

<i>Subject:</i>	Report of the Activity of the Judges Committee 2018	Annex No. -	21
<i>Author:</i>	Bernard Nicolas, Chair of the Judges Committee	Agenda ref. -	21
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IPC Judges Committee report

IPC Meeting Lille France 2019

As every year the IPC Judges Committee that I represent in this institution reports the activity of its members since the last Plenary.

So it is therefore with pleasure that I bring to the attention of the members of this Assembly and the representatives of IPC Bureau all items related to our activity.

The composition of the Committee changed, during this year. According IPC Internal Regulations 5.1.3, 6.4.1, Gillian Rayner was replaced on my proposal by Arnold Hohenegger, from Austria, after soliciting an internal bureau decision. Arnold having received the approbation of its NAC. Welcome to Arnold.

I would like to extend my warmest and most sincere thanks to the work of Doris Deputy Chair of the Judges Committee who decided to resign from the Judges Committee.

As soon as I took my position of Chair of the Judges Committee, she gave me her support and her experience was very useful.

Her career in the IPC is well established since she has acceded to the Vice Presence of our organization, logical continuation of her evolution. Her replacement is decided but at the date of transmission of this report the respect of the procedure is still in progress.

The new deputy chair becoming Zeljko Tanaskovic.

I also have a very difficult decision to replace Susan Dixon, which for personal imperatives reasons decided also to resign from our Committee. I obviously respect her choice, but I sincerely regret to separate myself from such a person. Everyone knows her full commitment and activity for our sport. Her knowledge in regulations, parachuting disciplines, in the history of our institution have been valuable and remain irreplaceable. I give me the right however Susan to claim your expertise when required.

For her replacement I am in the same process as for Doris and I am still in the respect of the procedure.

I propose to fill this vacant place, with Kristian Moxnes from Norway, who meets all requirements to join us and who has accepted my proposal. Welcome to him.

To end this introduction, thank you to the members of my committee for their effective help, unconditionally to the development of our sport, but also to overcome sometimes my inexperience during this year rich in new experiences not always positive.

Big thanks to all of you.

Before continuing this report, I would like this assembly to officially thank these two people with a warm applause. In French we use to say: MERCI MESDAMES.

The activity of our committee is summarised as follows:

#### 1- Judging activity at FCEs

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- 2- Training courses
- 3- Modification of the regulations
- 4- Library
- 5- Other questions

### 1-Judging activity at FCEs

You will find in the annexes submitted to this plenary all Chief Judge's report proposed by the Judges Committee and approved by this assembly. Personally I wish that these reports be more explicit and reflect the exact course of the competition on the side of the judgments. I think that it is fair to recognize what is going well, but also what was not. So we can improve the procedures, regulations more generally the support of judges in the conduct of the FCE.

Officials at a FCE, FAI Controller, Meet Director, Chief Judge and Jury have an essential role. In my capacity as Chairman of the Judges Committee I'd appreciate that when a decision is not in line with the regulation, even legitimated by the circumstances, is explained and commented to avoid misinterpretation and tension.

I also have to inform this Assembly that the Chief Judge's selection of their panel of judge has drawn IPC Bureau remarks, only. I have personally received no negative comments, with the exception of a member of my Committee not selected for Australia. These remarks concerned the selection of some judges in several competitions in the same discipline, but also as to the nationality of judges. I relayed these remarks to the chief judges concerned who justified their selection serenely with acceptable arguments.

For me the Chief Judge according to the section 5 Chapter 6 alone is responsible for the selection of its panel of judges. He acts for the good of the competition, competitors and judges. External interference would be unacceptable. To substantiate my remarks I compiled statistics, from IPC documents, of the selection of judges, Jury and FAI Controller, but also of nationalities, over several years. I will make these to interested delegates, who will then be able to form an objective opinion on the remarks made.

The judges Committee has been officially informed, by the Austrian NAC on a dangerous move in the attitude of some regarding several Accuracy Landing competitions. There has been a report that following the end of an official competition, social media networks have been used, by some, to question judgements made and provide evidence of the competence, or not, of the judging. This 'evidence' consists of videos which question the judgements made.

In fact, it seems that this move is a way to put pressure on to change the decision of the committee not to use video to support landing judgement.

I do not want to feed an old polemic but I consider that we are facing a serious problem. This can create a sense of unease amongst those selected and although judges are used to the presence of

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public, competitors, heads of delegation and coaches observing their work this random use of video to 'prove' a point undermines their sense of objectivity in their judgement. I have received notification from some AL judges that they will stop judging if this use of social media to undermine their work persists.

It seems that an official response from the Plenary through the Bureau would be likely to ease tensions with the judges concerned but also to encourage them to continue their activity.

For the future, and following a discussion with our President, I think strategically develop the activity and the recruitment of judges in disciplines that require it, but also to search for new suppliers of means of judgment. I know I can count on the support of the members of my Committee. We must be ready just for a future membership of the Olympic movement.

## 2- Training courses - FAI Judges Data base

I would like to thank, here in front of you, the important work of Karla Kole, in charge of everything for the training of FAI judges. She will summarize her activity and will bring to your attention the new challenges we face in the training of FAI judges.

I fully agree with her statement and completely support her ideas. The need to maintain the FAI training courses to the highest quality standards in order to make a judgments at the highest expectations of competitors. For our project we need help from the NACs who must fully take on the criteria for selecting future FAI judges. The Judges Committee must be asked for possible assistance.

My thanks also to Rina Gallo, responsible for maintaining and updating the database of FAI judges. I would also like to clarify that when a delegate notices an anomaly during the consultation of the FAI/IPC website regarding the qualifications of a judge there is no need to be insulting in its claim. To err is human and we have no difficulty to recognize that. The necessary will be done to explain everything and put it back in order very quickly. In the future any claim formulated in an insulting or contemptuous manner will be brought to the attention of the Bureau for action.

After consulting the Committee of judges, it was decided that all documents sent by the NACs will be, like years ago, brought to the attention of the delegates during the plenary. The delegates will verify scrupulously these nominated lists, make any corrections, modifications and affix their signatures on a document made available to them. So, we will limit the risk of error. Any intervention by editing these lists after the close of the plenary will be subject to a decision of the Committee of judges.

## 3 - Modifications of regulations

All documents are available through the Agenda of the Plenary and following this report.

## 4- Library

Librarian report is available through the Agenda.

This year there is no Freefall Style videos after the Bulgarian Meet. The Weckbecker scoring system still use VHS. This is no longer acceptable in the 21st century. The means of conversion of VHS into a digital signal provided by this provider are not functional and it was impossible to get a digital version of the score sheets. According to the minutes of the last plenary Weckbecker Society received

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approval of its system of judgement for AL through Judges and relevant Committee but will provide video in digital signal for Freefall Style. I remember that the choice of this scoring system for a future competition included the AL and Style.

#### 6- Other Questions

New Competition Rules become official after the plenary on March 1, 2019. The first FAI competition is 16 to April 20, 2019. The Judges Committee respectfully remind the relevant committee(s) concerned with changes in regulations that judging system providers need time to adapt to these changes. The proximity of the first competition in 2019 will leave very little time to make any necessary changes after the deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> March.

Finally, I would like to remind everyone that all judges are volunteers and that as such they should not lose money ~~for~~ over the reimbursement of their expenses. Many judges accept the financial constraints; however, it appears necessary that this Plenary reconsider the limits of refunds. The new generations of judge in some new disciplines will be very sensitive. I remind everyone that to limit the cost of organizers it is not necessary to accommodate the judges in 5 stars hotels to two people per room. The priority must be an individual room per judge.

Thank you for your attention.



Bernard Nicolas  
Chair of IPC Judges Committee.