

FAI AND ITS OLYMPIC INVOLVEMENT

1930s

- FAI 'set out to explore new horizons. Joining the Olympic movement promises air sports to reach new heights'.

1936

- Gliding is a demonstration sport at the Berlin Olympics. No competition takes place and no medals are given, as per the current rules.

1940

- Gliding 'secures a berth on the Helsinki Games programme but World War II breaks out and the Games are cancelled'.

1975

- A survey is sent to all International Federations 'concerning the amateur status'. FAI does not answer and is erased as a recognised Olympic International Federation.

1983

- According to the Council*/ASC meeting report: 'There is much desire to have some FAI sports recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC). Parachuting, hang-gliding and gliding are the most probable sports to be considered. The FAI Office will study the matter and report on contact with IOC'
* (The Council will become the Executive Board in 2000.)

1984

- The Council sets a Working Group: FAI President should meet IOC President and apply for 're-establishment of IOC recognition'. The General Conference adopts a resolution to that effect.

At CIVL Plenary...

- The CIVL plenary 'decided to approach the IOC for inclusion of hang-gliding in the Olympic Games, and appoint a representant to the General Conference to present the matter.

1985

- The FAI President has met the IOC President. The Council keeps negotiating with IOC, with parachuting and hang-gliding as Olympic sports.
- In December, the IOC recognise FAI as an Olympic International Federation.

At CIVL Plenary...

- FAI inform CIVL 'about actual stand of discussion with IOC. President of IOC shall be invited to one of the upcoming championships in hang-gliding by the CIVL Bureau.'

1986

- FAI President meets again IOC President. IOC gives a US\$10,000 subsidy to be used for medals, cups and FAI Bulletin reports on parachuting, gliding and hang-gliding championships.
- A Technical Committee for 'settling all questions concerning FAI/IOC relations is set. Are appointed the Presidents FAI, CASI, CIVV (IGC), CIP (IPC) and CIVL.
- IGC, IPC and CIVL are requested by FAI President to 'spread FAI's image all over the world... The sport which will enter the Olympic Games must be spectacular (and) able to promote sport among young people.'

- According to IOC President, parachuting 'now has the best chance to be elected as a demonstration sport for the 1992 Olympic Games'.
- The US\$10,000 subsidy will finally be used mostly on a brochure dedicated to the FAI three Olympic sports.

At CIVL Plenary...

- 'A large amount of time has been spent for Olympic matters... Positive approach with the aim of getting hang-gliding included in the Olympic Games. There are three areas where activity is needed: dealing with the IOC and individual countries; gaining the support of the international hang-gliding communities; promoting the cause through energetic external public relations.
- These areas will be dealt with...
Applying to put on a hang-gliding show during the opening ceremony. This would be tow-launched and should impress organisers. Request would be made for this to be included in 1988 at Seoul, and 1992 as soon as venue was settled.
CIVL to write to FAI Council officially protesting at Presidents Kepak's letter of 4/4/86 which promotes parachuting as the only Olympic air sport. Also to encourage further countries to join FAI and take an active part in Olympic hang gliding.
General promotion on the theme 'Hang gliding is Olympics'. Information kits to be sent to CIVL-members.

1987

- The FAI/IOC Relations Committee is in close contact with 'senior members of the IOC and its president'.
- IPC lobbies and obtains to be part of the Opening ceremony of the 1988 Seoul Olympic Games.
- Gliding withdraw from trying to participate in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics. FAI President asks IPC and CIVL to decide 'which is the best of their activities to be pushed in the first instance. It is most desirable that we do not degenerate our participation into a circus event rather than something that is fully competitive.'
- The Council finally gives its support to IPC. The 1987 IOC US\$8,000 subsidy finances the Parachuting World Cup in Seoul. 'In spite of the fact that the Council gave priority to parachuting, the CIVL has the full right to promote its discipline and to apply for participation in the Olympic Games.'

At CIVL Plenary...

- CIVL is working on the hang-gliding part of the planned FAI Olympic brochure, sponsored by the IOC. The brochure will present all Olympic air sport (gliding, parachuting and hang gliding) together... The brochure will be presented to all IOC Officials, National Olympic Committees (NOC) and NACs.
- FAI fully supports any well-established application of CIVL to become a demonstration discipline in one of the upcoming Olympic Games.
- Organising a hang-gliding demonstration during the opening ceremony of the 1988 Games in Seoul is still in progress. Chances to be included as a demonstration sport at the 1992 Games in Barcelona are small... CIVL will give its Greek Delegate full support to start negotiations for participation in the 1996 Games which will probably be held in Greece.

1988

- The FAI/IOC Relations Committee reports...
- The Olympic brochure on the 3 FAI Olympic sports has been sent to IOC and NOC members, and Olympic federations.
- The FAI/IOC Relations Committee meets again the IOC President. A demonstration of the 3 Olympic air sports is set. M. Samaranch states his interest in paragliding.
- The 1988 IOC US\$8,000 subsidy finances the cost of the parachutists at the Seoul Olympics opening ceremony demonstration. Because of lack of funds, nobody from FAI is represented at the demonstration.

- 'Further promotion of Olympic disciplines ... needs funds, which are not foreseen in the FAI budget.'
- The General Conference passes a resolution 'recognising the success of the ... parachuting demonstration at the opening of the 1988 Olympic Games' and 'directs that the FAI endeavour to gain IOC recognition of Ballooning as an Olympic discipline'.
- FAI is 'highly regarded' by IOC President and other members of the IOC. FAI keeps trying 'to have parachuting included in the next Olympiad at Barcelona'.

At CIVL Plenary...

- CIVL President reports on meeting with the President of IOC along with the FAI President and Secretary General and the Presidents of parachutist and gliding commissions. This was followed by flying demonstrations of winch launched hang gliders, parachutes and gliders. M. Samaranch had a flight in a sailplane.
- FAI Secretary General comments that we must understand the IOC point of view with regard to the ability to attract spectators, media, TV and sponsors. Parachuting will be a demonstration sport in Seoul 1988. Hang gliding should aim to be a demonstration sport in 1996.
- CIVL Olympic working group President reports: the immediate aim is to seek the support of NOC in each country, develop an Olympic format, request the organisers of championships to contribute with a portion of the entry fees,

1989

At CIVL Plenary...

- The venue of the 1996 Olympics is not decided yet. If it is Greece, there is a chance for us to present our sport there.
- FAI Secretary General reports: Parachuting is trying hard to get into the Olympics but it is not certain that they will be invited to be a demonstration sport in Barcelona. All Olympic sports have been 'sold' to the media and the media do not want many changes. No changes are planned up to the year 2000. This must not stop us promoting our sport via the IOC and expanding it to other countries via the IOC. It is important to become Olympic: there is discrimination against non-Olympic sports.

1990

At CIVL Plenary...

- FAI Secretary General reports: Parachuting has failed in its attempt to enter the Olympics as a demonstration sport at Barcelona, in spite of a huge effort and the expenditure of much money. However hang-gliding should not give up, although the Olympic Committee will need to change its policy if we are ever to succeed. We should try to be at the Olympics in any capacity at all, even if not as a full demonstration sport. The parachutists are not giving up in their attempts and CIVL should not either.
- CIVL Olympic WG President reports: In spite of the negative response from the IOC, we recommend that hang glider interests establish relationships with their own National Olympic Committees so that if there is ever the chance of joining, we will be prepared worldwide.

1991

- The FAI/IOC Relations Committee President reports in the FAI Bulletin... 'The door to Olympics in the future is not yet opened. And it is very difficult to predict when one or more air sports are finally admitted in the programme... IPC is working on another demonstration for the 1992 Olympics and will make every possible effort to be included in the programme of Atlanta in 1996... Now it is the right time for FAI members to present air sports to representatives of their NOC... It is only through the combined effort of FAI Commissions and national members and with the help of specialised press that the main goal can be reached.'

At CIVL Plenary...

- FAI Secretary General reports: There were still no air sports in the Olympics, despite various efforts. Recent changes to the Olympic Charter made it even more difficult for us to enter (sports now have to be a reality in 75 different countries iso 50), but it is important for us to continue to try. All delegates were asked to see if their NAC could join their NOC.
- CIVL President is part of the FAI/IOC Coordinating Committee. Although the efforts of the FAI to become involved with the Olympics has been considerable, the chances of our joining are still a long way off and rather limited.

1992

- No air sport participated to the Barcelona Olympics. 'Shall we ever have a chance to do this?' questions the FAI/IOC Relations Committee President at the General Conference. The new Olympic Charter is analysed: it makes harder for new disciplines to be included (they must be practised in 75 countries and replace an 'old' discipline)... 'Air sports still are not quite prepared for Olympic Games. They have not fully understood what is expected from a modern sport in the future... Top-level sports cannot survive without professionalisation, which means without sponsors and media contracts... What has to be done? Full integration into the Olympic movement... Develop Olympic products... Professional management.'

At CIVL Plenary...

- CIVL President reports: We have long sought to get hang-gliding included in the Olympics. The sport has been satisfactorily demonstrated to the IOC President, but so far we have made little progress. The parachutists have spent a lot of money attempting to get in and have made a big effort to demonstrate at Barcelona, but have also failed. We should persist but there is little chance. Both paragliding and hang-gliding are soaring sports and we should not let ourselves be turned into a kind of circus just to get in. We have to realise that we don't have the thousands of dollars necessary for making an effective bid.

1993

- IOC Sports Director has invited FAI to present parachuting to the Committee for Olympic Programme. Eight other federations bidding for representation are also present (decision to be taken in 1994).
- The 1994 IOC subsidy could be used to finance parachuting campaign to become Olympic. Only 21 FAI members are part of their NOC. The parachuting presentation to the Committee for Olympic Programme is detailed.
- FAI joins the General Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) 'as a step towards Olympic participation'.

At CIVL Plenary...

- FAI Treasurer General reports: We must keep making an effort for greater acceptance, although it is difficult. IOC now require evidence of activity in 75 countries before a sport is admitted to the Olympic Games. Competitions must be made more attractive to spectators if they were to make a good impression on IOC officials.
- No report or comment from CIVL.

1994

- According to the FAI/IOC Relations Committee President, the acceptance as parachuting as a candidate is seen as a great step forward. The IPC is now aiming at 2000. The General Conference has budgeted CHF 12,000. Lobbying the Australian NOC has started.
- FAI joins the International World Games Association (IWGA), an organisation within the GAISF.

At CIVL Plenary...

- CIVL/IOC Liaison officer reports: Do we want to continue our effort to get HG/PG included into the Olympic Games? At present, we are in the same position as some other air sports: recognised by the IOC but receiving a very small amount of support. The parachutists made a big investment in a bid for inclusion, but there is still no guarantee that they will be successful. We should not underestimate the difficulty of getting in. We must spend a lot in promotion.
- A motion is voted: CIVL will promote the idea of hang-gliding entering the Olympic Games and will set up a sub-committee to promote this.

1995

- The FAI/IOC Relations Committee is now taking care of relations with the GAISF and IWGA. The Council recommends that it becomes a permanent committee.
- As stated to the General Conference when describing FAI cooperation with other organisations: 'Our acceptance by and participation in the IOC ensure our legitimacy in the world of sports.'
- Parachuting is accepted in the 1997 World Games in Finland.

At CIVL Plenary...

- CIVL/IOC Liaison officer reports: It is vital for us to maintain contact with IOC, but it is undoubtedly extremely difficult to gain full participation.
- FAI Secretary General reports: Big changes are possible within IOC. These may come when the current president retires. We should maintain our long-term effort. Currently FAI receives US\$10,000 annually from IOC for Olympic purposes, but so far this has all been spent on parachuting. Changes are possible if we produce a reasonable plan.

1996

- The FAI/IOC Relations Committee becomes the (permanent) FAI Olympic Coordinating Committee.
- According to FAI President report to the GC, 'the process of Olympic acceptance has been long and hard, oscillating between success and disappointment. That does not mean that FAI should give up this road towards elevating air sports in the public mind. On the contrary, the (World Games) event is one more step towards a place in the Olympic programme.'

1997

- The IOC President 'assumes the patronage of one of the three balloons attempting an around the world balloon flight' and requests NOC's help to ensure safe passage of the balloons over their territory.
- The FAI Olympic Coordinating Committee 'salutes the effort of the Ballooning community in establishing yet another link between air sports and the Olympic movement'.
- Parachuting at the World Games is a success and is deemed 'to have made one more step towards a place in the Olympic programme.' It already is on the programme of the next World Games in Japan, 2001. CIVL should look at adding paragliding or speed hang gliding, or both, to the World Games programme.

1998

- The IOC and the recognised International Federations analyse the Olympics sports and programme and question their commercialisation and media coverage. TV sports marketing is seen as essential for the development of the sport. For the FAI Olympic Coordinating Committee: 'There is hope, hope for the FAI!' The future is encouraging for the FAI 4th World Air Games in 2009, and for one air sport being selected in the 2012 Olympic Games programme.
- The FAI President confirms to the General Conference the need for commercial operations and exploitation of media rights at the future World Air Games and World Games.

At CIVL Plenary...

- CIVL gets ready for the 2001 World Games in Akita, Japan. Liaison: Olivier Burghelle. Local regulations: Dennis Pagen. This will be a small event for invited Speed Gliding pilots only. Because there are no suitable hills in the Akita Prefecture, tow launching will be used. A CIVL inspector will visit potential sites before mid-April.

1999

- For the FAI Olympic Coordinating Committee, 'Significant changes to the FAI's Olympic spirits did occur', starting with the move of FAI headquarters to Lausanne. The recent scandal around the IOC selection process of cities and disciplines is seen as a chance for FAI disciplines to be finally included in the Olympic programme. To be included, 'we have to make sure we comply with criteria. The objective ones: 75 plus affiliate worldwide to administrate the sport on international level; organisational strength and experience. And the subjective ones: improve our sport's media appeal... Secure media exposure... Thus we stand to benefit from revenues generated by marketing efforts. Ultimately, all competitions in our sports must be sponsorship driven. Which in turn will help us to extend our participant base.'
- The 2001 World Games in Japan will not include paragliding or hang gliding.

2000

- In the last report found for the FAI Olympic Coordinating Committee, we read: 'We were somewhat naive that achieving inclusion into the Olympic sports programme would be a matter of getting recognised, upping the profile and getting in all under 10 years. That we are at it for close to 20 years – and that the prospect of making it in the near future have not improved significantly – is a reality that must not bring out defeatism but the proper assessment of what has been achieved. We are as far or further as over a dozen other international sports federations which have been at it much longer, which have spent much more on lobbying effort, and which have had a much better point of departure in terms of general acceptance and goodwill.'

2001

- The World Games are described in an Executive Board report as 'the way to be included in the programme of the Olympic Games' Akita 2001 was 'perfectly organised' and the parachutists 'enthusiastic'. FAI is proposing gliding in addition to parachuting for Duisburg 2005.
- The success of Akita World Games is providing 'new impetus for FAI's Olympic ambitions', still for parachuting, this time for Peking 2008. The remainder of the Olympic funding (up to CHF20,000) is to be assigned to lobbying material.

2002

- The lobbying goes on for including parachuting in the 2008 Peking Games with a visit of a FAI delegation in China and a meeting with the IOC President. The lobbying fails and the reply from IOC is negative. The brochure printed for lobbying might be used for other purposes.
- Gliding will not be part of the 2005 World Games.
- The main topic of the EB/ASC 1st meeting was 'new format to make some of our sports more mediagenic'.

2003

- Everything is on track for the 2005 World Games.
- Stock of the Olympic Parachuting brochure remains available and could be purchased from the FAI secretariat.

2004

- IOC informs FAI that parachuting 'was not considered' to be included in the Olympic programme in the future. In the words of FAI President: 'At least FAI continues to be

a sports federation recognised by the IOC and has a very good standing among the international sports organisations like ARISF or IWGA’.

2005

- Sold-out event for the parachutists at the Duisburg, Germany, World Games. FAI likely to be part of the 2009 World Games in Kaohsiung, China.
- Olympic subsidy at CHF 17,278.

2006

- (Nothing found)

2007

- Olympic subsidy at CHF 48,560.

2008

- Organised by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), Paragliding Accuracy and Paragliding Cross-Country are part of the Asian Beach Games.
- Olympic subsidy at CHF 18,135.

2009

- Parachuting is one of the 30 sports represented at the World Games in Kaohsiung, Chinese Taipei.
- Olympic subsidy at CHF 24,141.

2010

- The FAI President states in its report: ‘We are very well considered by the Olympic Committee’.
- The next World Games will take part in 2013 in Cali, Colombia.
- Olympic subsidy at CHF 28,707.

2011

- FAI President reports to the GC: ‘We are entering into new competition such as the Asian Beach Games 2012 (Haiyang, China), the SportAccord World Artistic Games 2012 (somewhere in China), the World Games in Cali (Colombia) in 2013, possibly the Youth Olympic Games Nanjing 2014 (China) as a demonstration sport, and I thank those who have been instrumental in getting FAI visibility and participation in these great events.’
- IPC request clarification on the status of ‘speed-flying’. Is it linked to IPC or CIVL? ‘The aim would be to try to participate in Winter Olympics in 2014 in Sochi, Russia, as a demonstration sport.’
- CIMA considers that the Asian Beach Games are important for microlights and paramotors. FAI is to provide ‘spectator-friendly’ rules and technical assistance
- Parachuting and paragliding will be part of the World Games in Cali, Colombia. ‘Indoor AeroMusical would be featured as a demonstration sport’.
- Olympic subsidy at CHF 58,791.

2012

- Paramotoring is part of the Asian Beach Games in Haiwang, China. FAI Regional Vice President will try to include 5 air sports in the 2014 edition.

2013

- Parachuting and paragliding are part of the World Games in Cali, Colombia. FAI President report to the GC ‘the success of the air sport participation in the enormous event’.
- FAI Sports Director reports to the GC: ‘The World Games were the second-largest multi-sport event in the world, often called the “B-Olympics”. It gathered over 3000 athletes, from more than 35 countries, 1000 journalists and around half a million

tickets were sold. The FAI had been part of the WG for many years. But in 2009, the FAI was told that its sports were great but the way the message was being passed to the public was not. So the FAI worked on the presentation of its air sports: Parachuting (Canopy Piloting), Paragliding (Accuracy Landing), as well as aeromodelling (Indoor Aeromusicals), a demonstration event this year. Now the FAI was waiting for the official feedback from the IWGA. The hope was to be part of the program in 2017. Anyway, the conclusion was that the event was a success for the FAI.

At CIVL...

- CIVL Presiden reports to the GC: "The CIVL cost of participating in World Games in Cali was extensive."
(The test event was a non-event because of lack of equipment. The steward report on it is a 16 page-long list of things to improve. LOC could not be counted on. We have no report on the Games themselves, the steward being kind of burned-out. We don't know the financial cost, if any, as we had no FAI report on finances to vote on this year).

2014

- Paragliding Accuracy and Paramotoring are part of the Asian Beach Games in Phuket, Thailand.
- FAI President reports to the GC: "We have taken a large step closer to the International Olympic Committee and it was a landmark moment in the history of modern FAI when our Secretary General and I could sit down for 45 minutes with the President of IOC, Mr. Thomas Bach, in his office explaining the various options for air sports to become demonstration sports at Olympic Games. We are also now well established within the Asian Beach Games, arranged by the Asian Olympic Committees, and the World Games arranged by the International World Games Association, supported by IOC."
- FAI Secretary General reports to the GC: "How to promote air sports ? ... The guiding principle is 'make air sports more visible'... We look at the events that have the potential to go to media... There is potential for more at the moment. Asian region – Asian Beach Games, Asian Games, Olympic Games? Tokyo 2020. Meeting with the IOC President – not the first time, but at a time where the whole Olympic movement is under review. We showed all our air sports, and also Paragliders on Ski. We have been asked to develop something for Youth Winter Olympic Games.

2015

- At the SportAccord Annual Conference in Sochi, Russia, SportAccord President attacks the IOC for its lack of transparency and cooperation. "This attack led to the resignation of (the President) and the breakdown of SportAccord".
- FAI President reports to the GC: "As a recognized Olympic Federation, I am pleased to report that our relations with the IOC are excellent, both on a personal level and for our acceptance as a sport with potential future Olympic participation. Examples of such development are our participation in the Asian Beach Games – organised by the Asian Olympic committees, and – we hope – in the Asian Games – an enormously large activity with over 9,000 athletes. We are also in contact with the organisers of the Olympic Games in Tokyo, hoping to be at least a demonstration sport, and with the Youth Winter Olympic Games in Lillehammer, Norway."
- Gliding, parachuting and paramotoring will be part of the 2017 World Games in Wroclaw, Poland.
- Olympic subsidy at CHF 708.

At CIVL...

- In June, we were requested by FAI to present an Olympic project to the 2020 Tokyo Olympic Committee. We had six (6) days to deliver and no previous discussion had

taken part. We delivered but we did not make the short list of potential new disciplines.

- The FAI Secretary General to CIVL: “FAI is recognised by the IOC, an asset, which only 37 other IFs have (out of more than 100 that exist, with more than 40 IFs on the waiting list). FAI is thus a member of ARISF, the Association of IOC Recognised Sports Federations. In the world of international sports, any new sport coming into the Olympic Games will be chosen from this group of IFs. The only other groupings ‘above’ that are those of the Summer Olympic International Federations (ASOIF) and Winter Olympic International Federations (AIOWF). ‘Below’ ARISF are non-IOC recognised International Federations. All International Federations are members in the General Assembly of International Sports Federations (GAISF). The IOC recognition has a significant effect for our NACs – it gives them recognition and acceptance towards the NOCs or the respective Sports Institutions on the national level, access to funding from them and the government, and acceptance as a NAC close to the Olympic Movement. The FAI worked hard in the 1980s to receive this recognition. No matter one personally thinks about the Olympic Games and the IOC, from a function in FAI this should not be put at risk in any way.”

2016

- Olympic subsidy at CHF 708.

At CIVL...

- The CIVL Indonesia Delegate worked on a project to include paragliding in the Asian Games, an Olympic Committee of Asia (OCA) event. The project was not referred to or agreed by CIVL.

2017

- Gliding, parachuting and paramotoring are part of the World Games in Wroclaw, Poland.
- Olympic subsidy at CHF 0.

At CIVL...

- The participation of paragliding in the Asian Games is confirmed. In March, FAI signs a contract with the OCA. CIVL is not informed before or after. A second contract is signed in August: CIVL accepts to get involved and appoint a Technical Delegate and a Meet Director.

2018

- Paragliding Accuracy and XC are part of the Asian Games.
- On November 19, 2018, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) send a letter to all International Federations on “Participation of sporting delegations and athletes in international sports events – principle of autonomy and non-discrimination.”
“When sporting delegations come from a country/territory that is not recognised by the host country, specific practical measures (must be) taken by the local organiser/host country to secure the participation of these athletes and sporting delegations under the same conditions as any other participating delegation. International Federations must ‘protect the athletes’ interests and their right to compete, beyond any political consideration”.
“The IOC strongly recommends that before allocating any international sports events to a country, all international sports organisations concerned make sure that all the necessary written guarantees are obtained from the local authorities/organiser to ensure equal treatment for the participating athletes. Should this not be possible, or should there be any doubt, said country would exclude itself from the right to host international sporting events, and the international sports organisation concerned should not allocate any international sports event to this country until the issue is resolved and all the necessary guarantees are provided and implemented.”
A “zero-tolerance policy” is requested.

- Olympic subsidy at CHF 0.

At CIVL...

- The preparation of the Asian Games can be summed up in months of misunderstandings and manipulations by the organisers, including the denunciation of the August 2017 contract. In the end, both CIVL representatives resigned. The Asian Games took part and they were neither safe nor fair. CIVL rules were not followed. They were not FAI events and were not ranked in our World Pilots Ranking System. For CIVL, a disaster from start to finish.