

IGC 2018 Plenary Meeting

Agenda Item 6.3.1

Stewards Working Group Report to IGC Plenary 2019

Terry Cubley

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This report is for information to delegates on activities of the Stewards Working Group. There is a separate proposals which resultS from this which I will table at the meeting and seek Plenary approval to review as other business.

The Stewards Working Group comprises Terry Cubley (Chair), Brian Spreckley, Frouwke Kuijpers, Rene Vidal, Dick Bradley, Peter Eriksen, with input from Rick Sheppe from Annex A.

The SWG meets once or twice by phone/web and then a face to face meeting prior to the plenary meeting (Thursday 7th March 2019) where we also hold a meeting with any Stewards who are available, to discuss issues and opportunities for improvement.

Feedback from the Chief Stewards at world and continental championships is a critical input. The major issues for review this year were related to

1. Designated Start: We agreed that we need to provide more detailed guidance to CDs and Stewards about the conditions when this start method adds value. Its main intent of the Designated Start is to reduce following through the start line the endless waiting games, it does not reduce gaggles. It was used at Ostrow which revealed that it is best used on homogeneous days, especially the ones which are blue or with minimal cumulus clouds and a thermal height of at least 1000 m.

Experience in France indicates that there is some benefit in giving CDs the option of a 5 minute start interval to increase the number of start opportunities, in addition to the 10,20 and 30 minute interval currently written.

- 1. Safety reporting:** We consider that using an electronic safety reporting tool will provide easier access to Pilots and Crew to report incidents and other safety suggestions. It also means that we can then collate a list of issues across many events which can better inform future safety improvement. [see 8_2_2_d from Netherlands].

- 2. Proximity analysis tool** [see 8.2.2.1 Australia]. There is a lot of data available from igc files, and we currently use these when investigating complaints. A proximity analysis tool automatically reviews every igc file on each day to identify how close pilots are prepared to fly to others. Experience shows that pilots who score high on this proximity report also get many mentions from other pilots regarding conflicts. The main intent is to give pilots feedback on their own flying so that they can make changes to get a reduced 'proximity score'. It will also inform the CD on potential safety concerns. The SWG supports the use of such a tool

- 3. Steward responsibilities.** We need more clarity and guidance on the role of the Stewards at events and their interaction with the CD and the pilot safety committee. The SWG will develop and communicate a document that clearly specifies responsibilities of the Stewards.

I will give a verbal update at the plenary meeting following the steward meetings on 7th March.



Fédération Aéronautique Internationale
Avenue de Rhodanie 54
CH-1007 Lausanne
Switzerland
Tel: +41 21 345 10 70
Fax: +41 21 345 10 77
www.fai.org
info@fai.org