Judges Committee Report

Dear Delegates,

Dear IPC Bureau members,

One of the tasks of the Chair of Judges’ Committee of our institution is to relate our activity for the current year in the development of our sports activity during competitions organized by the International Parachuting Commission for the FAI account.

Before continuing, I would like to warmly thank the very active members of this committee, in carrying out our various duties and their total dedication to making world skydiving one of the elite in aviation sports.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you very much.

It is a great pleasure for me to work with you in a spirit of total volunteering in an always positive attitude.

I took note of Kristian’s Moxnes request to leave the committee in order to fully devote himself to the development of the Dynamic.

The activity of the committee is summarised as follow:

- Judging activity at FCEs
- Modification of the regulations
- Library
- Other questions

JUDGING ACTIVITY

All the reports of the Chief Judges approved at the last plenary are available to this assembly in the documents attached to the agenda. I reiterate once again that objective narrative of the course of a competition is essential to improve the future.

On two occasions this year, the chosen scoring system had not been updated in line with the new competition rules. This non-compliance with the provisions of Schedule 54 a of Section 5 (voted 2 years ago) reported by the Chief Judges concerned leads me to recall that it is imperative that they, before the start of the competition ensure that the system chosen and adopted will be operational before the start of the competition. To do this, a simple application of the above instructions will greatly reduce the inconveniences encountered this year.

The scoring system chosen by the organizer is his full responsibility. The joint action of the FAI controller responsible for compliance with the specifications, the President of the Jury without the positive decision from which the competition cannot start and the chief judge for functional use is essential and imperative.
We had in 2019, 7 FCEs. These competitions brought together 81 FAI Y1 judges, among a available staff of 217 judges proposed by their NAC.
The disciplines in need of FAI judges are Canopy Formation, Wing Suit, AE indoor, Dynamic.

It should be mentioned that the selection of the judge panel for the Wing Suit competition in Italy posed problems for the chief judge. The competition was officially accepted this year, during the last plenary, given the deadlines the chief judge was not able to benefit from a complete list of available judges. The latter very often multi-qualifications have already been selected for other competitions or were no longer available.

At this stage of this report I must bring to your attention several thoughts. The selection process for IPC judges for an FCE is strictly regulated in Chapter 6. Either the Chief Judge, the Event Judges, the Judges.

This choice is made for an FCE, based on the lists of judges having an Y1 qualification for the discipline or disciplines concerned. At the same time and for the same date each NAC must send us a list of its judges for a particular event. From the collation of all the names of judges Rina Gallo in charge for the Judges’ committee of this work, verifies that all mentions brought to our knowledge are accurate. Finally, a list of available judges is drawn up for each. From this final list, the chief judge finally selects his panel of judges following a clearly defined process in Section 5.
However, there are still errors. It is not very useful to look for the person responsible for these errors. But we have to make sure that we eliminate them. In any case this year we did our best to meet the requests.

I therefore ask delegates to respect the instructions on this selection process. The lists must be addressed to the Chair of the Judges' Committee and Rina Gallo, until 31 December of the current year. This is imperative. (Thank you very much Rina for this specific work). These lists are made available to you during the plenary. It is up to each delegate to verify its content, to report the necessary errors and changes. This year at the plenary in Lille, delegates were repeatedly reminded to ensure the content of the list provided. Despite this, the judges of one NAC who gave proxy to another NAC were not registered.
A solution to these recurring problems could be to post these lists on the FAI/P/IPC website before the plenary opens with the authorization of the Bureau.
The committee also faced a new problem this year when a judge was re-qualified. After the failure of this attempt (very poor results), the candidate asked to re-qualify within 15 days of the first attempt.
Other topic, this meeting must know that in the case of a requalification the Judges’ Committee must do everything possible to facilitate the application. So we have to find a corrector available, establish new written tests, select 30 new meaningful videos. Finally, for fairness reasons these new videos are re-judged and compared to the official results. This requires a lot of work that we do then there are enough time frames.

In the example above, in agreement with all members of the committee, I refused the request of a candidate who firstly failed to his re qualification and wanted to do another test a week after. The candidate has received our explanations. In particular, the lack of time to improve his knowledge by devoting time to train.
This example underlines the absence in our regulations of legislation governing this situation. In particular, a minimum delay between two requests from a candidate after a failure.
To finish with the judges chapter, I would like to thank Karla Cole, Coordinator of all concerned in FAI Judges’ Training Course, very warmly. Its total involvement in maintaining the required level of requirement is to be emphasized. She will explain in a separate report her activity and the problems encountered.

Our aim is to maintain a very high degree of quality among FAI judges in relation to what competitors are entitled to expect. This concept must be endorsed by all judges.

I would now like to highlight a serious failure of the FAI about reimbursement. Some judges have had to deplore unacceptable repayment delays, beyond the usual and reasonable 1 month. Only the FAI financial department is involved since it is stated that the IPC Financial Secretary has submitted the claims upon receipt. I would like to thank the action of Gail Bradley, who has made her efforts to activate these refunds. In vain. Despite a response from the FAI secretary, the situation was resolved within an unacceptable time frame. To date, the FAI accounting department has not provided an explanation or apology. I would like to solemnly recall that IPC judges act on behalf of the FAI. They're all volunteers. The "employer" must not financially penalize the appointed judges. This is a lack of consideration that is not likely to lead to possible vocations.

At the request of the IPC Bureau, which wishes to develop indoor activities, the Judges’ Committee was asked to study new forms of Formation Skydiving judgment. Attractiveness, understanding, almost immediate results were targeted to redefine this discipline in the wind tunnel. A sum of 2000 Euros has been allocated to allow us to go to the spot of several private competitions to study the possibilities of defining a new format of judgment. The VOSS, Norway, CHARLEROI, Belgium and LILLE, France, events were concerned. As of the date of writing, the competitions have not yet taken place. A report will be sent at a later date to complete this agenda.

MODIFICATION OF REGULATIONS.

- 6.1.2 Criteria for Judge Training and Evaluation
- Financial Policy
- Annex N°54 a IPC meting Faro Portugal January 2017: Wingsuit flying, Speed Skydiving
- IPC Chief Judge Handbook.

You can find all the details of these changes in the attached in the document attached to this report.

LIBRARY.

Librarian report is available through the agenda.

OTHER QUESTIONS.

During the Wingsuit event in Italy a new scoring system was tested with all the parameters used by the official scoring system. According the decision of 2 members of the relevant committee and 1 member of the Judges Committee, SKY DERBY met all the requirements to be approved officially, and got approval.
The evolution of our sport especially with the advent and the multiplication of wind tunnels lead to consider in the very near future changes in the methods of judging, with more and more successful judges. These important changes are inevitable, which will lead to new relationships between organizers, competitors, judges and our institution.

Thank you for your attention.

Bernard Nicolas
Chair of the IPC Judges' Committee