



FAI International Parachuting Commission (IPC)
Report to the 113th FAI General Conference
Lausanne, 5-6 December 2019

Reported by : Gillian RAYNER – IPC PRESIDENT

1. Important activities, projects or events since last FAI General Conference:

The IPC held a strategy workshop just prior to the IPC Plenary Meeting last January. Four main themes were covered of which two have led to some major decisions being taken.

Indoor Skydiving: a lot of work went into the Olympic project and we must thank the French Parachute Federation for their investment to this end. We were disappointed not to be retained by the Paris 2024 organiser but the experience has taught us a lot about how to make a discipline more media/organizer friendly and improve our competition formats. To this end, the FAI has decided to host an “Indoor Skydiving Summit” next February in Spain, immediately after one of the major Indoor competitions. This is being co-managed with Roland Hilfiker.

Communication: the FAI website is not suitable for our needs and, as other Commissions, we have our own communication strategy. We have bought a domain name “Worldskydiving.org” that we will use for competition reporting including all results. We have invested, and continue to invest, in ensuring that all competition results are fed directly onto our web page regardless of the scoring provider. We are also experimenting with Facebook using a professional for the next 6 months to update our site on a bi-weekly basis. The number of people reached in the first month of the contract went from 5000 to an incredible 25000 and one post received over 20000 likes and has been shared 100 times. We are trying to get the competition committees to set up Facebook groups for communication with competitors and other interested people.. We still use the FAI web site as a repository for all our documents.

Governance: As I mentioned last year, IPC needs to update its name to include Indoor Skydiving. The IPC Plenary meeting voted unanimously to change the name to the International Skydiving Commission. We very much hope that you will approve the necessary statute changes to make this possible. We have worked with FAI to adapt our logo as a consequence.

One FAI: Last year I mentioned this project as a positive step and IPC was hopeful that this would address many of our concerns. Unfortunately, it has not managed to deliver anything of significance and no progress has been made beyond the results of the August 2018 workshop. In view of the current dire situation that FAI finds itself in, there is an urgent need for new initiatives to emerge. One FAI could/should have been such an initiative but it failed due to lack of direction and leadership.

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2. Positive and negative results:

Positive: IPC continues to benefit from good media coverage. Our Indoor World Championships were live streamed on internet and given coverage on numerous television channels. This excellent result was a joint effort with FAI who provided Quattromedia to provide coverage which, in addition to the Organiser's efforts, paid off well.

Positive: IPC decided to take out a subscription to the on-line meeting app "Zoom". This has proved a very positive move and has enabled both the bureau and various IPC discipline committees to work without needing to meet. It has also facilitated contacts with organisers and various IPC officials. All in all an excellent not very expensive move.

Positive: IPC continues to manage a long-term balanced budget and maintains its Special Reserve as a positive figure. In 2019 we increased our Sanction Fees to €110 per participant, the first increase since 2006. Prudent management of our expenses has seen increased focus in 2019, as have rigorous business processes.

One area that has gone from positive to negative is IPC management of records. The number of records is much higher than expected and consequently very expensive for us. We will be proposing to the next Plenary to only manage World Records directly from the competition site and leave the individual athletes to make a Continental record claim.

Negative: As I mentioned last year, we continue to suffer from lack of participation in some of our disciplines and this has led us to cancel a couple of disciplines from World Cups this year. Radical decisions will have to be taken, however we will now wait until after the Mondial to do that.

3. Main problem(s) encountered and solutions adopted :

World Air Games: We feel that the EB decision to go back to Turkey did not take into consideration either the results of the Workshop held just after the 2015 version of the WAG or the opinion of the Air Sport Commissions who were not consulted. Returning to the same place as in 1997 under the same conditions is not what we would have chosen. Other opportunities for our World Championships were available to us in 2022 that would have made more strategic sense for our discipline. We will participate, of course, and will probably hold four World Championships during the WAG. We have chosen our WAG liaison officer because he is a competent competition organiser as we will be required to provide much more technical support than we usually do for our competitions. With this established, we remain confident that Turkey will do everything to be perfect hosts to our athletes.

Finance: As I reported last year, financing the work of a commission is not easy as we have only one source of income allowed to us and that is what we call our Sanction Fee. This covers the costs of judge travel, all jury related expenses, our minimal running costs and all sport development. Not being an independent legal entity, we are not allowed direct sponsors and we do not receive any money from your FAI subscription to cover our minimal running costs.

To face increasing costs and although we have been looking at ways to reduce our expenditure, the IPC Plenary voted to increase the Sanction Fee this year from 90€ per delegate member to 110€. We are cautious in our budgeting and careful with our expenditure and have implemented rigorous business processes to manage our finances. Because our reserves are held centrally, we look to the FAI to preserve our money and to practice the same caution. The current FAI financial situation causes us great concern and the proposal to now take a tax on top of the sanction fee is totally unacceptable to IPC. We feel that the way Commissions are run, and the amount of

volunteer work done to make that happen is an enormous contribution to FAI and our athletes or their NACs should not be asked to contribute even more than they are doing now.

4. Planned activities and projects for next year :

We plan to hold the 1st Indoor Skydiving Global Summit next February in northern Spain. We very much hope that you will send delegates to this event that promises to be a dense, varied and interesting occasion.

In April we will hold an Indoor Skydiving World Cup in Belgium.

In August we will hold our Parachuting Olympic Games, the Mondial, in Siberia. We will be welcomed to the town of Kemerovo where some events will take place and the other events will be at the drop zone of Tanai.

5. Proposals (if any) to FAI Executive Board, FAI Head Office or for the next General Conference :

IPC feels that there is a need to better protect FAI resources. Recent projects, although approved by the General Conference, have led to the dilapidation of FAI reserves. It is vital that any sport related project have the full support and commitment of the relevant Air Sport Commissions before being proposed to the General Conference.

IPC would like to see more freedom in the control of our finances, not only would this reduce the workload for the Head Office but it would ensure we know where our delegates' money is going. Currently there is a large discrepancy between what FAI thinks is our reserve and what we know should be our reserve. This is a very worrying situation.

6. Free reporting:

I would like to say thank you to all the NACs that send delegates to the IPC Plenary Meeting. In January this year, we had 36 NACs present and 14 NACs represented by Proxy totalling 50 NACs. This is more than the number of NACs who usually attend or are represented at the General Conference.

Your IPC delegates work hard and contribute in many areas of our sports. You and your athletes also contribute financially to IPC because as I mentioned, our only source of income is the sanction fee that we levy from each delegation member at our First Category Events. Some of you also contribute indirectly by hosting competitions run on our behalf. This year seven NACs/Organisers from four different continents will have hosted nine First Category Events. Next year we will go to Russia for "the Mondial", our Skydiving Olympics, where all disciplines except Indoor Skydiving and Paraski will be held together. For our Indoor Skydiving World Cup we will go to Belgium.

As you represent all the air sports in your country, we felt it is important that you are aware just how much your contribution means to us at IPC and how grateful we are for this magnificent effort.

Having said that, I would like to reiterate our concern about the overall degradation of FAI finances, the mounting costs which are exacerbated by a head office located in an expensive country and which costs more to run than your annual subscriptions.

The Air Sport Commissions run most of the activities that are the reason for existence of the FAI which, after all, is there to serve the sport, not the other way round. We do that mostly with volunteers. The very idea that First Category Events should be "taxed" to fill the hole that has been created in the FAI finances by what can only be considered as misguided management is a historical and strategic error. For years, the Air Sport Commissions have been left alone to "get on with it" - to raise the money they require to operate, save it when they can for sport development, spend it wisely and deliver excellence in competitions. It is a delicate balance to achieve but we manage

successfully. To take an additional tax, in addition to a proposed additional levy on the FAI Sporting Licence, risks upsetting that balance.

There are other ways to balance the FAI budget than just keep taking money from the competitors via the Air Sport Commissions. Structural changes are probably required, economies can be made, some synergies may be possible and Commissions can contribute in other ways than just collecting money. IPC is ready to consider such options but is totally opposed to accepting that our competitions be additionally taxed. We hope you will support our position.

Date: September 30th 2019

Signature : Gillian Rayner IPC President