



FAI Hang Gliding and Paragliding Commission (CIVL) Report to the 106th FAI General Conference Antalya, 19-20 October 2012

Reported by : *Agust Gudmundsson, CIVL President*

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

So far in 2012, a total of 314 competitions, where there are 102 Hang gliding and 212 Paragliding competitions sanctioned worldwide. Paragliding cross country competition is by far, the most active discipline with 158 events sanctioned. All the Hang gliding competitions are Cross country in different classes of wings.

The number of pilots in our world ranking database also gives an indication of healthy activity in our sport with almost 7000 in paragliding cross country, just over 1500 in paragliding accuracy and 172 in aerobatics. There are also 1700 Class 1 hang glider pilots registered and 150 Class 5 (rigid wings) pilots.

In 2012 CIVL ran five 1st Category events: Europeans Championships in Hang Gliding Class 1, Europeans Paragliding XC, Europeans Paragliding Accuracy, Asians Paragliding XC and Asians Paragliding Accuracy. This year CIVL had four Test Events for World Championships and World Games to be held next year.

2. Positive and negative results:

I am pleased to report that, in both hang gliding and paragliding, international competition activity is strong. But there is a little decline in number of sanctioned Paragliding Cross country competitions. Following table shows overview of CIVL competitions sanctioned split by disciplines.

	Paragliding			Hang gliding				Total
	XC	Accuracy	Acrobatics	Class 1	Class 5	Sport	Class 2	
*2012	158	47	7	62	25	12	3	314
2011	171	44	7	59	22	12	3	318
2010	188	31	10	56	26	3	1	315

* Note: The 2012 figures are for competitions sanctioned at 01.09.2012, more will come in 2012

CIVL has been running World XC Online contest (WXC) as a test for some years and last year was the first official contest season. We are now running the second season of the WXC (<http://wxc.fai.org>). This season which ends September 30th has currently about 6000 pilots participating from 14 national and international online contests, where the pilots are from 65 nations with about 70,000 flights (tracklogs) this season alone.

New world and continental records have been set by pilots of various Hang and Paragliding classes in the past year. We are now seeing Continental records to be set as a first claim for a flight but until this year it was only as automatic part of World records, noticeable are African and Asian Continental Paragliding records. CIVL will continue to promote continental records in the coming year.

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

Paragliding safety has been the most important and debated part of CIVL activity in the last few years. At the last Plenary, the Bureau decision from July 2011 on accepting only certified Paragliders in Category 1 competitions was confirmed and changes in the sporting code established at the Plenary to enforce that decision. However CIVL announced the intention to work towards new competition class Paragliders with target of 2014 for it.

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Currently many NACs have decided to allow only certified Paragliders in competitions in their territory; however a number of NACs have allowed Open Class Paragliders to compete.

CIVL is encouraging the development of a new competition class standard. It was hoped that the Paragliders Manufacturers Association (PMA) supported by the European Hang and Paragliding Association (EHPU) would initiate this development. CIVL proposed a meeting with all parties to discuss progress on a solution for competition class Paragliders. However, PMA members have been unable to agree on a common view on how Paragliding standards should develop.

The Paragliding Competitions Safety Task Force which was established 2011 did an enormously difficult job and the TF Recommendation Report published late 2011 is the basis CIVL builds further development. Some recommendations have already been integrated in our Sporting Code, while others are being worked on.

A Competition Structure Working Group (CSWG) was established at the Plenary in February. Its task is to review the all related to competition format, task setting and other aspects affecting safety in competitions. This CSWG is addressing items of the TF Recommendations and other tasks related to that. It is aimed to finish their work before end of this year so proposals can be made for the next Plenary (February).

4. Planned activities and projects for next year :

For 2013, CIVL will be holding the following World championships:

- Hang Gliding Class 1 Worlds, Forbes (Australia),
- Paragliding Cross Country Worlds, Sopot (Bulgaria),
- Paragliding Accuracy Worlds, Bjelasnica, Sarajevo (Bosnia and Herzegovina),
- Paragliding Accuracy in the World Games, Cali (Colombia) will be a Category 1 event.

During the CIVL Plenary Meeting in February 2012 in Chinese Tapei, the following Category 1 events for 2014 were awarded:

- The Europeans Paragliding Cross Country Championships Kopaonik - Raska (Serbia)
- The Europeans Paragliding Accuracy Championships Vrsac (Serbia)
- The Pan American Paragliding Cross Country Championships, Argentina
- The Asian Paragliding Accuracy Championships, Malaysia

Test events for these championships are planned to take place in 2013. Unfortunately, no bids were received for a European Hang Gliding Championship in 2014. However, we are expecting a late bid for a combined Women's World Hang Gliding (Class 1) and World Hang Gliding (Classes 2 & 5) Championships for 2014.

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

N/A

6. Free reporting:

At the last Plenary, I was elected as CIVL President. I had served as acting President as John Aldridge, the President, suffered serious health problems from August 2011. John has been recovering very well and is getting as good as new. At the Plenary, 4 new members were elected to the CIVL Bureau and secretaries.

The new FAI web has been good for CIVL and helping in promoting various disciplines and aspects of our sport and work. It also has given better access to all information regarding competitions, competition organizations and access to public CIVL documents.

Of course, we greatly appreciate, as always, the efforts of the key hard-working staff members in the secretariat and thank them for their continuing, valuable assistance.

We welcome Breitling as new sponsor of FAI and encourage our organizers to promote Breitling in competitions as much as possible with guidelines from FAI. CIVL encourages FAI to continue on this track and seek more partners for sponsorship.

We welcome FAI steps towards commercialization of its activities through FAME, its recently formed marketing and events company. In particular, we are looking for some early confirmation that this initiative will help all of our disciplines. I believe the marketing potential of

FAI is great and should generate revenue for FAI to develop the airports further and enhance all FAI activity.

Organization that relies on dedicated volunteers as FAI does, are struggling as volunteerism is declining all over the world. This trend we have seen very clearly in CIVL as we are having problems of getting volunteers with the right knowledge and experience to devote their time for the tasks at hand. We might persuade some qualified persons to take on chairmanship of subcommittee, but that does always not get things done.

I believe FAI has a big task at hand to review the whole FAI structure and operations to be ready for the years to come.