



CIVL 2016 PLENARY – ANNEX 12A

REVIEW OF THE 2015 WORLD AIR GAMES

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After Turkey 1997, Spain 2001 and Italy 2009, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) organised the 2015 World Air Games (WAG). A “memorandum of agreement” was signed between FAI and the Emirates Aerosports Federation in June 2014. A mere 18 month after, 800+ pilots and 500+ officials gathered in Dubai for probably the “best ever” WAG. Best ever but far from being perfect or sometimes just satisfying.

Getting ready for the WAG required from CIVL a lot of extra work, for we usually do not organize competitions, we look for organisers, choose them during our plenaries and help to make the competition “safe, fair and satisfying” by sending stewards and jurors.

It was always going to be difficult, dealing with the Local Organising Committee (LOC) on a remote basis, and the LOC, while expert in the Parachuting discipline, were clearly ignorant of our requirements. The frustration and exasperation of poor response, and requests previously agreed, subsequently disregarded, resulted in an extremely stressful time for the key officials immediately prior to the start of the competitions, and for Aerobatics, virtually all the way through. For Accuracy, the 'last minute' preparations included flattening the sand dunes on the 'beach' to create a flat target area - the night before the practice day. For Aerobatics, trials included: late arrival of helicopter, different pilot to the one originally briefed, unfuelled helicopter, plus: zero facilities organised for the judging team, no overnight glider drying facilities etc, all of which had been requested in advance.

A practice event would have obviated many of the problems.

Then the Games... Great welcome, friendly people, top facilities. We came with 19 pilots and 11 officials in accuracy, 27 pilots and 7 officials in Aerobatic, plus 1 overall event director and 3 jurors, all together 68 people.

The Accuracy event took part a few miles from the SkyDive WAG headquarter. The remoteness had one main advantage – no competition from other discipline and plenty time to fly the maximum 12 rounds allowed – and one main disadvantage – very few spectators. A good competition with an exciting finish with the tied up top pilots breaking world records (11 consecutive landing at 5cm or less).

The Aerobatic event took part at SkyDive with plenty other disciplines fighting for air slots and with afternoon air shows closing down the air space early. Only half of the planned runs could be completed, 3 in Solo and 3 in Synchro, not much. Aerobatic being in the very centre of things, we were hoping for at least maximum and intelligent public exposure, but we got very little and very dumb one. So even though the pilots seemed satisfied (for the best ones had won), it was very disappointing, the “worst ever” according to one of the judges. (See also Annex 17: Aerobatic Committee report.)

So what now?

The WAG are behind us and there is not much point in wailing on what could have been. We have to learn from them, be ready if and when they happen again.

The last FAI General Conference has agreed on a major project called “The FAI Air Games Event Series”, a 5 years scheme with a 2,4 millions or so global budget (see Annex 12b). We could be part of it. We will if we are ready to work for our disciplines on new “public friendly”

formats and on very precise requirements including minimal budgets. This will be, again, a lot of work.

If we decide to go for it and use the Dubai WAG as a stepping stone to build our future events, then the WAG will have been worth it.

A global thanks to all officials and a special one to our 3 Directors: Violeta Masteikiene, Claudio Cattaneo and Andika Untung Setiawan.

See for complete results: <http://wagdubai.ae/scores/ScoreSheet>

See for accuracy: <http://www.fai.org/civil-news/40686-cotet-hits-the-golden-target>

See for aerobatic: <http://www.fai.org/civil-news/40720-paragliding-aerobatics-champions-crowned>

And also...

<https://youtube/8hes2CSQVbE>

https://www.flickr.com/photos/airsports_fai/albums/72157659756731953

https://www.flickr.com/photos/airsports_fai/albums/72157661497026000