members

The CIVL has been significantly impacted by the issue of NACs not in good standing, or suspended, or expelled. Another issue concerns a few NACs not delivering Sporting Licences easily. Both issues may be cumulative and have dramatic consequences on the sportpersons of a few nations.

Our rules are poorly adapted to address these issues and along the years the FAI has let unbearable situations develop without doing much. Mexico is the perfect example: suspended on and off for 6 years, now expelled, struggling to build a new NAC, during all this time running top-level events that the CIVL has supported as it could.

Adjusting our rules is an ongoing work led by CIAM, ISC and CIVL within CASI. At some point, the Executive Board and Statutes Working Group will be involved if we are to find proper long-term sustainable solutions where the rights of everybody – Members, ASCs, sportpersons – are respected and the development of the sport not threatened.

CIVL Financial Reserve

The fluctuations of the CIVL financial reserves should not be analysed negatively. There are times when we can save, there are times when we need to invest. We are lucky to have built important reserve, so dire times can be of no consequence on the development of the sport. The consequences of any raise of sanction fees will take a couple of years to be seen. Our 2022 budget shows a significant deficit and 2023 may be the same. Our intent is not only to balance our budget, but to build back our reserve.

Commission Presidents' Group

The Commission Presidents as a whole have been very active this year, meeting monthly with the FAI President in the Commission Presidents' Group, according to its the statutes-

established format. The Commission Presidents' Group is a good place to exchange information, knowledge and projects. Its work has impacted the CIVL in many ways. See Annexe 6b.

Insurance for Officials

Six years ago, the CIVL asked that all Officials send by Air Sport Commissions to their events be covered by a travel insurance negotiated by the FAI. The request was ignored until now. Thank you to the Commission Presidents' Group, Executive Board and Secretariat who made it a priority.